




Via email: 

Dear 

#### **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (FOI) REQUEST**

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 15 February 2023. Your request was for:

*A copy of a report produced by the Directorate documenting an internal review into the need for additional schooling infrastructure in inner north Canberra*

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

The Act provides a right of access to government information, which is defined as information contained in a record held by an agency (i.e. the Directorate) or Minister, or contained in a record that the agency or Minister is entitled to access.

Searches have been undertaken within the Directorate and no records have been located that are relevant to your request, i.e. the Directorate does not hold a report that matches your description. Therefore, in accordance with section 35(1)(b) of the Act, my decision is that the Directorate does not hold the information you are seeking.

However, the following information may be of assistance to you:

- The Directorate is continually considering how best to respond to growth within established, infill areas (like the inner north), where there is limited availability of vacant or buildable land.
- The Directorate projects enrolments for schools and regularly updates projections based on enrolment trends and new demographic information.
- Projections, analysis and feasibility/demand studies help us to determine how best to cater to this growth.

- Planning and demand studies include consideration of enrolment projections, enrolment policy scenario modelling, population growth, assumptions applied around long-term growth rates, infrastructure options, policy opportunities and site investigation. The Directorate uses a district approach to planning to consider the needs, growth and capacity of each public school individually, as well as for each district collectively.
- This work provides the evidence base for demand responses which can include enrolment policy shifts as well as infrastructure responses (e.g. temporary or permanent school expansions, new schools).
- This work is undertaken on an ongoing, iterative basis as part of regular schools planning and therefore there is no specific or single artefact produced.
- This approach allows the Directorate to test and design effective long-term responses that maximise capacity of the overall region and best respond to future growth, while also taking into account circumstances of individual schools. In addition, the long-term multi decade demographic lifecycle of a catchment area, particularly in developing areas, is taken into account.
- The Directorate will continue to monitor the situation in the inner north.
- Any decision taken on how to address future demand will be decisions of Government.

### **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 and my decision 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.

### **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 a decision was made, 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 team on 02 6205 0720 or email [EducationFOI@act.gov.au](mailto:EducationFOI@act.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Paula Murray  
Information Officer  
27 February 2023