



Our ref: LEX 71209

Mitchel Bradley

By email: foi+request-8962-8572835d@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Mitchel

Freedom of Information Act 1982 – Notice of Decision

I refer to your correspondence, received by the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (**the department**) on 29 May 2022, for access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982 (FOI Act)* as follows:

I am seeking access, under the FOI act, to the document(s) identified as: DR 07920, On-site domestic wastewater management.

To assist you in locating this document:

- *The document was issued in draft form for comment as DR 07920*
- *The document may be identified as, or as a draft of, AS 1547 or AS/NZS 1547:2012.*
- *The document may be identified as "On-site domestic wastewater management"*
- *The document was subsequently published as AS/NZS 1547:2012 on 27th February 2012.*
- *The document was prepared by "Joint Technical Committee WS-013, On-site Domestic Wastewater Management" or "Joint Technical Committee WS-013, On-set Domestic Wastewater Management"*
- *AS/NZS 1547:2012 identifies the department "Australian Building Codes Board" was represented on "Joint Technical Committee WS-013, On-set Domestic Wastewater Management"*
- *The document may have been published on the 21/12/2007.*
- *The document was a revision of AS/NZS 1547:2000.*

Decision

I am an authorised decision maker under section 23 of the FOI Act.

The department has undertaken extensive searches of all relevant electronic databases, files and corporate file lists for the documents you have requested, however has been unable to locate any existing documents that contain the information you are seeking.

On the basis of these searches, I am satisfied that all reasonable steps have been taken to locate any documents relevant to your request, but no such documents exist.

The documents being sought are a draft or early version of a Joint Australian New Zealand Standard, which was developed by Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand.

The final version of the standards was made publically available for purchase in 2012:

<https://store.standards.org.au/product/as-nzs-1547-2012>

While the ABCB participated in the Joint Technical Committee, the ABCB did not retain a copy of draft standards, as they don't belong to the ABCB (all rights to the standard are reserved by the publisher).

As such, requests for previous versions of the standard (including drafts, or the superseded version AS/NZS 1547-2000) would need to be directed to Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand.

Therefore, I have decided to refuse your request in accordance with section 24A of the FOI Act on the grounds that the documents you have requested do not exist.

If you are dissatisfied with any part of my decision, your review rights are set out in **Attachment A**.

Please do not hesitate to contact the FOI team at FOI@industry.gov.au if you require any further clarification.

Yours sincerely



Gary Rake
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Building Codes Board

20 June 2022

Enclosures

Attachment A – Review Rights

REVIEW RIGHTS

Application for Internal Review

Section 54 of the FOI Act gives you the option to apply for a departmental internal review of my decision. If you make an application for internal review it will be conducted by an officer of the department (other than me) appointed by the Secretary of the department to conduct a review and make a completely fresh decision on the merits of the case.

Application for a review of the decision must be made within 30 days after the day of receipt of this letter, or within 15 days of receipt of the documents to which this decision relates (whichever is the longer period). You do not have to pay any fees or processing charges for an internal review, except for charges relating to the provision of any additional relevant material located as a result of the review (for example photocopying). While a specific form is not required, it would assist the decision maker if your application specifies the grounds on which you consider the decision should be reviewed.

Application for a review of a decision should be addressed to:

FOI Coordinator
Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources
GPO Box 2013
CANBERRA ACT 2601

or by e-mail to: FOI@industry.gov.au.

Review by the Australian Information Commissioner

If any decision on internal review were not satisfactory to you, section 54L of the FOI Act gives you the right to apply for review of my decision by the Information Commissioner.

An application for review by the Information Commissioner may be made regardless of whether the decision was the subject of a departmental internal review. An application for review by the Information Commissioner must be made within 60 days of receipt of this notice. There is no fee for review by the Information Commissioner.

You must apply in writing and you can lodge your application in one of the following ways:

Online: www.oaic.gov.au
Post: GPO Box 5218, Sydney NSW 2001
Fax: +61 2 9284 9666
Email: enquiries@oaic.gov.au

An application form is available on the website at www.oaic.gov.au. Your application should include a copy of this notice and your contact details. You should also set out why you are objecting to the decision.

Complaints to the Australian Information Commissioner

You may complain to the Australian Information Commissioner concerning action taken by an agency in the exercise of powers or the performance of functions under the FOI Act. There is no fee for making a complaint. The Australian Information Commissioner will make a completely independent investigation of your complaint. A complaint to the Australian Information Commissioner must be made in writing and can be lodged online using the Information Commissioner Complaint Application form on the Australian Information Commissioner's website at www.oaic.gov.au.

industry.gov.au

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