



Dear 

Freedom of Information Request – Renewable Energy Target

I refer to your application under section 14 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1989* (the Act), received by the Environment and Planning Directorate (EPD) on 23 September 2014, in which you requested the following documents:

"I write to request all documents and any information held by the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate in its entirety and the Office of the Minister for the Environment relating to the Renewable Energy Target set by the ACT Government; from January 2009 to date."

I am an officer authorised to make a decision in respect of a request for information, under section 22 of the Act.

Schedule detailing decisions

Please refer to the attached schedule that lists decisions regarding access to all documents, which have been identified as relevant to your request. The terms used on the schedule are either 'Release', 'Partial release' or 'Exempt'. Where an exemption is made, a reference will be made on the schedule to the relevant section or combinations of sections of legislation that apply to the decision.

Duplicate documents are listed on the schedules, however where possible I have included only one copy with the released documents.

Decision

The Directorate has identified fifty four documents in its possession that meet the scope of your request, as identified in the schedule attached to this letter.

Under the Act, documents may be partially exempt/exempt or provided to applicants with deletions and I have decided to exempt some documents under sections 35 (Executive documents), 36 (Internal working documents), 41 (Documents relating to personal privacy) and 43 (Documents relating to business affairs).

Executive documents

Section 35 of the Act provides:

1. *A document is an exempt document if it is—*
 - a. *a document that has been submitted to the Executive for its consideration or is proposed by a Minister to be so submitted, being a document that was brought into existence for the purpose of submission for consideration by the Executive; or*
 - b. *an official record of the Executive; or*
 - c. *a document that is a copy of, or of a part of, or contains an extract from, a document referred to in paragraph (a) or (b); or*

- d. a document the disclosure of which would involve the disclosure of any deliberation or decision of the Executive, other than a document by which a decision of the Executive was officially published.”*

I have exempted from release under section 35(1)(a)&(d) of the Act documents that have been submitted to Cabinet for the consideration of its members. In addition, documents that refer to information that is contained in the Cabinet submissions are exempted under section 35(1)(d) of the Act. These documents include draft submissions, background papers, emails and briefs together with comments from officers of ESDD and other agencies that constituted part of the process of drafting the submissions.

To disclose this information would reveal the deliberations of the Cabinet members. The resulting Cabinet decisions I have exempted under section 35(1)(b) of the Act.

Internal working documents

Section 36 of the Act provides:

1. *Subject to this section, a document is an exempt document if its disclosure under this Act—*
 - a. *would disclose matter in the nature of, or relating to, opinion, advice or recommendation obtained, prepared or recorded, or consultation or deliberation that has taken place, in the course of, or for the purposes of, the deliberative processes involved in the functions of an agency or Minister or of the Territory; and*
 - b. *would be contrary to the public interest.*

Section 36 allows the exemption of internal working documents when disclosure under the FOI Act would not be in the public interest.

I consider these documents are internal working documents which are in draft format and include opinion and the deliberative processes of this agency.

Personal Privacy

Section 41 of the Act provides:

1. *a document is an exempt document if its disclosure under this Act would involve the unreasonable disclosure of personal information about any person (including a deceased person).*

Review rights

My decision is appealable under the Act. This means that if you are dissatisfied with this outcome you have a right to seek a review under section 59 of the Act. This right of review extends to a review of the adequacy of the search for documents undertaken by EPD. If you wish to seek a review you should write to:

The Director-General
Environment and Planning Directorate
GPO Box 1908
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Email: EPDFOI@act.gov.au

You have 28 days from the date of this letter to seek a review of the outcome or such other period as the Director-General permits.

Under section 54 of the Act, if you are concerned about the processing of your request or related administrative matters, you may complain to the Ombudsman, who may conduct an independent investigation into your complaint. There is no fee for this, and the contact details are as follows:

The Ombudsman
GPO Box 442
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Email: ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au

Online FOI Publication Policy

Please be aware that under the ACT Government's "*Online FOI Publication Policy*" (the Policy), information released to you under this Freedom of Information Application may be released on the internet.


Personal information or business affairs information will not be made available under the policy. If you think the content of your request would contain such information, please inform our contact officer immediately.

A copy of the policy, with details about what information may be published on the internet, is available online at:

http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/open_government/report/freedom_of_information_online

If you have any queries in relation to this matter please contact EPD's Customer Service Centre on 6207 1923 and ask for the Information Management Team.

Yours sincerely



Ann Lyons Wright
Executive Director
Sustainability and climate change

10 December 2014

