



*Objective Reference: AHQ/OUT/2023/BQ47525117*

## **DEFENCE FOI 342/22/23 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:

*1. Any order/s; request; tasking; email; other document requesting that 5 Engineer Regiment prepare stores/equipment for any bushfire response between 1 July 2019 and December 2019 (with redactions of any other persons information, other than the applicant);*

*2. Any response showing that 5 Engineer Regiment had complied with any order/s; request; tasking; email; other document for the preparation of stores/equipment for any bushfire response between 1 July 2019 and December 2019 (with redactions of any other persons information, other than the applicant).*

### **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 seven documents, as matching the scope of this 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 Item/Document number to each of the documents which correspond with the schedule.

### **Exclusions**

6. Personal email addresses, signatures, PMKeyS numbers and mobile telephone numbers contained in documents that fall within the scope of the FOI request, duplicates of documents and documents sent to or from the applicant are excluded from this request. Defence has only considered final versions of documents.

### **Decision**

7. I have decided to:

- a. release seven documents in full
- 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

8. 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).

### Reasons for decision

#### Section 22 – Edited copies with exempt or irrelevant matter deleted

9. Section 22 of the FOI Act provides that if an agency or Minister decides:
  - (i) *to refuse access to an exempt document; or*
  - (ii) *that to give access to a document would disclose information that would reasonably be regarded as irrelevant to the request for access*

and it is reasonably practicable to prepare a copy of the document modified by deletions, the agency or Minister must give the applicant access to the edited copy.

10. The documents provided contain the personal information of people other than the applicant and information that does not relate to the scope of the request. I consider this information as outside the scope of this request.

11. Considering all of the above, I decided that it was reasonably practicable to remove the material that did not fall within scope of this request and release the documents in that form.

### Further Information

12. Some of the documents matching the scope of this request contained a dissemination limiting marker (DLM). Where documents have been approved for public release, the DLM has been struck through.

joanne

Digitally signed by

joanne

Date: 2023.03.01 16:33:07

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Mrs Joanne  
Accredited Decision Maker  
Army Headquarters