

Theodora McIntosh  
e-mail: [foi+request-10771-00eaf08b@righttoknow.org.au](mailto:foi+request-10771-00eaf08b@righttoknow.org.au)

Dear Theodora,

**RE: YOUR FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST [FOI202324/12]**

I refer to your request received by the ABS on 18 October 2023 in which you seek:

*"A list of urban areas/localities in Australia by state? I have been looking for a while but can't find a concrete list. Preferably this would include population figures from the 2021 census and geographical coordinates, but it's completely fine if that's impossible."*

A copy of your full request can be found in **Attachment A**.

**Response to Your Request**

I am an authorised decision maker under section 23 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act). I have reviewed your request and determined that much of the information you are seeking, if held by the ABS, would have been collected under the authority of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* (C&S Act). Information collected under the C&S Act is exempt from the FOI Act under Schedule 2, Part II, Division 2. Therefore, I am refusing access to any such documents we may hold on the basis that they are exempt.

**Alternative access arrangements**

In our correspondence to you on 24 October 2023, the ABS provided you with two spreadsheets outside of the FOI Act that provide some of the information you are seeking. These spreadsheets contain information from the most recent Census, including the full data of population estimates and components by Local Government Area (LGA) and Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2).

For your convenience, you can access the most recent ABS regional population publication on the ABS website [Regional population, 2021-22 financial year | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/Regional-population-2021-22-financial-year)

If you have any questions about this data, or you wish to seek further Census related data, please contact [census.data@abs.gov.au](mailto:census.data@abs.gov.au) who will be able to provide further assistance.

**Decision and Reasons for Decision**

I have taken the following into account in making my decision:

- Email correspondence between yourself and the FOI team.
- The relevant provisions of the FOI Act, specifically Schedule 2, Part II, Division 2.
- The guidelines issued by the Australian Information Commissioner under S93A of the FOI Act.

**Charges**

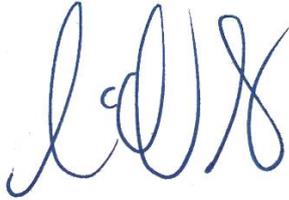
There are no charges for this request.

### **Internal Review of the Decision**

Section 54 of the FOI Act gives you the right to apply for an internal review of the decision by the ABS. Additionally, you may request a review of this decision by the Information Commissioner. Details of both procedures involved in an application to review a decision are set out at **Attachment B**.

If you have any queries on this matter please contact the ABS FOI Contact Officer at [freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au](mailto:freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Meagher', is positioned above the typed name.

Michael Meagher  
Program Manager  
Legislative Compliance and Parliamentary Branch  
Australian Bureau of Statistics

01/11/2023

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless  
you recognise the sender  
and know the content is safe

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Australian Bureau of Statistics, would you be able to provide me with a  
list of urban areas/localities in Australia by state? I have been looking for  
a while but can't find a concrete list. Preferably this would include  
population figures from the 2021 census and geographical coordinates, but it's  
completely fine if that's impossible.

Yours faithfully, Theodora McIntosh

-----

Please use this email address for all replies to this request:  
[foi+request-10771-00eaf08b@righttoknow.org.au](mailto:foi+request-10771-00eaf08b@righttoknow.org.au)

Is [freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au](mailto:freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au) the wrong address for Freedom of  
Information requests to Australian Bureau of Statistics? If so, please contact  
us using this form:  
[https://www.righttoknow.org.au/change\\_request/new?body=abs](https://www.righttoknow.org.au/change_request/new?body=abs)

This request has been made by an individual using Right to Know. This message  
and any reply that you make will be published on the internet. More  
information on how Right to Know works can be found at:  
<https://www.righttoknow.org.au/help/officers>

Please note that in some cases publication of requests and responses will be  
delayed.

If you find this service useful as an FOI officer, please ask your web manager  
to link to us from your organisation's FOI page.

-----

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your email.

The Freedom of Information Act allows for requests of documents rather than information. However, there is publicly available information that should satisfy your request.

The ABS has published statistical breakdowns of regional populations from the 2021 Census at the following link: [Regional population, 2021-22 financial year | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/Regional-population-2021-22-financial-year). This webpage contains information about the breakdown of Australia's population by various geographical areas. Under the 'data downloads' section you can access spreadsheets in a variety of forms. I have attached a copy of two of the aforementioned spreadsheets, which includes the full data for population estimates and components by Local Government Area (LGA) and Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2).



32180DS0002\_2021-22r.xlsx 32180DS0001\_2021-22r (1).xlsx

I hope this information satisfies your request. If it does, could you please respond by email by **COB Tuesday 24 October 2023** confirming that you are withdrawing your request?

Kind regards,

**Adam**

Freedom of Information

Policy & Legislation Section | Legislative Compliance and Parliamentary Branch

**Australian Bureau of Statistics**

Good afternoon,

We kindly would like to follow up on the below email. If you could provide a response to the email by **COB Friday 27 October 2023** that would be appreciated.

Kind regards,

**Adam**

Freedom of Information

Policy & Legislation Section | Legislative Compliance and Parliamentary Branch

**Australian Bureau of Statistics**

## **INFORMATION ON RIGHTS OF REVIEW**

### **1. INTERNAL REVIEW OF DECISION**

If you disagree with our decision you have the right to apply for an internal review under section 54 of the FOI Act.

Application for a review of the decision must be made within 30 days of receipt of this letter. No particular form is required but it would assist the decision-maker if you set out in the application the grounds on which you consider that the decision should be reviewed.

Application for an internal review of the decision should be e-mailed to [freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au](mailto:freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au) or posted to:

ABS FOI Contact Officer  
Policy and Legislation Section  
Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Locked Bag 10  
BELCONNEN ACT 2617

### **2. AUSTRALIAN INFORMATION COMMISSIONER REVIEW OF DECISION**

Section 54L of the Act gives you the right to seek a review of the decision from the Information Commissioner. An application for review must be made within 60 days of receiving the decision.

Application for an Information Commissioner review of the decision should be e-mailed to [foidr@oaic.gov.au](mailto:foidr@oaic.gov.au) or posted to:

Director of FOI Dispute Resolution  
GPO Box 5218  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

### **3. COMPLAINTS TO THE INFORMATION COMMISSIONER**

Section 70 of the Act provides that a person may complain to the Information Commissioner about action taken by an agency in the exercise of powers or the performance of functions under the Act.

A complaint to the Information Commissioner must be in writing and identify the agency the complaint is about. It should be e-mailed to [foidr@oaic.gov.au](mailto:foidr@oaic.gov.au) or posted to:

Director of FOI Dispute Resolution  
GPO Box 5218  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

The Information Commissioner may decline to investigate the complaint in a number of circumstances, including that you did not exercise your right to ask the agency, the Information Commissioner, a court or tribunal to review the decision.