

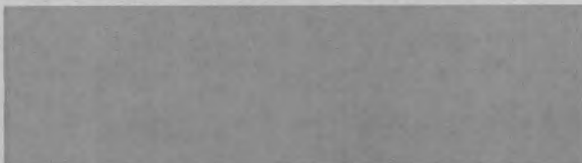


Australian Government
Department of Defence

Freedom of Information
Department of Defence

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Our reference: FOI 387/14/1



Dear 

NOTICE OF DECISION ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

I refer to your correspondence, dated 10 June 2015, in which you requested access, under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act), to documents relating to chemical contamination of groundwater emanating from Oakey Army Aviation Centre.

Item 1 "The Attachment to the 2010 URS Report referred to at page v. of that report as "Disc 1 - AACO Document Register". (see the 2010 URS report at <http://www.defence.gov.au/id/oakey/Documents.asp> "Final Report Stage 1 and Stage 2 Environmental Investigation at Army Aviation Centre, Oakey, Queensland, URS (14 October 2010)";

Item 2 The following reports which we understand were made available to URS in connection with the above report:

- (a) Remediation of Old Fire Training Area, Theiss, 1997;
- (b) Waste Audit, Dames & Moore, 1998;
- (c) Initial Environmental Review, IT Environmental, 2002;
- (d) Water Quality Assessment, IT Environmental, 2002;
- (e) Landfill Assessment, IT Environmental, 2002;
- (f) Groundwater Monitoring Event, IT Environmental, 2004;
- (g) Stage 1 Environmental Investigation, SKM, 2005;
- (h) Stage 1 and 2 Environmental Review – Vehicle Refuel (Facility C26), GHD, June 2006; and

(i) *Building C2 Oil Separator and Storage – Report on Probable Leak and Ground Contamination, Intelara, 2009;*

Item 3 "Environmental issues associated with Defence use of Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF)" by Sonia Colville and Nicole McCarron, Environmental Stewardship, EH&R Branch, Corporate Services and Infrastructure Group, Department of Defence, May 2003; and

Item 4 "Environmental Fate of New Fire Suppressing Products (Ansulite AFFF & 3M RF) compared to Light Water: A Verification of Manufacturer's claims by University of South Australia, 2005" (CRC CARE study (2005))"

Background

On 1 July 2015, you agreed to a seven-day extension of the statutory deadline under section 15AA (Extension of time with agreement) of the FOI Act. Accordingly, the revised statutory deadline was amended to 10 July 2015.

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with the decision relating to the documents that are the subject of your request.

FOI decision maker

Mrs Belinda Ridley, Director, Defence Procurement and Contracting Branch is the authorised officer pursuant to section 23 of the FOI Act to make a decision on this FOI request.

Documents identified

Mrs Ridley identified 12 documents as matching the description of your request.

The document identified as Item 1 was administratively released to you on 3 July 2015.

Documents identified as Item 2 (nine documents in total) are publicly available at <http://defence.gov.au/id/oakey/default.asp>. In accordance with section 12 of the FOI Act, Defence is not required to consider these documents as part of your request.

The remaining two documents identified as Items 3 and 4 are in the form approved for release at Enclosure 1.

Decision

Mrs Ridley has decided to release Items 3 and 4 in full.

Material taken into account

In making their decision Mrs Ridley had regard to:

- a. the terms of 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);*

- e. the Principles on open public sector information issued by the Information Commissioner; and
- f. advice from the Directorate of Environmental Remediation Program.

FOI Disclosure Log

In accordance with the requirements of section 11C of the FOI Act, Defence is required to publish details of information released under the FOI Act. Defence publishes identified documents relating to requests within five working days of receipt by the applicant. Defence will also publish this decision notice with privacy deletions.

Rights of review

Internal Review

Under the provisions of section 54 of the FOI Act, you are entitled to request a review of this decision. You must request a review, in writing, within 30 days of the date of this letter, or the date you receive the documents. Requests can be sent to:

Email: FOIReview@defence.gov.au
 Fax: 02 626 62112
 Post: Freedom of Information Directorate - Reviews
 Department of Defence
 CPI-6-029
 PO Box 7910
 CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

Australian Information Commissioner

Under the provisions of section 54 of the FOI Act, you are also entitled to request an external review of this decision by the Australian Information Commissioner. You have 60 days to lodge such a request, using one of the contact methods below:

Email: enquiries@oaic.gov.au
 Phone: 1300 363 992
 Fax: 02 9284 9666
 Post: GPO Box 2999
 Canberra ACT 2601

Complaints

You may complain to Defence, the Information Commissioner or the Commonwealth Ombudsman about an action taken by Defence in the exercise of its power or the performance of its functions under the FOI Act. There is no fee for making a complaint. Should you wish to complain to the Department of Defence, your complaint can be addressed to Mr Tony Corcoran using the contact details below:

Email: Tony.corcoran@defence.gov.au
 Post: Tony Corcoran
 Assistant Secretary Information Management and Access Branch
 CPI-6-14
 PO Box 7911
 CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

Contact details for the Commonwealth Ombudsman are below:

Phone: 1300 362 072)
Fax: 02 6276 0123
Post: Commonwealth Ombudsman
GPO Box 442
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Contact details for the Information Commissioner are above.

All departmental action on your request is now complete. Should you have any questions in regard to this matter please contact this office.

Yours sincerely



Sanchia Chadwick
Case Officer
Freedom of Information

Jul 2015

Enclosures:

1. Documents in the form for release