



**ACT**  
Government

Environment, Planning and  
Sustainable Development

Phone: (02) 6207 1923  
Reference: 22/132506

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### **Decision on Freedom of Information Access Application 22/132506**

I refer to your application made under section 30 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (the Act) received by the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) on 4 October 2022, in which you sought access to documents relating to *“the subject line of all final ministerial briefs from 10<sup>th</sup> of June 2022 to 10<sup>th</sup> of July 2022 generated for or directed to any ACT Government Minister”*.

I am an Information Officer appointed under section 18 of the Act to deal with access applications made under Part 5 of the Act.

EPSDD must make a decision on your application on or by 1 November 2022.

### **Searches Conducted**

Comprehensive searches were conducted of the Directorate’s records management system. One document, providing a listing of Ministerial Briefs within the timeframe of your application, was generated from these search results.

### **Decision on Access**

I have included a schedule at **Attachment A** to this decision, which provides a description of the document that falls within the scope of your application and the access decision for the document.

I have decided to grant partial access to 1 document and, in accordance with section 50 of the Act, provide you with copies of the document with deletions applied to remove contrary to the public interest information.

My access decisions are detailed further in the following statement of reasons and the document released to you is provided as **Attachment B** to this letter.

### **Material Considered**

In reaching my access decision, I have taken the following into account:

- the FOI Act, particularly sections 6, 17, 50, Schedule 2
- the content of the documents that fall within the scope of your request
- the *Human Rights Act 2004*.

## **Public Interest Considerations**

My reasons for deciding not to grant access to certain documents and components of these documents are as follows:

### **Information Disclosure – Schedule 2 of the Act**

The Act recognises the right of every person to obtain access, under its provisions, to government information (see section 7, the Act). As an Information Officer, I am required to allow access to information subject to the Act, unless, on balance, disclosure would be contrary to the public interest.

In assessing the public interest, I must apply the test outlined under section 17 of the Act which requires consideration of factors favouring disclosure, any favouring nondisclosure and the balance of those factors when considered cumulatively.

#### *Factors Favouring Disclosure*

In applying the public interest test, I have determined that disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to do the following:

- Schedule 2, 2.1(a)(i) – promote open discussion of public affairs and enhance the government's accountability.

#### *Factors favouring Nondisclosure*

In applying the public interest test, I have determined that disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to do the following:

- Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) – prejudice the protection of an individual's right to privacy or any other right under the *Human Rights Act 2004*.

### Personal Information

Documents relevant to your application contain personal information of individuals. I have considered how the public interest would be advanced by releasing this information in part or in whole. It is my view that the protection of the individuals' personal information outweighs the benefit which may be derived from releasing them. I consider that these individuals are entitled to expect that the personal information they have supplied to ACT Government will be dealt with in a manner that protects their privacy. I consider that if this information was disclosed, it could reasonably be expected to prejudice the protection of an individual's right to privacy under section 12 of the *Human Rights Act 2004*. On balance, and based on the information available to me, I am satisfied that the disclosure of this personal information is not in the public interest.

To provide you with the information that I have determined to be in the public interest to release, copies of some documents have been prepared with personal information redacted in accordance with section 50 and the Objects of the Act.

### **Online Publication**

Under section 28 of the Act, EPSDD maintains an online record of access applications called a disclosure log. Your original access application, this decision and documents released will be published in the EPSDD disclosure log no earlier than three days after you receive this decision. Your personal contact details will not be published.

You may view the EPSDD disclosure log at

<https://www.environment.act.gov.au/about-us/access-government-information/disclosure-log>

### **Ombudsman Review**

My decision on your access request is a reviewable decision as identified in Schedule 3 of the Act. You have the right to seek Ombudsman review of this outcome under section 73 of the Act within 20 working days from the day that my decision is published in the disclosure log, or a longer period allowed by the Ombudsman. For more information and the application form for Ombudsman review, please visit:

[https://www.ombudsman.act.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0026/79190/Apply-for-Ombudsman-review.pdf](https://www.ombudsman.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0026/79190/Apply-for-Ombudsman-review.pdf)

Alternatively, you may write to the Ombudsman at:

The ACT Ombudsman  
GPO Box 442  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Via email: [actfoi@ombudsman.gov.au](mailto:actfoi@ombudsman.gov.au)

### **ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) Review**

Under section 84 of the Act, if a decision is made under section 82(1) on an Ombudsman review, you may apply to the ACAT for review of the Ombudsman decision.

Further information may be obtained from the ACAT at:

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal  
Level 4, 1 Moore St  
GPO Box 370  
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

Telephone: (02) 6207 1740

<http://www.acat.act.gov.au/>

### **Further Information**

If you have any queries concerning the Directorate's processing of your request, or would like further information, please contact EPSDD Customer Service on (02) 6207 1923 and ask for the FOI team, or email to [EPSDFOI@act.gov.au](mailto:EPSDFOI@act.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

[signed electronically]

Craig Simmons  
Information Officer  
Chief Operating Officer  
Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

31 October 2022