



**THE HON TANYA PLIBERSEK MP**

MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND WATER

LEX 72751

Robert Stanford  
[foi+request-9871-364dd94a@righttoknow.org.au](mailto:foi+request-9871-364dd94a@righttoknow.org.au)

Dear Robert Stanford

**Decision on your Freedom of Information request**

I refer to your request, received by the Office of the Minister for the Environment and Water on 31 January 2023 for access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (**FOI Act**) to the following documents:

- '\* Minutes of meetings attended by individuals represented the Wollumbin Consultative Group
- \* Attendance Records from these meetings'

**My decision**

I have decided to refuse your request under section 24A of the FOI Act on the basis that all reasonable steps have been taken to locate the documents you seek and I am satisfied that they cannot be located or do not exist. Please see **Attachment A** for the reasons for my decision.

**You can ask for a review of my decision**

You may apply to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (**OAIC**) to review my decision. An application for OAIC review must be made in writing within **60 days** of the day you are notified of this decision. You can also make a complaint to the OAIC if you have concerns about how your request was handled. Information about requesting a review, making a complaint, and other information about FOI is on the OAIC website [www.oaic.gov.au](http://www.oaic.gov.au) or you may phone the OAIC on 1300 363 992.

**Further assistance**

If you have any questions, please email [foi@dcceew.gov.au](mailto:foi@dcceew.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

David McElrea  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
The Office of the Hon Tanya Plibersek  
Minister for the Environment and Water  
27 February 2023

## REASONS FOR DECISION

### What you have requested

- \* Minutes of meetings attended by individuals represented the Wollumbin Consultative Group
- \* Attendance Records from these meetings'

### What I took into account

In reaching my decision, I took into account:

- your request;
- guidelines issued by the Australian Information Commissioner under section 93A of the FOI Act (**Guidelines**); and
- the FOI Act.

### Reasons for my decision

I am authorised to make decisions under section 23(1) of the FOI Act.

#### Section 24A of the FOI Act

Section 24A of the FOI Act provides that:

- (1) An agency or Minister may refuse a request for access to a document if:
  - (a) all reasonable steps have been taken to find the document; and
  - (b) the agency or Minister is satisfied that the document:
    - (i) is in the agency's or Minister's possession but cannot be found; or
    - (ii) does not exist.

We conducted searches of the electronic diaries of the Minister. The searches did not identify any documents matching the description in your request, nor any meeting. All Minister's office staff were asked to advise as to whether any meeting had taken place which might not appear in electronic diaries, and none were aware of any meeting. No Minister's office staff advised they had met with individuals represented the Wollumbin Consultative Group.

On the basis of these searches, I am satisfied, in accordance with section 24A of the FOI Act, that all reasonable steps have been taken to find the documents and the documents cannot be located or do not exist.