



ACT
Government

Environment, Planning and
Sustainable Development

Phone: (02) 6207 1923
Reference: 21/66123



Freedom of Information 21/66123

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 26 July 2021, in which you sought access to documents relating to Inner South District Maps – Planning System Review and Reform Project.

Specifically, I understand that you are seeking:

1. *Any and all information (including documents, emails, correspondence, reports, studies, briefs, assessments, plans, maps etc.) regarding:*
 - *Is the larger area in “Pages from 20210603_Inner_South_District_Maps_A29210769_For_YourSay1.pdf” being considered for implementation?*
 - *What is the current status of the larger area versus the smaller area?*
 - *Have any decisions been made regarding the larger area versus the smaller area?*
 - *Should the plan with the smaller area (currently on the YourSay Conversations website) be considered to be the current plan, and does that mean that the larger area is no longer under consideration?*
 - *What areas in the Inner South District (excluding Kingston) are being considered for development that is more intensive than what is currently allowed under the Territory Plan?*
2. *Any and all information (including documents, emails, correspondence, reports, studies, briefs, assessments, plans, maps etc.) regarding whether the historical and/or heritage and/or cultural significance of the older areas of Inner South Canberra has been assessed and/or studied and/or examined and/or evaluated and/or considered, including whether additional protection measures should be and/or may be put in place for those areas or some of those areas, in addition to the existing Heritage protection measures for specific blocks of land.*

You agreed to our two requests for extension, consequently EPSDD must determine your application on or by 22 October 2021.

I am an Information Officer appointed under section 18 of the Act to deal with access applications made under Part 5 of the Act and in that capacity am writing to provide you with my decision.

Decision on Access

In responding to the request comprehensive searches were conducted across EPSDD and advice was sought from the EPSDD Planning and Urban Policy Division as the area with responsibility for the matters raised by the request.

I am satisfied that all appropriate searches were conducted to identify the records sought and that one document was identified as falling within the scope of the request – the *ACT Planning Strategy 2018* (the Strategy). I have included as **Attachment A** to this decision the schedule for this document.

I have refused access to the document in accordance with sections 43(1)(d) and 45(a) of the Act, as it is publicly available at <https://www.planning.act.gov.au/act-planning-strategy>

In relation to your questions about different versions of maps in the Inner South District Plan, I am advised that:

- An Inner South District Consolidated Policy Plan was provided at the Inner South District Planning Workshop on 3 June 2021 and on the ACT Planning System Review and Reform YourSay webpage. This plan included an area outlined with a grey dotted line “Urban intensification area”. This area was incorrectly shown on the plan.
- To correct this administrative error, the plan was subsequently updated on the Yoursay webpage at [District Planning - Inner South | ACT Planning System Review and Reform Project | YourSay ACT](#) on 13 June 2021 to show the correct boundary for the “Urban intensification area”.
- The area was identified as an “Urban intensification area” on the Policy Plan map in the Planning Strategy and is an indicative representation of that area.
- Work is being undertaken as part of the Planning Strategy’s implementation to investigate the suitability of these urban intensification areas across Canberra for a range of land use opportunities. This does not mean that all land that falls in this area will have land use zoning changes or be redeveloped. Any identified opportunities would be progressed through further strategic planning processes, including technical assessment and community engagement.

In relation to your second question, there are no changes proposed to any heritage areas of the ACT, or any heritage studies or assessments being undertaken, as part of the ACT Planning System Review and Reform Project. For this reason, I am satisfied that EPSDD does not hold information identified as relevant to this part of your request.

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

Alternatively, 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/>

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.

Yours sincerely



Carolyn O'Neill
Information Officer
Executive Branch Manager, Planning and Urban Policy
Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate
22 October 2021