



ACT
Government

Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development

Freedom of Information Disclosure Log Publication Coversheet

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

| Application Details | |
|--|---|
| Ref. No. | CMTEDDFOI 2025-421 |
| Date of Application | 24 November 2025 |
| Date of Decision | 4 February 2026 |
| Processing time (in working days) | 45 |
| Fees | N/A |
| Decision on Access | No Information Found |
| Information Requested (summary) | Communications between the Education Minister/Department, Health Minister/Department and or the ACT Chief Minister over the imported coloured sand products this month [to 24 November 2025], and any health or emergency management advice received by any of these parties. |
| Publication Details | |
| Original application | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Published <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| Decision notice | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Published <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| Documents and schedule | <input type="checkbox"/> Published <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| Decision made by Ombudsman | N/A |
| Additional information identified by Ombudsman | N/A |
| Decision made by ACAT | N/A |
| Additional information identified by ACAT | N/A |

From: [REDACTED]
To: [EDU, FOI](#); [ACT Health FOI](#); [CMTEDD FOI](#)
Subject: CMTEDDFOI 2025-421 - The Australian - FOI request
Date: Monday, 24 November 2025 10:53:50 AM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]

[Learn why this is important](#)

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.

Hello,

Could I please FOI any communications between the Education Minister / Department, the Health Minister / Department, and/or the ACT chief minister over the asbestos contamination identified in imported coloured sand products this month? As well as any health or emergency management advice received by any of those three parties.

Happy for redactions to any non-gov parties.

Let me know if you need any other clarification on this.

Thank you

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FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – NOTICE OF DECISION

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 24 November 2025. You also sent this request to the Education Directorate and ACT Health, which is now part of the Health and Community Services Directorate.

Specifically, you have sought access to the following information:

Could I please FOI any communications between the Education Minister / Department, the Health Minister / Department, and/or the ACT chief minister over the asbestos contamination identified in imported coloured sand products this month? As well as any health or emergency management advice received by any of those three parties.

Happy for redactions to any non-gov parties.

On 24 November 2025, you were emailed by the Education Directorate, and CMTEDD was included in the correspondence, as your request was sent to more than one directorate. The email included the following:

As the Ministers and Chief Minister are separate from the Directorates, for the second part of your request where you've referred to "three parties", would you please advise if this is for 'any health or emergency management advice received by the Minister for Education, Minister for Health or Chief Minister'.

On 24 November 2025, you replied by email as follows:

Yes, correct, thank you. 'Any health or emergency management advice received by the Minister for Education, Minister for Health or Chief Minister'.

Also on 24 November 2025, you confirmed your agreement to the following revised scope:

Records held by the ACT Education, Health and CMTEd Directorates relating to asbestos contamination identified in imported coloured sand products since 1 November 2025, specifically:

- 1. Any communications between the Education Minister or Education Directorate, the Health Minister or Health Directorate, and/or the ACT Chief Minister.*
- 2. Any health or emergency management advice received by the Minister for Education, Minister for Health or Chief Minister.*

Authority

I am an Information Officer appointed by the CMTEDD 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 within 30 days.

As this matter required third party consultation, the decision due date was extended by 15 working days, under section 40(2) of the Act.

Therefore, a decision is due by **4 February 2026**.

Decision on access

Whilst searches of CMTEDD records originally identified some documents that went to third party consultation, after closer inspection of this information, it was determined that this information was not within the scope of your request.

Accordingly, I have decided under sections 35(1)(b) and 53 of the Act that the information you have requested is not held by CMTEDD.

Additional Information

As you may be aware, WorkSafe ACT published information on its website, including details of the recall, here:

<https://www.worksafe.act.gov.au/health-and-safety-portal/safety-alerts/asbestos-contamination-confirmed-in-coloured-sand-product>

The Environmental Health Standing Committee (enHealth) provides the Australian Health Protection Committee (AHPC) with advice on environmental factors affecting health. Further information can be found here:

<https://www.cdc.gov.au/about/advisory-groups-and-committees/environmental-health-standing-committee-enhealth>

Charges

Processing charges are not applicable for this request as no documents are being released to you.

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 will be published on the CMTEDD disclosure log. Your personal contact details will not be published.

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 provided to you, 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

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/>

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

Yours sincerely



Emma Hotham
Information Officer
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

4 February 2026