



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 2023-060

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)	18
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: [REDACTED]
To: [CMTEDD FOI](#)
Subject: FOI request: Ministerial brief-CMTEDDFOI 2023-060
Date: Monday, 27 February 2023 2:43:54 PM

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](#)

Hello there,

I am seeking access to documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* and I request the following ministerial brief:

CMTEDD2022/5099 FORWARD THREE YEAR TRADE MISSIONS PLANNING

Regards,





ACT
Government

Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development

Our ref: CMTEDDFOI2023-060

Ms [REDACTED]

via email [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

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 27 February 2023, Specifically, you sought:

I request the following ministerial brief: CMTEDD2022/5099 Forward Three Year Trade Missions Planning

Authority

I am an Information Officer appointed by the Director-General 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 is required to provide a decision on your access application by 28 March 2023.

Decision on access

Searches were completed for relevant information and one document was found that falls within the scope of your request. I have decided to grant full access to that document and attachments. The information being released to you, is provided as **Attachment A**.

Statement of reasons

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

- the Act
- the content of the documents that fall within the scope of your request.

Information that would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest to disclose under the test set out in section 17 of the Act

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 [public interest] 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:

(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;*
- (ii) contribute to positive and informed debate on important issues or matters of public interest.*

I have placed substantial weight on the above factors favouring disclosure. The release of this information can reasonably be expected to provide information that will inform the community and increase their understanding of government operations. The work and travel as part of the role of the Commissioner for International Engagement and the Office of International Engagement is an area of government that understandably attracts public interest and scrutiny. The release of this information provides some insight into the forward planning undertaken as part of this role.

I did not identify any factor favouring non-release and have decided to release this information to you in full.

Charges

Processing charges are not applicable for this request because the documents being released to you are less than 50 pages.

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 and my decision 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 on the 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:

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/>

Should you have any queries in relation to your request please contact me by telephone on 6207 7754 or email CMTEDDFOI@act.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Hotham
Information Officer
Information Access Team
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
XX March 2023



ACT
Government

Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST SCHEDULE

WHAT ARE THE PARAMETERS OF THE REQUEST						Reference NO.
<i>I request the following ministerial brief: CMTEDD2022/5099 Forward Three Year Trade Missions Planning</i>						CMTEDDFOI 2023-060
Ref No	Page number	Description	Date	Status	Reason for Exemption	Online Release Status
1	1-4	Signed Ministerial Brief CMTEDD2022/5099	28 November 2022	Full		Yes
	5	Attachment A - Program of International Missions for the Chief Minister	28 November 2022	Full		Yes
	6	Attachment B - Program of International Missions for the CIE	28 November 2022	Full		Yes
Total No of Docs						
1						

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

To: Chief Minister

Tracking No.: CMTEDD2022/5099

Date: 03/11/2022

CC: Head of Service

From: Commissioner for International Engagement

Subject: Proposed Forward Missions Agenda for Chief Minister and Commissioner for International Engagement

Critical Date: 01/12/2022

Critical Reason: To commence program development and implementation of approved programs by the OIE.

Recommendations

That you:

1. Note the information contained in this brief;

Noted / Please Discuss

2. Agree to the forward missions program for the Chief Minister; and

Agreed / Not Agreed / Please Discuss

3. Agree to the forward missions program for the Commissioner for International Engagement.

Agreed / Not Agreed / Please Discuss

Andrew Barr MLA *Andrew Barr* 28./11./22

Minister's Office Feedback

Some minor adjustments to timing and extent of missions to be discussed

please update in a fresh brief. B

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Background

1. The ACT Government established the role of Commissioner of International Engagement (CIE) and the Office of International Engagement (OIE) to ensure the coordination of international activity for the ACT Government.
2. In September 2016 the Chief Minister launched Canberra's *International Engagement Strategy* (IES) which identifies Canberra's seven key areas of strength and the ten primary markets with which the ACT will actively engage with.
3. Key to delivering the IES is a tailored and targeted calendar of international engagements. This will provide OIE an opportunity to build international relationships, identify opportunities for investment and partnership and promote Canberra as a destination for investment, trade, study, visit, and live.
4. The CIE with the OIE is responsible for "*defining and implementing a targeted program of ACT Government, Ministerial and industry trade missions to priority markets*".
5. The program will align with the ACT Legislative Assembly (ACTLA) Sitting Program.
6. The program also takes into account existing Sister City Agreements (SCA) and Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).
7. The proposed major missions for 2022/2023 FY are:
 - a. Singapore in August 2022;
 - b. New Zealand and Fiji in November 2022;
 - c. New Zealand in November 2022 (CIE only);
 - d. ~~New Zealand in December 2022,~~
 - e. Singapore and Malaysia in February 2023;
 - f. EU and the United Kingdom in March 2023 (CIE only); and
 - g. Japan and South Korea in ~~June~~ ^{April} 2023.
8. The proposed major missions for 2023/2024 FY are:
 - a. United Kingdom, France and Spain in July 2023;
 - b. United States of America in September 2023;
 - c. Thailand and Vietnam in October 2023 (CIE only);
 - d. New Zealand and Vanuatu in November 2023/
 - e. Indonesia and Vietnam in March 2024; and
 - f. Singapore and Thailand (post Budget) 2024. (TBC)
9. The proposed major missions for 2024/2025 FY are:
 - a. China in March 2025 (CIE only); and
 - b. Singapore and India in ~~May~~ ^{Feb} 2025.
10. The proposed major missions for 2025/2026 FY are:
 - a. China in September 2025;
 - b. Thailand and Vietnam in October 2025;
 - c. New Zealand in November 2025; and
 - d. United States of America in May 2026.

OFFICIAL

11. The specialised objectives for each mission and cities to be included on the program will be determined closer to each trade mission, meeting your requirements, guided by the CIE and the IES, with consideration of emerging opportunities.
12. In consultation with your Office inclusion of a business delegation will be considered on a mission-by-mission basis. The OIE will then work with the Canberra Business Chamber to coordinate such delegations to accompany your trade missions.
13. The proposed program may need to be modified or added to accommodate future Australian Government activity if it meets the priorities of the ACT Government and IES.
14. The proposed program may need to be modified or added to should other opportunities arise.
15. The CIE would also undertake additional travel, within the constraints of available resources, for the purposes of:
 - a. Initiating and building relationships and program development; and
 - b. Negotiating specific agreements.
16. The consolidated program for the Chief Minister is at Attachment A.
17. The consolidated program for the CIE is at Attachment B.

Issues

18. Following agreement to a program of activity for the next three and a half years, the CIE will publish the proposed program with indicative dates to allow interested stakeholders to, where applicable, better integrate with the Chief Minister's program and better plan their own arrangements and budgets.
19. The Commonwealth still has in place restrictions on international travel due to the on-going COVID-19 Pandemic. Any travel planning will be in accordance with restrictions and will ensure that the health of travelling members will be the outmost concern.

Financial Implications

20. Expenses will be met from within existing budgets for 2022/23. Future trade mission expenses will be the subject of a budget bid for the 2023/24 budget.

ConsultationInternal

21. VisitCanberra and Business and Innovation; and
22. ACTIA.

Cross Directorate

23. Nil.

External

24. DFAT.

Work Health and Safety

25. Due to the on-going effects from the global health pandemic of COVID-19, any international travel will be carefully considered and planned according to health regulations as set by the Commonwealth and that of the countries proposed for trade missions

Benefits/Sensitivities

26. Continues to deliver on Canberra's IES.

Communications, media and engagement implications

27. There will be continued interest by the media in all international engagement, its cost and outcomes.

Signatory Name: Brendan Smyth

Phone: x50509

Action Officer: Emma Gowling

Phone: x78976

Attachments

Attachment	Title
Attachment A	Program of International Missions for the Chief Minister
Attachment B	Program of International Missions for the Commissioner of International Engagement

FORWARD INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

CHIEF MINISTER PROGRAM

YEAR	1 ST QUARTER	2 ND QUARTER	3 RD QUARTER	4 TH QUARTER
	JUL/AUG/SEP	OCT/NOV/DEC	JAN/FEB/MAR	APR/MAY/JUN
2022/23	Singapore	New Zealand & Fiji New Zealand	Singapore & Malaysia	Japan & South Korea
2023/24	United Kingdom, France & Spain USA	New Zealand & Vanuatu	Indonesia & Vietnam	Budget Roadshow (Singapore & Thailand)
2024/25		<i>Caretaker Period</i>		Singapore & India
2025/26	China	Thailand & Vietnam New Zealand		USA

FORWARD INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

YEAR	1 ST QUARTER	2 ND QUARTER	3 RD QUARTER	4 TH QUARTER
	JUL/AUG/SEP	OCT/NOV/DEC	JAN/FEB/MAR	APR/MAY/JUN
2022/23	Singapore	New Zealand	Singapore & Malaysia	Japan & South Korea
		New Zealand	EU & United Kingdom	
		New Zealand		
2023/24	United Kingdom, France & Spain	Thailand & Vietnam	Indonesia & Vietnam	Budget Roadshow (Singapore & Thailand)
	USA	New Zealand & Vanuatu		
2024/25		<i>Caretaker Period</i>	China	Singapore & India
2025/26	China	Thailand & Vietnam		USA
		New Zealand		