



Beach pipeline

A Hydro Tasmania employee expresses their views about a pipeline near a beautiful beach.

The story

Lee is an employee with Hydro Tasmania. They really love sharing their opinions on things and decide to make an anonymous account on Facebook and Twitter so they can share their opinion on things that are happening.

Lee hears at work that Hydro Tasmania is considering putting in a pipeline near a local pristine beach and fears it will impact access to the beach.

They take to their social media accounts on their work computer to share it and how disappointed they are that it is happening.

The information used in this scenario is not factual – we created it for education and discussion. Any likeness to actual persons or events is coincidental.

Questions – Facilitator Copy

1. What are the ethical issues around this situation?
 - ▽ The ethical issues that arise include:
 - misuse of social media
 - misuse of work information
 - misuse of work resources
 - misuse of position
2. If the social media account is anonymous, is this misconduct? Why? Why not?
 - ▽ A public sector employee should not criticise their organisation publically, it is irrelevant if the account is anonymous. This was seen in the High court case of *Banerji v Commonwealth*, where an immigration department worker was fired for criticising the government on Twitter from an anonymous account.
3. What could be done to address the issues?
 - ▽ Regular training for employees on their confidentiality obligations under their Code of Conduct and the organisation's social media policy.



The Commission can help

We are available to provide support and assistance with identifying, reporting, investigating, managing and preventing misconduct: prevention@integrity.tas.gov.au or 1300 720 289.

For more Misconduct Prevention resources go to www.integrity.tas.gov.au/resources