



ACT
Government

Environment, Planning and
Sustainable Development

Phone: (02) 6207 1923
Reference: 24/034573

Dear [REDACTED]

Decision on Freedom of Information Access Application 24/034573

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 2 April 2024.

Specifically, you are seeking:

"...Data that extends what you provided me via Fol previously (see attached) on page 14. I would like the data back to 2018 and brought forward to the current budget. Please include the categories included on the Environmental Weeds Control budget chart, specifically:

- *urban nature reserves, national parks and catchments, rural roadsides, technical report*
- *offsets*
- *bushfire recovery*
- *healthy waterways*
- *parliamentary governing agreement*
- *lower Cotter*
- *Molonglo River Reserve*
- *Centenary trial*
- *Forestry*
- *Total*

...Not annual reports or a trend line...

...I require the data in chart form to 2023-24...

...to clarify, I need the data for each year from 2018 inclusive with the addition of more recent years including the current year".

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 we requested an extension, a decision on your access application must be made on or by 20 May 2024.

Decision on Access

I have decided to grant full access to the information relevant to your application. This information is provided in **Attachment A** to this letter.

Material Considered

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

- the FOI Act, particularly sections 6, 17, and Schedule 2
- the information that falls within the scope of your request
- information released to you previously.

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)(iv) – ensure effective oversight of expenditure of public funds.

Factors favouring Nondisclosure

There were no factors favouring nondisclosure identified.

Online Publication

Under section 28 of the Act, EPSDD maintains an online record of access applications called a disclosure log. Your original access application and this decision 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/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

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
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 EPSDFOI@act.gov.au or (02) 6207 1923 and ask for the Information Governance team.

Yours sincerely



Bren Burkevics
Information Officer
Executive Group Manager, Environment Heritage and Water

20 May 2024