



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Mr Chris Smyth

foi+request-5240-b6824b0e@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Mr Smyth

I refer to your inquiry of 25 October 2019 for an update on the Freedom of Information application that you lodged earlier this year. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

I have only recently become aware of the application, and the fact it has not been completed. There are a number of reasons that contributed to initial delays in completing the application, and I understand that these were conveyed to you in previous correspondence. In addition to that, the assigned decision maker has departed AFMA.

The combination of circumstances means that the timeframes for AFMA to complete and respond to your application that are set out in the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* have well and truly past. As such, the Act treats this as a “deemed refusal” of the application.

I can assure you that this was not intentional on AFMA’s part, and I will shortly write to the Australian Information Commissioner to seek an extension to properly respond to you. Given the time of year, and the need to reconstruct some of the substantial early work that was done on the application, I anticipate asking the Commissioner for a 60 day extension.

It would be very helpful to hear your views on the proposed extension please as that would be a material consideration for the Commissioner.

Please accept my sincere apologies for the ongoing delay in your application, and my commitment that AFMA will move to deliver the relevant documents as soon as possible if the extension is granted. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely

Wez Norris
Chief Executive Officer

T – (02) 6225 5534

E – wez.norris@afma.gov.au

Canberra

PO Box 7051
Canberra ACT 2610
P 02 6225 5555
F 02 6225 5500

Darwin

PO Box 131
Darwin NT 0801
P 08 8943 0333
F 08 8942 2897

Thursday Island

PO Box 376
Thursday Island QLD 4875
P 07 4069 1990
F 07 4069 1277

Lakes Entrance

PO Box 408
Lakes Entrance VIC 3909
P:0447 019 916