



Doctor's other interests

The story

Ben is the supervisor of Dr Percy at UTAS who, in a role outside his formal academic position, is a member of an environmental impact assessment team as a scientific advisor. As part of this job, Percy recently signed off on an impact assessment saying there was no link between deforestation and water contamination in a logging project planned for an area in the south east.

Ben knows, however, that Percy is also on the board of a logging company, as he has declared this personal interest in the past and the two colleagues have managed it throughout his academic career. Ben has only just found out about Percy helping to sign off the logging impact assessment, and knows that Percy has put himself in the position of having a serious conflict of interest.

Percy is a fantastic colleague – he has a stellar research record, bringing in grants for the university, and is loved by students and other academics. Ben thinks he has made the wrong decision in this case, but did make the decision outside of his role at the university, and therefore, potentially, outside of Ben's role as Percy's supervisor.

Questions

1. Is this a matter for Ben to manage as Percy's supervisor?
2. If so, what are Ben's next steps?
3. How can Ben help prevent this situation for other people who work under his supervision?

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.



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