

Dear [REDACTED]

### **Decision on Freedom of Information Access Application 22/87195**

I refer to your application made under section 30 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (the Act) received by the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) and transferred to the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) on 5 July 2022.

Specifically, you are seeking:

*“All records relating to the use of category D firearms when conducting arial culls of deer on ACT Government controlled land over the last 12 months. For example, Risk assessments, Shoot plans, Regulatory approvals. Post operational reports.”*

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

As third-party consultation was undertaken, increasing processing time by 15 days. As such, EPSDD must make a decision on your application on or by 23 August 2022.

#### **Searches Conducted**

Comprehensive searches were conducted and 10 documents containing information within the scope of your application were identified.

#### **Decision on Access**

I have included as **Attachment A** to this decision the schedule of relevant documents. The schedule provides a description of each document that falls within the scope of your application and the access decision for each of those documents.

I have decided to grant full access to three documents relevant to your application.

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

I have refused access to two documents. Two documents are refused as they contain trade secrets of a third-party. As such, I consider the release of this information to be contrary to the public interest, under Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(xi) of the Act.

My access decisions are detailed further in the following statement of reasons and the documents released to you are 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, and Schedule 2
- the content of the documents that fall within the scope of your request
- the *Human Rights Act 2004*
- the views of the third-party consulted

### **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.
- Schedule 2, 2.1(a)(ii) - contribute to positive and informed debate on important issues or matters of public interest.
- Schedule 2, 2.1(a)(viii) – reveal the reason for a government decision and any background or contextual information that informed the decision.

#### *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)(xi) – prejudice trade secrets, business affairs or research of an agency or person.
- 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*.

## Trade Secrets, Business Affairs and Research

Access to two documents relevant to your application has been refused under schedule 2, 2.2(a)(xi) of the Act. These documents outline trade secrets and risk management strategies of a third party, and the disclosure of this information could damage their competitive ability when competing for work of a similar nature. These documents relate to highly specialised work and have been developed through years of experience.

## 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 information if disclosed, 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 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.

## **Charges**

In accordance with section 107(2)(b) of the Act any charges applicable are waived.

## **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



Bren Burkevics  
Information Officer  
A/g Executive Group Manager, Environment, Water and Heritage  
Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

15 August 2022