

Meeting Notes

Pioneer Lake Advocacy Group Meeting

Monday, 27 October 2025 | Council Chambers – 2 pm

1. Acknowledgement of Country (Chair)

2. Introductions (Chair)

Invited Stakeholders:

Organisation	Representative Name
Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS)	Alice Holeywell-Jones - apology Julian Gill (online)
Anglers Alliance / Inland Fishery Advisory Group	Howard Jones - apology
Break O'Day Sports Angling Club	No representative present
Mineral Resources Tasmania	No representative present
Scottsdale High School	No representative present
Mt Cameron Field Study Centre Advisory Committee	David Waldron Craig Searle - apology
Tasmania Police	No representative present
Sanbar	Nick Palmer (online)
Pioneer Recreational Users representative	Rodney Bowerman (online) John Best (online)
Pioneer Residents' representatives	Jenny Bellinger Linette Simpson - apology
Pioneer Progress Association	Alana Keygan
Inland Fisheries	Paul Middleton (online)
Marine & Safety Tasmania (MAST)	No representative present
Dorset Council	Mayor Rhys Beattie (Chair) Councillor Kahlia Simmons - apology Councillor Vincent Teichmann General Manager: John Marik Director – Infrastructure / Dorset Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator: Kerry Sacilotto Executive Assistant: Sarah Forsyth (note taker)

3. Previous Meeting – 28 July 2025 (General Manager)

- a. Confirm attached previous meeting notes
 - i. All present confirmed
- b. Update on Actions from previous meeting
 - i. Noted – all completed

ACTIONS

Who	Action
Council	Further investigation into bore holes post clarification of location on Racecourse Road, Pioneer for regeneration works.

Response: Advised the Group via email on 9 September 2025 of the following investigation by Council's Infrastructure team: "On review of the "Bore Holes" it was found that there is a deliberate program for the regeneration of the site, which has been guided by the Environmental Protection Authority, the divots are intended to trap native seeds and provide a semi protected area for regeneration. Officers are unaware of any damaged caused to this site apart from deliberate regeneration efforts, there is signage in place which states, "Dorset Council - This site is being rehabilitated, No Unauthorised entry".

PWS	Provide reworded sections for the draft Terms of Reference in relation to the Purpose (combined point 3 & 4 and point 5 relating to risk mitigation) and Objective (broader point 1) sections.
Response: Feedback provided by PWS via email 18 August 2025 and included in Terms of Reference which were circulated prior to finalisation on 26 August 2025.	
Council	Update invited stakeholder contact list with representative from MAST and invite to next Meeting.
Response: Contact list updated and included on email invite list for future meetings.	
Council	Update title of 'Pioneer Campers' to 'Pioneer Recreational Users' in draft Terms of Reference and Meeting Notes.
Response: Updated in Terms of Reference which were circulated prior to finalisation on 26 August 2025.	
Council	Update Terms of Reference, section 6 – Deliverables – point 3 remove word 'liaison' and replace with 'engagement'
Response: Updated in Terms of Reference which were circulated prior to finalisation on 26 August 2025.	
Council	Complete updates to Terms of Reference and circulate to Group for comment prior to finalisation.
Response: Updated Terms of Reference with abovementioned actions were circulated to the Group on 26 August 2025, with final feedback required by 5 September 2025.	
Group	Bring back potential models or knowledge of other ongoing management methods of external facilities.
Response: To be discussed at the October Meeting.	
Council	Provide a map of the Dam / Lake area for Group reference at the next meeting.
Response: Map of area provided by Howard Jones (Anglers Alliance) and is included in the Terms of Reference	
Council	Prepare a media release provided status update of Group and progress made to be distributed and uploaded to Council's website / social media, including the finalised Terms of Reference.
Response: Local news article on the Group published on 20 August 2025 outlining status from the July Meeting minutes – with no requirement for a separate media release. Finalised Terms of Reference were circulated to the Group on 9 September 2025, and information relating to the Group and status available on Council's website.	

4. Terms of Reference (General Manager)

- a. Suggestion from Pioneer Progress Committee representative to review the paragraph under the map in the current Terms of Reference document, particularly the reference to 'historically'. Dorset General Manager to review and discuss at the next Group meeting.

5. Status update Pioneer Dam wall (PWS)

- a. Procurement tender process completed with tenders received currently under evaluation assessment. Expecting recommendations for approval in the next couple of weeks.
- b. Last monitoring of the area was on 16 October with little movement, no significant erosion or settlement of the Dam wall reported.
- c. PWS working through issues with 2WD and 4WD activities still utilising the dam wall.

6. Ongoing Management of External Facilities Discussion (Group)

- a. **General Manager** advised of researched examples friends of Tamar Island and Maria Island community agreements with PWS. *Question was asked whether these arrangements were via an expression of interest process initiated by PWS, or community led?*

PWS: Advised that each agreement is different, however PWS Officers work through process with potential group if approached.

- b. **PWS** advised that recreational use could potentially revert to original arrangements once risk is mitigated, albeit not using the dam wall for access.

- c. **General Manager** clarified whether this Group is required if it will revert to original use.

PWS: Advised that focus was on decommissioning at this stage and mitigation of risk.

- d. **Pioneer Progress Association representative** requested for PWS to provide scope of potential recreational uses post risk mitigation, as it would be a better use of time / research if the Group knows the parameters available.

7. Question Time / General Discussion (Group)

Mt Cameron Field Study Centre Advisory Group representative:

Advised that the extended closure of the area is materially impacting the Centre, with activities being deferred which historically have utilised the site. Major schools / groups awaiting outcomes so they can forward plan visits to the Centre / Pioneer Lake area.

Councillor Teichmann:

How much water is currently in the Dam?

PWS: No significant change since monitoring commenced in June.

Pioneer Recreational Users representative:

Is the dewatering a PWS priority, as the top Pioneer Dam has little water which subsequently has no risk to Lake?

PWS: Included in 2025/26 Budget to complete that dewatering / decommissioning.

Is there any timeframe on when the area could be reopened?

PWS: no firm dates can be provided. The surveyed area, which the report is based on, provides the risk levels. While there still is water in the Dam, risk is still in place. The geo markers in place, are visually monitored every 3 weeks by independent qualified dam engineers to gauge risk.

Pioneer Progress Association representative:

The Dam is dewatering itself – why need this process?

PWS: This process is based on qualified advice and reports provided by qualified engineers.

8. Next Meeting

Monday, 1 December 2025 – 2pm Council Chambers / online via Microsoft Teams

Meeting Closed: 2:49pm

ACTIONS

Who	Action
Council	Review the paragraph under reference map in Terms of Reference, particularly the word 'historically' as could be misconstrued and bring back to Group.
PWS	To provide an update on the status of the procurement assessment for dewatering of the Dam.