

Ms Lisa Neville,
Minister for Water,
Parliament House,
Melbourne 3000.
25 April 2019

Dear Minister,

RE FIXING WATER WASTAGE FROM LEAKING FIRE SERVICES - PROCESS REFORM NEEDED

Your reply (MIN056864) to my previous letter misses my point entirely.

The repair to the fire service took *three months* from when Yarra Valley Water located the leak. It could have been fixed within a week if the regulations were changed to require Yarra Valley Water to fix the leaking fire service as soon as they located it and to defray the cost against all fire service customers.

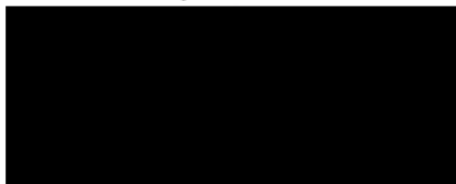
Instead the Water (Estimation, Supply and Sewerage) Regulations 2014 required them to negotiate with an understandably reluctant property owner to try to persuade him/her to make the complex arrangements needed to fix a leak underneath a busy road, not even within their property. These negotiations ultimately failed. As a result of the delay it took an additional 11 weeks for the leak to get fixed, during which time some *15 million litres of water* (my estimate) were wasted *from this one leak*.

My original letter asked you to consider changing the regulations to avoid these delays and save potentially hundreds of millions* of litres of water, which will need to be replaced by water desalinated at great environmental and budget cost.

Please engage with this question of changing the regulations.

At a time when dam levels are dropping and we are paying millions for replacement water, surely Government should do all it can to ensure that leaks are fixed promptly, and wastage is minimized.

Yours sincerely,



Tony Faithfull

ps As I foreshadowed I would, I have attached a copy of my original letter and your reply on my website at <https://www.faithfull.id.au/index.php/yarra-valley-water/1-fire-service-leakages-the-system-is-broken>. I will be attaching a copy of this letter also to this page, along with a copy of your reply when it comes.

cc Yarra Valley Water

cc Ms Steph Ryan, Shadow Minister for Water.

* I presume that the example I am basing this letter on is far from the only example of delays to fixing leaking fire services caused by the regulations, and have very roughly extrapolated across Melbourne.