

File Ref: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

E: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (FOI) REQUEST : School Projections**

I refer to your application under section 30 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (the Act), received by the Education Directorate (the Directorate) on 26 August 2019, in which you sought access to documents relating to the most current ACT Public School Enrolment Projections. After contacting you on 29 August 2019, it was confirmed that you were seeking projections for primary schools in the Southern Belconnen area (suburbs such as Hawker, Weetangera, Scullin, Page) with a particular interest in Hawker Primary School.

I am an Information Officer appointed by the Director-General under section 18 of the Act to deal with access applications made under Part 5 of the Act.

The Education Directorate was required to provide a decision on your access application by 23 September 2019.

#### **Decision on access**

Searches were completed for relevant documents and one document was identified that falls within the scope of your request. This document was prepared on 5 August 2019 and is current. The schools identified as relevant are: Hawker Primary School, Weetangera Primary School, Florey Primary School and the Southern Cross Early Childhood School.

I have included at Attachment A to this decision the schedule relevant to this document. This provides a description of the document that falls within the scope of your request and the access decision for that document.

I have decided to grant partial access to the document relevant to your request with deletions applied, the material that has been deleted is outside the scope of your request.

The attached Education Directorate enrolment projections uses a 'cohort transition model' that moves groups of students forward each year from one grade to the next and

predicts changes at transition points. Projections are used as part of a broad range of considerations in school planning and the model has been shown to have a high overall level of accuracy, however projections are not an exact forecast of a future outcome and should not be interpreted in this way. In 2018 an independent review of the quantitative evidence base supporting school infrastructure decisions was undertaken, including the projection model. The review found that 'inputs and assumptions [of the model] are clearly defined, fit for purpose and supported by current and accurate data sets.'

My access decision is detailed further in the following statement of reasons.

### **Material considered**

In reaching my access decision, I have taken the following into account:

- the FOI Act, particularly sections 17 and 50, and schedule 2;
- the content of the documents that fall within the scope of your request; and
- the *Human Rights Act 2004*.

### **Reasons for decision**

In making my decision I have applied the public interest test set out in section 17 of the Act.

I have decided that the applicable factors favouring disclosure, as listed at Schedule 2.1 of the Act, are that disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to:

- promote open discussion of public affairs and enhance the government's accountability (Schedule 2.1 (a)(i));
- contribute to positive and informed debate on important issues or matters of public interest (Schedule 2.1 (a)(ii)); and
- reveal the reason for a government decision and any background or contextual information that informed the decision (Schedule 2.1 (a)(viii)).

I have decided that the factors favouring non-disclosure, as listed at Schedule 2.2 of the Act are not relevant to this request.

Material that is outside of the scope of the request has been deleted.

### **Charges**

Processing charges are not applicable to this request.

### **Online publishing – disclosure log**

Under section 28 of the Act, the Directorate maintains an online record of access applications called a disclosure log. Information about your request, my decision and documents released to you in response to your access application will be published in the

Directorate's disclosure log between three and 10 working days after a decision on access has been provided to you. Your personal information will not be published.

You may view the Directorate's disclosure log at [https://www.education.act.gov.au/about\\_us/freedom\\_of\\_information/disclosure-log](https://www.education.act.gov.au/about_us/freedom_of_information/disclosure-log).

**Ombudsman review**

My decision on your access request is a reviewable decision as identified in Schedule 3 of the Act. You have the right to seek Ombudsman review of this outcome under section 73 of the Act within 20 working days from the day that my decision is published in the Directorate's disclosure log, or a longer period allowed by the Ombudsman.

If you wish to request a review of my decision you may write to the Ombudsman at:

The ACT Ombudsman  
GPO Box 442  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Email: [actfoi@ombudsman.gov.au](mailto:actfoi@ombudsman.gov.au)

**ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) review**

Under section 84 of the Act, if a decision is made under section 82(1) on an Ombudsman review, you may apply to the ACAT for review of the Ombudsman decision. Further information may be obtained from the ACAT at:

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal  
Level 4, 1 Moore St  
GPO Box 370  
Canberra City ACT 2601

Telephone: (02) 6207 1740  
<http://www.acat.act.gov.au/>

If you have any queries concerning the Directorate's processing of your request, or would like further information, please contact the Directorate's FOI Coordinator on 02 6205 0720 or email [EDULegalLiaison@act.gov.au](mailto:EDULegalLiaison@act.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Information Officer

23 September 2019

