



ACT
Government

Environment, Planning and
Sustainable Development



Dear 

Freedom of information request: Part 2 release of request 18/32475

I refer to your application under section 30 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (the Act), received by the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) on 31 October 2018, in which you sought access to information relating to the decision to exempt the Ginninderry development from completing a full Environment Impact Statement.

Specifically, you are seeking:

"I write to request under the Freedom of Information Act 2016 documents related to the decision to exempt the Ginninderry development from completing a full Environmental impact Statement and any advice that was received to inform this decision. These documents may include, but are not limited to, correspondence, Ministerial briefs, point in time or working versions of internal documents, meeting notes, assessments or analysis of the issue, advice received, directions to ACT Government officials, media enquires or planning for enquires, and contingency plans..."

I note on the 12 February 2019 you agreed to a two-part release of the documents held by the Directorate, within the scope of your request under section 36 of the Act. The second release being Part 2 consists of 8 documents (Part 2), to be processed with a decision due date of 20 March 2019.

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

Decision on access

Searches were completed for documents relevant to your access request and 8 documents of 420 folios in total, were identified that fall within the scope of the second Part 2 release of your request.

I have included as **Attachment A** to this decision the schedule of documents relevant to the scope of your request. The schedule provides a description of each document and the access to these documents.

I have decided to grant access, under section 50 of the Act, to copies of documents with exemptions applied to information that I would consider would be contrary to the public interest to disclose.

I have decided to grant access in full, to seven documents relevant to your request.

One document identified as relevant to your request contains information that I consider would on balance, be contrary to the public interest to disclose under the test set out in section 17 of the Act. I have decided to grant access, under section 50 of the Act, to a copy of these documents with redactions applied to the information that I consider would be contrary to public interest to disclose.

My decisions on access are further detailed 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 *Freedom of Information Act 2016*, with consideration given to sections 17, 36, 107 and schedules 1 and 2;
- the content of the documents that fall within the scope of your request;
- the *Information Privacy Act 2014*;
- information contained within the public domain; and
- the release of information that concern third parties.

Exempted documents

My reasons for deciding not to grant access to components of information held within identified documents on the schedule are as follows:

Contrary to the public interest information under schedule 2 of the FOI Act

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

Personal Information

I have considered the release of personal information and my view in this instance is that the identification of third parties would not serve to further open discussion, government accountability, informed debate and the provision of contextual information.

I am satisfied that the disclosure of this personal information could reasonably be expected to prejudice the protection of an individual's right to privacy under the

Human Rights Act 2004. Disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to interfere with the protection of the privacy of the individual's concerned this is a factor favouring nondisclosure under Schedule 2.2 (a) (ii) of the Act.

On balance of these public interest considerations and the information available, I have concluded that disclosure of the identified personal information contained within the documents may constitute a breach of those individuals' privacy and is therefore contrary to the public interest.

Online publishing – disclosure log

Under section 28 of the Act, EPSDD maintains an online record of access applications called a disclosure log. Your original access application and my decision will be published in the EPSDD disclosure log after 24 August 2018. Your personal contact details will not be published.

You may view the EPSDD's disclosure log at:

<http://www.environment.act.gov.au/about/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:

http://www.ombudsman.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0026/79190/40A-Reviews-Factsheet-and-Application-Form-final-A1569634.pdf

If you wish to request a review of my decision you may write to the Ombudsman at:

The ACT Ombudsman
GPO Box 442
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Via email: 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/>

If you have any queries concerning the Directorate's processing of your request, or would like further information, please contact EPSDD Customer Service on 62071923 and ask for the FOI team, or email to EPSDFOI@act.gov.au

Yours sincerely



Brett Phillips
Information Officer
Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

 March 2019