



Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources

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DX 210074

Ref: 16/43939

Mr Martin Morrison
foi+request-2671-9255b573@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Mr Morrison

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (FOI) REQUEST – NOTICE OF DECISION

I refer to your request under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) received by the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR) on 3 November 2016 for copies of:

1. *All documents created on or after 1 January 1986 which are "authorities" made under s4 of the Rain-Making Control Act 1967 (Vic) ("the Act").*
2. *All documents created on or after 1 January 1986 which are revocations or variations of an authority, as provided for in s5(1)(c) of the Act.*
3. *All cloud-seeding reports lodged with the Government on or after 1 January 1986, where a "cloud-seeding report" is a report submitted to the Government in order to fulfil the requirements of s13 of the Act.*

The FOI Act

The FOI Act establishes a general right of access to documents held by State Government agencies and Ministers. However, in order to protect essential public interests and private and business affairs of individuals, this right of access does not apply to documents identified by the FOI Act as exempt documents. For example, a document is exempt from release if it contains the personal affairs of another person, and if its release would be unreasonable.

Search

The department conducted a thorough a diligent search for hardcopy documents and electronic records relevant to your request. The search comprised:

- a search of the departmental electronic records management system (TRIM)
- as the Minister for Agriculture oversees the operation of the *Rain-Making Control Act 1967*, under which the Minister may authorise the carrying out of rain-making

operations, a search was requested of the department's Agriculture Group and, in particular, of the Regulatory Practice division

- a search of the department's Ministerial correspondence system
- consultation was also undertaken with the FOI Unit of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), as responsibility for such matters lay with the predecessor departments of DELWP until 1 January 2015.

The search did not identify any records relevant to your request.

Decision

As the search did not locate any documents relevant to your request, your request must be denied under s27(1)(e) of the FOI Act on the basis that the document does not exist.

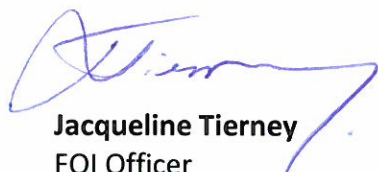
Right of Review

In accordance with section 27(1)(e) of the FOI Act, you have the right to lodge a complaint in writing to the Freedom of Information Commissioner where no documents have been discovered relevant to your request. Any complaint should be made in writing within 28 days of receiving this decision. The address for lodgement is:

Freedom of Information Commissioner
Office of the Freedom of Information Commissioner
PO Box 24274
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Please contact me on (03) 8392 6979 if you have any questions in relation to this decision.

Yours sincerely



Jacqueline Tierney
FOI Officer

Date:

06/12/16