



Australian Government
Department of Defence

R33290500

FOI 235/17/18 STATEMENT OF REASONS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

1. I refer to the application by [REDACTED] under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act), for access to:

'I would like to make a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act.

My request is as follows:

"Documents, including briefings, reports, memos and/or correspondence, discussing Australian universities sharing military technology with China or Chinese concerns. I would like to confine my inquiry to documents created within the last 90 days and to exclude duplicates, inquiries from media and statements provided to media already.

Excluding personal email addresses, signatures, PMKeys numbers and telephone numbers, contained in documents that fall within the scope of the FOI request. In addition, excluding duplicates of documents."

FOI decision maker

2. I am the accredited officer pursuant to section 23 of the FOI Act to make a decision on this FOI request.

Documents identified

3. I identified one document as matching the description of the request.

4. The decision in relation to this document is detailed in this letter.

Decision

5. I have decided to:

- a. partially release one document in accordance with section 22 [access to edited copies with exempt or irrelevant matter deleted] of the FOI Act, on the grounds that the deleted material is considered exempt under section 33(a)(i) [Documents affecting national security] of the FOI Act; and
- b. remove irrelevant material as referred to in the scope of the request in accordance with section 22(1)(b)(ii) of the FOI Act

Material taken into account

6. In making my decision, I had regard to:

- a. the terms of the request and the consultation with the applicant in relation to the request;
- b. the content of the identified document in issue;
- c. relevant provisions in the FOI Act;
- d. the Guidelines published by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner under section 93A of the FOI Act (the Guidelines); and

- e. consultation with officers within the Department from the Australian Defence College and International Policy Division.

Reasons for decision

9. The material deleted under section 33(a)(i) contains information that is not readily available, relates to activities undertaken between the Australian government and another government and, if released, could have a detrimental effect on the relationship.

Further Information

10. The document matching the scope of this request contained a dissemination limiting marker, as the document is approved for public release the marker has been struck through.

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Mr Damien Chifley
Accredited Decision Maker
Strategic Policy and Intelligence Group

12 Feb 2018