



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Defence**

Reference: BI6478943

**FOI 311/19/20 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:

*“Policy, planning and/or official site management documents held by the Department that relate specifically to the Shoalwater Bay Training Area in Queensland that reference or otherwise relate to migratory shorebirds (or waterbirds), the Ramsar Convention or Migratory Bird Agreements (i.e. JAMBA, CAMBA or ROKAMBA) that Australia is a signatory to current as at December 2019.”*

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

**FOI decision maker**

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

**Documents identified**

3. I identified 15 documents as matching the description of the request.
4. The decision in relation to each document is detailed in a schedule of documents.
5. I have added an FOI reference number and document number to each of the documents, which corresponds with the schedule.

**Decision**

6. I have decided to:
  - a. release 15 documents in full; 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**

7. In making my decision, I had regard to:
  - a. the terms of the request;
  - b. the content of the identified documents 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. advice received from Directorate of Operations and Training Area Management

**Further Information**

8. I have provided the four relevant chapters of range standing orders which relate to migratory birds in full, treating each chapter as a document. The remainder has been excluded as irrelevant to the scope of the request.

9. Other information publically available includes the following:

- State of the Environment Report Shoalwater Bay 2008 – availability detailed at <https://trove.nla.gov.au/work/19922233?selectedversion=NBD44731729>
- Environmental Report – Exercise Talisman Sabre 2019 – on Defence’s website at <https://www.defence.gov.au/Exercises/TS19/Docs/TS19-EnvironmentalReport-hires.pdf>



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30 January 2020