



Our reference: LEX 5043

23 March 2017

Adam Presnell

Via email: Adam Presnell foi+request-3220-f3dec002@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Mr Presnell

Freedom of Information Request
Correspondence in relation to your request for a Statement of Reasons
Notice of Preliminary Assessment of Charges

I refer to your request for access to documents made under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) received by the APVMA on **10 March 2017**, for correspondence by the APVMA and to the APVMA in relation to a request for a Statement of Reasons made in October 2012 in relation to a decision on the regulation and use of 'GLORICIDE' by the Sunshine Coast Regional Council.

I am an officer of the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) authorised under section 23 of the FOI Act to make a decision in relation to FOI charges.

Notice of charges payable by you

2. I have decided that you are liable to pay a charge for the processing of your request in accordance with section 29 of the FOI Act. My preliminary assessment of that charge, calculated in accordance with the *Freedom of Information (Charges) Regulations 1982*, is as follows:

Activity	Charge [SAUD]
Search and retrieval time (\$15 per hour)	\$32.88
Decision making time (no charge for first five hours, and \$20 per hour thereafter)	\$77.25
TOTAL	\$110.13

3. We require the balance of charges to be paid in full, or alternatively a deposit of **\$37.53** to be paid to APVMA before we can continue to process this request.

What do you need to do?

4. Within 30 days of receipt of this letter you must do one of the following:
- agree to pay the estimated charge, and pay the deposit (if any) described above or the full amount by cheque, money order or credit card. Cheques should be made payable to 'APVMA' and sent to:



Australian Government
**Australian Pesticides and
Veterinary Medicines Authority**

FOI Officer
PO Box 6182
Kingston ACT 2604
Australia

Credit card payment forms are available from our website at
<http://apvma.gov.au/node/47>.

- b. withdraw your FOI request in writing; or
 - c. apply in writing for the charge to be corrected, reduced or waived. Your application should set out the reasons why you believe that the charge has been wrongly assessed or should not be imposed and should include evidence in support of your claims. The decision maker must consider whether payment of the charge (in full or in part) would cause you financial hardship, and whether providing access to the requested documents would be in the general public interest. You can raise other reasons.
5. If you fail to take one of the steps referred to above within the 30 days, your FOI request will be taken to have been withdrawn under section 29(2) of the FOI Act.

When will you be notified of a decision about access to documents?

6. Section 31 of the FOI Act provides that the timeframe for processing your FOI request is suspended from the day you receive this notice until:
- a. the day on which you pay the deposit, or the full charge amount; or
 - b. the day on which the APVMA makes a decision not to impose a charge.
7. You will not be entitled to access any documents which the decision-maker decides to release to you until you have paid all the charges owing (although once you pay at least the deposit you will receive the decision itself). Once the decision making process has been finalised we will determine the charges and advise you of any variation to the preliminary assessment. Agencies generally cannot charge more than the estimate unless releasing in full every document requested, but must reduce the amount payable if the time taken was less than estimated. If the APVMA looks likely to charge more than the estimate we will contact you beforehand to discuss that.
8. If you have any questions, please contact the FOI Team at foi@apvma.gov.au or on (02) 6210 4794.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Grutt', with a large, sweeping flourish.

Paul Grutt
Senior Legal Officer
Legal and Compliance Program