



Adam Baheej Adada

Via email: foi+request-5409-311fb38a@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Adam Baheej Adada

Your Freedom of Information request – consultation

I refer to your request received by the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (**department**) on 14 May 2019 for access to documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982 (FOI Act)*.

Under sections 24AA(1)(b) and 24 of the Freedom of Information Act, your FOI request may be refused as a 'practical refusal reason' exists. Under the Act, the practical refusal reason is that your request does not satisfy the requirements in paragraph 15(2)(b) (identification of documents).

To assist the department in processing your request, we ask that you provide use with further details about the information you are after. For a more detailed explanation of what this means see **Attachment A**.

How to send us a 'revised request'

Before a final decision is made on your request, you can submit a revised request.

Within the next 14 days (consultation period) you must do one of the following in writing:

- withdraw the request;
- make a revised request; or
- tell us that you do not want to revise your request.

If you do not contact us during the consultation period, we will assume that you do not want to continue with your request.

If you decide to make a revised request, you should be specific about what documents you actually want. This could help the department find the documents.

Contact officer

During the consultation period, you are welcome to contact the department to ask for help in revising your request. The contact officer's details are as follows:

Ashleigh Judd
FOI Officer
foi@agriculture.gov.au

Your response will be expected by 13 June 2019. If no response is received, your request will be taken as having been withdrawn.

Further assistance

If you have any questions, please email foi@agriculture.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Cassandra Ireland
Acting Assistant Secretary
Corporate and Dispute Resolution Branch
Office of the General Counsel

31 May 2019

What I took into account

You requested access under the FOI Act to the following documents:

'I am seeking any documents that detail the number of live animals classified as 'unique or exotic' that were seized by the Department between 2016 and 2019. These may include animals being illegally imported or exported that were seized at the border, or animals already within Australia.

In particular, I am seeking documents that detail the scientific or common names of the animals seized, the amount of animals seized in each relevant month/year, and the locations they were seized from.'

I am not able to reasonably identify what documents you want because it is unclear what information you are specifically seeking. For example, it is not clear what you mean by "unique or exotic". We ask that you provide the department with further information, or consider re-phrasing your request.

To assist you in making a revised request, the department recommends you consider the following suggestions including a combination of the following:

- narrowing your request to identify the particular animal/s;
- clarify the terms 'unique' and 'exotic' so that the department is able to identify the particular animal you are seeking information about;
- clarify the term 'seized';
- exclude information relating to 'illegally exported animals' as this is not information that the department holds, and is likely to be held by another department, such as the Department of Home Affairs; and
- exclude information relating to 'animals already in Australia' as this is not information that the department holds, and is likely to be held by the relevant State or Territory governments.

Additionally, you may like to consider specifying the particular documents you are seeking access to. For example, you may like to consider re-phrasing your request to instead seek access to a document containing the information you are seeking.