



**ACT**  
Government

Chief Minister, Treasury and  
Economic Development

## Freedom of Information Publication Coversheet

The following information is provided pursuant to section 28 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016*.

FOI Reference: CMTEDDFOI 2022-175

Information to be published	Status
1. Access application	Published
2. Decision notice	Published
3. Documents and schedule	Published
4. Additional information identified	No
5. Fees	N/A
6. Processing time (in working days)	54
7. Decision made by Ombudsman	N/A
8. Additional information identified by Ombudsman	N/A
9. Decision made by ACAT	N/A
10. Additional information identified by ACAT	N/A

**From:** [no-reply@act.gov.au](mailto:no-reply@act.gov.au)  
**To:** [CMTEDD FOI](#)  
**Subject:** Freedom of Information request  
**Date:** Wednesday, 8 June 2022 4:31:45 PM

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**Caution:** This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe. [Learn why this is important](#)

Please find online enquiry details below. Please ensure this enquiry is responded to within fourteen working days.

### Your details

**All fields are optional, however an email address OR full postal address must be provided for us to process your request. An email address and telephone contact number will assist us to contact you quickly if we need to discuss your request.**

Title:

First Name:

Last Name:

Business/Organisation:

Address:

Suburb:

Postcode:

State/Territory:

Phone/mobile:

Email address:

### Request for information

**(Please provide as much detail as possible, for example subject matter and relevant dates, and also provide details of documents that you are not interested in.)**

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2016 I want to access the following document/s (\*required field):

Submission documents for grant recipients of the Safe Tourism Co-Investment Program for 2020-21 as well as documents and correspondence relating to selection of the grant recipients.

I do not want to access the following documents in relation to my request::

Thank you.  
Freedom of Information Coordinator



**ACT**  
Government

Chief Minister, Treasury and  
Economic Development

Our ref: 2022-175



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

I refer to your application under section 30 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (the Act), received by the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) on 8 June 2022, in which you sought access to:

- *Submission documents for grant recipients of the Safe Tourism Co-Investment Program for 2020-21 as well as documents and correspondence relating to selection of the grant recipients.*

Following on from a telephone conversation with this office on 9 June 2022, you refined the scope of your request to:

- *The grant recipients' ideas/concepts that attracted funding in the 2020-21 Safe Tourism Co-Investment Program, including their expected return on investment for the project.*

### Authority

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

### Timeframes

In accordance with section 40 of the Act, CMTEDD was required to provide a decision on your access application by 7 July 2022 however, following third party consultation the due date is now 28 July 2022.

### Decision on access

Searches were completed for relevant information and 14 concepts were identified that fall within the scope of your request.

I have included as **Attachment A** to this decision the schedule of relevant documents. This provides a description of each document that falls within the scope of your request and the access decision for each of those documents.

Please note that 'expected return on investment' is not a criterion for the grants program and there is no information held by CMTEDD that would cover this part of your request.

### **Third party consultation**

In determining this access request, I identified that some of the information may reasonably be expected to be of concern to third parties. In accordance with section 38 of the Act, I have undertaken third party consultation. I have considered the contentions raised by the third parties in making this decision.

In accordance with section 54(2) of the Act a statement of reasons outlining my decision is below.

### **Material considered**

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

- the Act;
- the content of the documents that fall within the scope of your request; and,
- responses from third parties.

### **Exemption claimed**

My reasons for deciding not to grant access to the identified documents and components of these documents are as follows:

#### Public Interest

The Act has a presumption in favour of disclosure. As a decision maker I am required to decide where, on balance, public interest lies. As part of this process, I must consider factors favouring disclosure and non-disclosure.

In *Hogan v Hinch* (2011) 243 CLR 506, [31] French CJ stated that when ‘used in a statute, the term [public interest] derives its content from “the subject matter and the scope and purpose” of the enactment in which it appears’. Section 17(1) of the Act sets out the test, to be applied to determine whether disclosure of information would be contrary to the public interest. These factors are found in subsection 17(2) and Schedule 2 of the Act.

Taking into consideration the information contained in the documents found to be within the scope of your request, I have identified that the following public interest factors are relevant to determine if release of the information contained within these documents is within the ‘public interest’.

#### Factors favouring disclosure in the public interest under Schedule 2.1:

*(a) disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to do any of the following:*

- (i) promote open discussion of public affairs and enhance the government’s accountability.*

Having considered the factors identified as relevant in this matter, I consider that release of the information relevant to your request may contribute to promoting open discussion and enhance the government’s strong stance in supporting innovation in the small local business arena.

I am satisfied that this factor favouring disclosure carries some weight. However, this weight is to be balanced against the factors favouring nondisclosure.

## Factors favouring nondisclosure in the public interest under Schedule 2.2:

(a) *disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to do any of the following:*

(xi) *prejudice trade secrets, business affairs or research of an agency or person.*

I have also considered the impact of disclosing information which relates to business affairs. In the case of *Re Mangan and The Treasury* [2005] AATA 898 the term 'business affairs' was interpreted as meaning 'the totality of the money-making affairs of an organisation or undertaking as distinct from its private or internal affairs'.

Schedule 2 section 2.2(a)(xi) allows for government information to be withheld from release if disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to prejudice the trade secrets, business affairs or research of an agency or person.

As prefaced in an email to you dated 9 June 2022, some of the entities involved have objected to the release of this information at this point in time, as they have launch plans and that to prematurely release these concepts and ideas could reasonably be expected to prejudice their success and release their intellectual property.

I give this factor for nondisclosure significant weight.

### **Access to documents**

Pursuant to section 38(6) of the Act, I am required to defer access to all the identified documents as an affected third party has objected to disclosure. This third party may apply for review of my release decision within 20 working days after my decision is published in CMTEDD disclosure log, or a longer period allowed by the Ombudsman. I will write to you to advise when access is no longer deferred.

### **Charges**

Processing charges are not applicable for this request because the number of pages being released to you is less than the charging threshold of 50.

### **Online publishing – Disclosure Log**

Under section 28 of the Act, CMTEDD maintains an online record of access applications called a disclosure log. Your original access application, my decision and documents released to you in response to your access application will be published in the CMTEDD disclosure log. Your personal contact details will not be published. You may view CMTEDD disclosure log at <https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/functions/foi>.

### **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 CMTEDD disclosure log, or a longer period allowed by the Ombudsman.

We recommend using this form [Applying for an Ombudsman Review](#) to ensure you provide all of the required information. 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  
Level 4, 1 Moore St  
GPO Box 370  
Canberra City ACT 2601  
Telephone: (02) 6207 1740  
<http://www.acat.act.gov.au/>

Should you have any queries in relation to your request please contact me by telephone on 02 6207 7754 or email [CMTEDDFOI@act.gov.au](mailto:CMTEDDFOI@act.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,



Katharine Stuart  
Information Officer  
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate  
26 July 2022



**ACT**  
Government

Chief Minister, Treasury and  
Economic Development

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST SCHEDULE

WHAT ARE THE PARAMETERS OF THE REQUEST	Reference NO.
The grant recipients' ideas/concepts that attracted funding in the 2020-21 Safe Tourism Co-Investment Program, including their expected return on investment for the project.	CMTEDDFOI 2022-175

Ref No	Page number	Description	Date	Status	Reason for Exemption	Online Release Status
1	1-2	List of concepts that attracted funding.	Undated	Partial release	Sch 2 s2.2 (a)(xi)	Yes
<b>Total No of Docs</b>						
1						

**Attachment B - COVID-Safe Tourism Co-Investment Program – overview of applications and recommendations**

Name of applicant	Project summary
<h1>Schedule 2.2(a)(xi)</h1>	
<p><u>New hospitality experiences</u></p>	<p>_____ has proposed to extend their current offerings of _____, all at _____, by adding a new dining experience. This would include a walk-in wine room, serving Canberra District wines, and a private dining space. There is also a request to support with the development of a seasonal vegetable garden to support their farm to fork philosophy.</p>
<p><b>Cockington Green Gardens Pty Ltd</b> <u>minimum touch maximum experiences</u></p>	<p>Cockington Green Gardens is proposing to upgrade their visitor operated displays that have either been closed or running constantly during the pandemic. This has led to degradation of the visitor experience. The exhibits are proposed to be updated through modification of operating systems; introduction of solar and wind energy battery storage; addition of new interactive exhibits that rely on renewable energy.</p>
<p><u>Book Canberra Excursion platform</u></p>	<p>_____ has proposed the integration of the _____ platform to include two key private businesses – _____. The integration will provide the two attractions with the opportunity to capitalise on a captive school groups market. The platform allows for real time bookings for groups, thus leading to an increase in bookings for the attractions (as demonstrated in the application).</p>
<p><b>The Australian National University</b> <u>Mount Stromlo Observatory Astro-Tourism Facility</u></p>	<p>The ANU has proposed the development of a dedicated facility at Mount Stromlo Observatory to provide a stargazing experience. The project focuses on repairing the burnt-out facility (from the 2003 bushfires), investing in new telescopes and repurposing of an existing telescope to create a night-time offering for locals, interstate and when possible international visitors.</p>
<p><b>GoBoat Canberra</b> <u>GoBoat Charter</u></p>	<p>GoBoat Canberra has proposed to launch a commercial charter boat on Lake Burley Griffin, with stops at key locations. The project is to support the installation of new temporary pontoon infrastructure at pre-determined locations around the lake. The purpose of the charter is a premium transfer service between venues and locations; creation of a new experience during key Canberra festivals such as Enlighten and Floriade. The pontoons will also be available to be used by the public and other tourism operators.</p>
<p><b>Big River Distilling Co. Pty Ltd</b> <u>COVID-safe Cocktails</u></p>	<p>This project will contribute to investment in facilities in the distillery door at Big River Distilling Co to support delivery of new masterclasses and to enhance the existing distillery tour, tasting and retail experience.</p>
<p><b>National Zoo &amp; Aquarium</b> <u>Wild Night Safari</u></p>	<p>The National Zoo and Aquarium have proposed the development of a night-time safari experience to enhance the current offerings of daytime tours. The request of the grant program is to support with funding the purchase of eight electric vehicles, buses and buggies and building of structures, to deliver this experience. The night-time safari is proposed to be supported by a local food and wine tasting component. The project is focused on increasing the night-time offerings available in Canberra through the development of these experiences.</p>



<p><b>Jamala Wildlife Lodge</b></p> <p>“Sabi Suites”</p>	<p>Jamala Wildlife Lodge has proposed to build a new luxury suite “Sabi Suites” to add to the lodges current accommodation offering. The new suite is planned to support the uber-luxury and private experience requested by guests as well as provide increased options to guests requiring accessible rooms. The project plan is to build a three-room suite that are all interconnected, allowing for guests with special needs to have their carers close by. This is phase one of a two phased infrastructure enhancement. Phase two will be the development of an open-range glamping site with 10 to 15 tents.</p>
<p><b>Ventax Pty Ltd trading as The National Dinosaur Museum</b></p> <p><u>Ice Age and Hominid exhibit</u></p>	<p>The National Dinosaur Museum’s proposed project is to expand the permanent exhibitions by adding a new exhibition. This new exhibit is planned to maximise the use of an area currently under-utilised. It is proposed to deliver an improved visitor experience by raising the quality of the exhibit spaces and providing a different type of visual experience to other areas of the Museum.</p>
<p><b>Mount Majura Vineyard</b></p> <p><u>Cellar door outdoor seating facility</u></p>	<p>Mount Majura Vineyard has a five-year plan to expand the cellar door and modifications to the winery. The proposed project for this grant is the building of an outdoor, covered seating area for wine tastings which can be delivered independently of the remaining expansion.</p>
<p><b>The Dock Kingston Pty Ltd</b></p> <p><u>Dock Dining Domes</u></p>	<p>The Dock is proposing to create a new experience for Australia of “dome dining”. The domes are see-through domes that can seat a number of people for a dining experience. The Dock is proposing to place two Dining Domes in the common space at Kingston Foreshore, that is full view of the venue. The dining domes concept would provide a unique dining experience and create a new experience for Canberra. The funding requests to purchase 2 domes.</p>
<p><b>Dynamic Motivation Pty Ltd</b></p> <p><u>Shuttle bus and trailer</u></p>	<p>Dynamic Motivation has proposed to purchase a bus and bike trailer to expand services at Stromlo Forest Park. During the COVID-19 restrictions last year, outdoor and mountain bike activities remained relatively resilient, and Stromlo saw major increase in rider numbers. The proposed addition of a shuttle bus service at Stromlo is an innovative way for riders to experience the trails in Canberra.</p>
<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>[REDACTED] are proposing to undertake a major project propelling [REDACTED] from ACT’s best restaurant to rival the best restaurants in Australia. The project is the creation of a new dining experience at the site of [REDACTED], led by renowned chef [REDACTED]. The grant is requested to support with the development of the site into a concept dining space.</p>