



Alessandra Melville

via email: Alessandra Melville [foi+request-776-fd5dd5c3@righttoknow.org.au]

Dear Ms Melville

### **Your request**

I am writing about your request, received by the department on 2 October 2014, for access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) to:

*"...documents and statistics regarding cancelled live animal export permits for the last financial year, 2013-2014."*

Your request, as presently worded, encompasses all manner of live export permits, including but not limited to those for birds, cats, dogs, aquatics, horses, bees, pigs, goats, sheep and cattle. The department issues hundreds of these permits each year, comprising thousands of pages. Many will have been cancelled, or cancelled and reissued, for any number of reasons. Each permit will contain third party information, which will require either redaction or consultation with the exporter before any decision on access.

I believe that the work involved in processing your request would substantially and unreasonably divert the resources of the agency from its other operations due to its broad scope.

On this basis, I intend to refuse access to the document(s) you requested. However, before I make a final decision to do this, you have an opportunity to revise your request. This is called a 'request consultation process' as set out under section 24AB of the FOI Act.

### **Time for consultation**

You have 14 days, from the receipt of this notice, to consult with the department concerning your request. The department will assist you to revise your request, so that processing the request would not substantially and unreasonably divert the resources of the agency from its other operations.

Under sub-section 24AB(6) of the FOI Act, you are required within the 14 day period to:

- withdraw the request
- make a revised request; or
- indicate that you do not wish to revise the request.

If you do not consult with the department or do one of these things within the next 14 days, your request will be taken to have been withdrawn. Even with consultation, if the scope of your request cannot be sufficiently revised, the request may be refused.

To assist you with a revision of the scope of your request to a manageable level, you could consider specifying relevant species and/or countries of destination and limiting the scope of your request to specific categories of documents.

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Please note that the time period for making a decision in response to your request is suspended until the conclusion of the consultation process described in this letter.

**Contact details**

Should you wish to discuss any issues arising from this letter then please contact FOI Officer Paul Grutt on 02 6272 5596, or email [foi@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:foi@agriculture.gov.au) for assistance with your request.

Written correspondence can also be sent to the following address:

FOI Coordinator  
Department of Agriculture  
GPO Box 858  
CANBERRA ACT 2601.

Yours sincerely



Danae Paxinos  
Principal Government Lawyer  
Freedom of Information Section  
Office of the General Counsel

3 October 2014