



Mr Jackson Gothe-Snape

Email: [foi+request-3790-7c71bdee@righttoknow.org.au](mailto:foi+request-3790-7c71bdee@righttoknow.org.au)

Dear Mr Gothe-Snape

**Freedom of Information - Access Decision Letter**  
**Request No. 170802**

I refer to your request of 22 August 2017 to the Department of the Environment and Energy (the **Department**), in which you have sought access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (the **FOI Act**) to the following travel documents for Minister Frydenberg MP:

*An itemised summary of all trips by the Department's travel provider for 2016-17*

As provided in our correspondence of 23 and 31 August 2017, the Department considers that the scope of your request is limited to travel booked for Minister Frydenberg MP. This has been inferred through your previous correspondence with the Department between 8 and 23 August 2017.

**Authority**

I am authorised under section 23 of the FOI Act to make a decision in relation to your request.

**Decision**

After considering your FOI request and conducting a thorough search of the Department's records, I am satisfied that no relevant documents exist. Your request is therefore refused pursuant to section 24A(1)(b)(ii) of the FOI Act.

**ATTACHMENT A** contains information regarding your review rights, should you wish to seek review of my decision.

**Material considered in making decision**

In making my decision I have considered:

- the scope of the FOI request;
- the relevant provisions of the FOI Act;
- advice from subject matter experts; and
- the *Guidelines issued by the Australian Information Commissioner under section 93A of the Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the **FOI Guidelines**).

## Reasons for Decision

### Section 24A(1)(b)(ii)

#### *Documents do not exist*

Under subparagraph 24A(1)(b)(ii) of the FOI Act, the Department may refuse a request for access to a document if all reasonable steps have been taken to find the document, and the Department is satisfied that the document does not exist.

The Department does not book travel for Minister Frydenberg, and as a result, there are no reasonable steps we can take to locate records related to this function. The Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority has functional responsibility within Government for Ministerial travel expenses, and would hold primary records related to the subject matter of your request. We recommend making your request directly to them.

Accordingly, I have decided to refuse your request for access pursuant to subsection 24A(1)(b)(ii) of the FOI Act.

### Further assistance

The FOI Contact Officer in the Department, whom has assisted with the processing of this request, can be contacted by telephone on 02 6274 2098 or by email at [foi@environment.gov.au](mailto:foi@environment.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Linda Nitschke  
Assistant Secretary  
Financial Services Branch

 September 2017

### ATTACHMENT:

A. Information sheet "Your Review Rights"