



Oliver Smith

Via email: foi+request-11284-a7ec3ea8@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Oliver Smith

Your Freedom of Information request – consultation

I refer to your request dated 28 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 seek all ministerial briefs and submissions provided to the office of the Minister from 1 June, 2023 to present in relation to the PORTLAND DECLARATION AREA AND SOUTHERN OCEAN DECLARATION AREA.’

You provided advice on 8 April 2024 that you were specifically referring to the Office of the Minister for Climate Change and Energy.

Your request involves significant resources for the department

Due to the amount of work involved for the department, under sections 24AA(1)(a)(i), 24 and 24AA(2) of the FOI Act, the department intends to refuse your FOI request as a 'practical refusal reason' exists. Under the Act, the practical refusal reason is that processing your request 'would substantially and unreasonably divert the resources' of this agency.

To process your request the department would have to do extensive searches to find and process the documents you asked for. Preliminary searches indicate that the department may hold more than 75 documents, totalling over 12300 pages. I estimate that it would take over 1300 hours to process your request. This is a conservative estimate and does not include the actual processing time required for locating and collation of all documents.

The high volume of hours estimated to process this request stems largely from the large number of submissions that would be captured, documents that are likely to require consultation and redaction. Initial estimates indicate that more than 150 third parties would need to be consulted under either sections 26A, 27 and/or 27A of the FOI Act.

If you decide not to make any revisions to your request, the department may refuse your FOI request as a 'practical refusal reason' exists.

How to send us a 'revised request'

Before a final decision is made on your request, you can submit a revised request.

Within the next 14 days (consultation period) you must do one of the following in writing:

- withdraw the request;
- make a revised request; or
- tell us that you do not want to revise your request.

If you do not contact us during the consultation period, your request will be taken as having been withdrawn.

If you would like to make a revised request, you could consider one or more of the following:

- limiting your request to ministerial briefs only, excluding attachments;
- excluding submissions from third parties; and
- limiting the timeframe further.

Contact officer

During the consultation period, you are welcome to contact the department to ask for help in revising your request. The contact officer's details are as follows:

Fiona
Senior FOI Officer
foi@dcceew.gov.au

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

19 April 2024