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18 December 2018

www.accc.gov.au

Mr Richard Smith

Via email to: foi+request-5168-5938e454@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Mr Smith

Acknowledgment of request for access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Cth)*

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) acknowledges receipt of your email of 14 December 2018 requesting, under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Cth)*, to the following:

'The Basslink electricity interconnector is an approximately 370 km high-voltage direct current (HVDC) cable linking the electricity grid of Tasmania to the National Energy Grid. It is the second longest submarine power cable in the world.

I request the following Government Information:

a) Documents relating to any assessments, investigations, test results or information regarding the current operational condition of Basslink cable, including any insulation resistance test results undertaken between 1 December 2016 to 1 December 2018; and

b) Documents relating to any assessments, investigations or information regarding estimates of the remaining service life of the Basslink cable.'

Please note that whilst the AER is a separate legal entity, it does not hold separate records in its own right and is staffed by the ACCC. Therefore, FOI requests for AER documents are processed by ACCC's FOI section.

Timeframe for processing your request

The ACCC has 30 days to process your request, beginning 14 December 2018. This timeframe may be extended by the ACCC where:

- (a) charges are applied, and/or
- (b) consultation with third parties is necessary.

Charges

If the ACCC decides that you should pay a charge to process your request, we will notify you of the likely cost of processing your request and your options if you disagree. The statutory timeframe is placed on hold from when this is sent to you and resumes at a later time.

We will notify you of any charges in relation to your request as soon as practicable.

Consultation with third parties

The ACCC may be required to consult with businesses or individuals (third parties) where you have sought information about those third parties. The Act grants an extra 30 days processing time for the ACCC to undertake this consultation. You will be advised if we extend the timeframe to allow third party consultation.

Decision

A decision maker will assess the documents (if any) to decide if we can release them, or if they are exempt from release. We will send you the decision and notify you of your review rights.

We will only release documents once any applicable processing charge is paid.

If we cannot locate any documents that are covered by the scope of your request, we will advise you of this and your review rights.

Publication of documents released under FOI

Material released under FOI may be published on our website unless we consider it unreasonable to do so.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact me on (02) 6243 1244.

Yours sincerely



Sonya Petreski

FOI Administration Assistant
ACCC Legal Group

Sent by email 18/12/2018