



ACT
Government

Environment, Planning and
Sustainable Development

Phone: 6207 1923
Reference: 17/11169

Dear

Freedom of Information Request – Kangaroo culls ACT nature park reserves 2013-2016 monitoring outcomes

I refer to your application under section 14 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1989* (the Act), received by the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) on 8 May 2017, in which you requested the following documents:

"I seek documents held or created by the directorate related to the monitoring and evaluation of the annual kangaroo cull and outcomes for flora and fauna in the Canberra nature park, including sustainable kangaroo population numbers.

Specifically, I would like copies of internal and external documents including correspondence, reports and briefs on (and limited to) monitoring and evaluation outcome of the culls conducted from 2013 to 2016. Specifically also I seek documents that demonstrate or summarise outcomes for these years beyond a measurement of biomass ---- ie grass height.

Secondly I ask for documentation internal and/or external (not a reference to the TAMS website public information program) that details the scientific evidence for the 1 kangaroo/ha goal of the cull."

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

The ACT Government has adopted an evidence-based approach to kangaroo management. Through this approach, the Government is able to draw upon a large body of scientific studies on kangaroos and comparable herbivores in other continents as well as local research.

Numerous scientific studies from within culled and uncultured reserves in the ACT have demonstrated the diversity and abundance of a range of taxa (including threatened species) in relationship to habitat characteristics, and also the impacts of kangaroos on that habitat. Some of these studies are described in Section 3 of the Eastern Grey Kangaroo: Controlled Native Species Management Plan. This information has been used to guide kangaroo management decisions (including decisions to not cull some areas) within Canberra's Nature Reserves. This 'understanding landscape responses' approach has been adopted over monitoring multiple variables in all culled reserves, such that data can efficiently inform an evidence-based management approach.

Research on the impacts and management of kangaroo grazing in ACT Nature Reserves is ongoing. As new research is completed, the findings will be released to the public and incorporated into the management program.

During the document search process a large volume of raw data was identified. To avoid any further delays I made the decision to release the documents in two parts. This part deals with a number of internal documents, publically available documents and reference material which has been used to inform documents. Assessment of the remaining records and data is underway and a second decision and document package will be provided to you in due course.

Schedule detailing decisions

Please refer to the attached schedule that lists decisions regarding access to documents, which have been identified as relevant to your request. All documents are released in full. Some documents and reference material are publically available. For these documents web links are provided within the schedule.

Decision

The Directorate has identified 14 documents in its possession that meet the scope of your request, as identified in the schedule attached to this letter.

In this instance, I have recommended a full release of all documents that fall within the scope of your request.

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, Planning and Sustainable Development 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 EPSDD's Customer Service Centre on 6207 1923 and ask for the Freedom Of Information Team.

Yours sincerely


Daniel Iglesias
a/g Executive Director
Environment
24 July 2017