



Dear [REDACTED]

**Decision on Freedom of Information Access Application 25/0201150**

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 22 May 2025.

Specifically, you are seeking:

*“Evans, W.R., Croke, B.F.W., Ticehurst, J.L., Schoettker, B., & Jakeman, A.J. (2005). Sustainable Groundwater Yield Assessment Woolshed Sub-Catchment, ACT. iCAM Client Report 2005/33 for Environment ACT. Integrated Catchment Assessment and Management (iCAM) Centre, School of Resources, Environment and Society, The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia.”*

On 1 July 2025, the City and Environment Directorate (CED) was established, bringing together services previously delivered by Access Canberra, the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD), Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS), and the Better Regulation Taskforce.

Section 101 of the FOI Act provides that an access application made to an abolished agency is taken to have been made to the agency that acquired the abolished agency’s functions. Therefore, a decision has been made on your application by CED.

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

In accordance with section 40 of the Act, a decision on your access application must be made on or by 28 July 2025.

**Searches Conducted**

Comprehensive searches were conducted and one document containing information within the scope of your application was identified.

## **Decision on Access**

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

I have decided to grant full access to the document relevant to your application.

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, 38, and Schedule 2
- the content of the document that falls within the scope of your request
- the views of the third party consulted

## **Public Interest Considerations**

### **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)(x) – contribute to the protection of the environment.
- Schedule 2, 2.1(a)(xvi) – contribute to innovation and the facilitation of research.

#### *Factors Favouring Nondisclosure*

No factors favouring nondisclosure of the information were identified.

## **Charges**

In accordance with the *Freedom of Information (Fees) Determination 2018* no charges are applicable to this application.

## **Online Publication**

Under section 28 of the Act, your original access application, this decision and documents released will be published in the disclosure log. This will occur between three to ten working days after you receive this decision. Your personal contact details will not be published.

You may view the 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/accountability-and-oversight/freedom-of-information/foi-complaints-and-reviews>

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  
15 Constitution Avenue  
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 Agency's processing of your request, or would like further information, please email [EPSDFOI@act.gov.au](mailto:EPSDFOI@act.gov.au) or call 13 22 81 and ask for the Information Governance team.

Yours sincerely



David Clapham  
Information Officer  
a/g Executive Branch Manager, Office of Water  
Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

22 July 2025