



D Browns

Via email: foi+request-11223-7099ecba@righttoknow.org.au

Dear D Browns

Your Freedom of Information request – Charges

I refer to your request, dated 11 March 2024 and received by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (**department**) on the same date for access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (**FOI Act**) to the following documents:

‘Under the FOI act I am requesting copies of correspondence, including emails, between the departments Zero Industries division and the Seadragon wind farm or Star of the south windfarm, which discuss or comment on the current environmental assessments for these projects. For the purpose on this request the request is limited to correspondence during the months of December to 2023, January 2024, and February 2024.’

Preliminary assessment of the Charge

In accordance with section 29 of the FOI Act, I have decided that you are liable to pay a charge for the processing of your request. My preliminary assessment of that charge is \$102.06 calculated as follows:

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Search and retrieval time: 3.75 hours at \$15.00 per hour | \$56.25 |
| Decision-making time: \$20.00 per hour | |
| Examining pages, redacting and scheduling documents | \$5.81 |
| Consultation with 2 third parties at 2 hours per party | \$80.00 |
| Writing statement of reasons | \$60.00 |
| Deduction of 5 hours decision-making time* | -\$100.00 |
| TOTAL | \$102.06 |

*The FOI Act provides that the first five hours of decision-making time are free of charge and this is reflected in the calculation.

I am advised that the department has in its possession 2 documents with 7 pages relevant to your request.

Required action

If you would like the department to continue processing your request, you must notify the department in writing within 30 days of receiving this notice that you:

- agree to pay the charge;

- wish to contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed or should be reduced or not imposed or both; or
- withdraw your request.

If you do not provide a written response in accordance with one of the above options within 30 days of receiving this notification, your request will be taken to have been withdrawn under section 29(2) of the FOI Act.

Alternatively, you may wish to revise the scope of your request. If you would like to discuss this, please contact foi@dcceew.gov.au for assistance.

Option – pay the charge

As the charge exceeds \$100, you are required to pay a deposit of \$25.52. You may, of course, elect to pay the charge in full at this point.

Payment can be made by direct deposit to:

| | |
|-----------|-----------------------------|
| A/C Name: | DCCEEW Departmental Account |
| Branch: | London Circuit, Canberra |
| Bank: | Reserve Bank |
| BSB: | 092 009 |
| A/C No. | 147762 |
| ABN No: | 63 573 932 849 |

Please include the FOI reference number (LEX-76544) in the description/reference field when making payment, and send an email with notification of payment to foi@dcceew.gov.au as soon as it has been made.

If you are not able to pay by direct deposit, please contact the department for assistance.

Option – seek reduction or non-imposition of the charge

You may contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed, or should be reduced or not imposed. Section 29(5) of the FOI Act provides that, in deciding whether to reduce or not to impose a charge, the decision-maker must take into account any relevant reasons, including whether payment of the charge, or part of it, would cause you financial hardship, and whether the giving of access to the documents is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public.

If you wish to contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed or should be reduced or not imposed, please set out your reasons and the evidence in support of your reasons as clearly as possible. If you believe that payment of the charge would cause you financial hardship, please provide sufficient details of your financial circumstances to enable the decision-maker to make a well-informed decision in this regard.

Option – withdraw your request

If you wish to withdraw your request you may do so in writing.

Time limits for processing your request

Section 31 of the FOI Act provides that where a notice is sent to an applicant regarding the payment of a charge in respect of a request, the time limit for processing the request is suspended from the date the notice is received until either:

- (a) the day following payment of the charge (in full or the required deposit); or
- (b) if applicable, the day following the notification to the applicant of a decision not to impose the charge.

Address for correspondence

Please send all correspondence regarding your FOI request to the following address:

FOI Coordinator
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
GPO Box 3090
Canberra ACT 2601

Or by email to foi@dcceew.gov.au.

Publication of information in the FOI disclosure log

Information released under the FOI Act may be published in a disclosure log on the department's website. Section 11C of the FOI Act requires this publication, subject to certain exceptions, including where publication of personal, business, professional or commercial information would be unreasonable.

Third party consultation

The relevant documents contain personal information and information about the business or professional affairs of two third parties.

To inform the decision on release of documents, the FOI Act requires that the above third parties are consulted, and provides a further time period for the consultation process. Subsection 15(6) of the FOI Act extends the standard statutory 30-day time limit for processing requests by another 30 calendar days. Accordingly, this will give the department 60 calendar days within which to notify you of its decision on access to the documents.

Further assistance

If you have any questions, please email foi@dcceew.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Paul Murphy
Branch Head
Offshore Renewables Branch
Net Zero Industries Division
26 March 2024