



ACT
Government

City and Environment

OFFICIAL

Our ref: CED FOI 26-161/26-130

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information – Notice of Decision

I refer to your application under section 30 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (the FOI Act), received by the City and Environment Directorate (CED) on 19 May 2026. It is my understanding you sought access to the following information:

“Under the Freedom of Information Act 2016 (ACT), I am formally requesting access to documents held by the ACT Government relating to the flooding and stormwater system impacts in the Woden Valley area during the period 6–7 February 2026.

Specifically, I am requesting the following records:

Internal emails, memos, and correspondence between ACT Government directorates, agencies, or contractors regarding the flooding event in the Woden Valley area during 6–7 February 2026.

Incident reports, situation reports (SITREPs), and operational logs relating to stormwater overflow, drainage failures, or flooding impacts in the same period and location.

Engineering or infrastructure assessment reports relating to damage or performance of stormwater systems, drains, culverts, or related assets in the Woden Valley area.

Maintenance requests, “Fix My Street” / customer reports, or work orders generated as a result of flooding or stormwater issues during or immediately after the event.

Briefings prepared for senior executives or Ministers regarding the flood event and any response actions taken”.

I also refer to your FOI application dated 15 May 2026 received by CED via transfer from Infrastructure Canberra in which you sought access to:

“I would like to formally request the following information under the FOI act.

Please view the following:

- *Inspection Reports: Request reports on the condition of stormwater pipes and underground networks including inspection cameras by flexible or other 3rd party companies. Fix My Street” or Complaint Logs: Requested such as maintenance requests, or incident reports regarding flooding, water damage, or blocked drains [REDACTED] in the last 2 years.*

To clarify my request:

- *Inspection Reports:*
I am requesting any available inspection reports, maintenance records, or contractor reports relating to stormwater drains, underground drainage systems,

CCTV inspections, or drain cleaning works conducted in or around [REDACTED] Street, Deakin, for the period of February 2025 to present.

- *Maintenance / Complaint Records (Fix My Street or equivalent systems): I am requesting records of any maintenance requests, service orders, incident reports, or complaints relating to flooding blocked drains stormwater issues around [REDACTED] Street, Deakin, for the past 2 years (2025–present).*

I confirm I am making this request [REDACTED] and surrounding street area”.

On 30 June 2026, the Information Access team wrote to you to confirm if [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. A response was not received.

Notwithstanding the above, I have decided to process your two applications (FOI 26-161 and 26-130) as one in accordance with section 43(2) of the FOI Act because *‘the applications are related and are made by the same applicant’*.

I thank you for providing the following context in relation to your application:

“For clarity, I am not requesting personal information. If parts of this request are exempt, I request that the remaining non-exempt information be released where possible, and that exemptions be clearly identified under the FOI Act”.

Timeframes

In accordance with section 40 of the FOI Act, CED is required to provide a decision on your access application within 30 working days. Under section 41 of the FOI Act, you agreed an additional amount of time to decide your application. Therefore, a decision is due on or by **20 August 2026**.

Authority

I am an Information Officer appointed by the Director-General of the City and Environment Directorate under section 18 of the FOI Act to deal with access applications made under Part 5 of the FOI Act.

Decision on access

A search for records held by CED has been completed and 92 records within the scope of your application have been identified, including 18 videos. The records are listed in the schedule at **Attachment A**.

I have decided to grant **full** access to the 92 records. The reasons for my decision are detailed in the *Statement of reasons* section below. The records being released to you are provided at **Attachment B**.

I note that out of scope information has been redacted from some of the records. This is personal information which you have advised is not subject to your application. It includes names of individuals, residence addresses, vehicle registration details, images containing information that could identify members of the public (such as photos inside their personal residences) and details about staff members of a third-party contractor.

Statement of reasons

The FOI Act has a pro-disclosure bias, which requires information to be disclosed unless doing so would be contrary to the public interest. As an Information Officer, I am responsible for determining whether disclosure of the information within the scope of your application would be contrary to the public interest.

My assessment begins with Schedule 1 of the FOI Act, which outlines categories of information that are taken to be contrary to the public interest to disclose. If the information does not fall within any of these categories, I must then apply the public interest test under section 17 of the FOI Act. This test involves weighing the factors favouring disclosure against those favouring nondisclosure, as set out in Schedule 2.

In reaching my access decisions, I have taken the following into account:

- the FOI Act
- the information that falls within the scope of your application
- the *Human Rights Act 2004*
- the ACT Ombudsman FOI Guidelines.

I confirm that I have not considered any of the factors listed in section 17(2) of the FOI Act, which outlines a list of considerations that must not be taken into account when applying the public interest test.

Schedule 1 – Information taken to be contrary to the public interest

- *No relevant categories identified.*

Schedule 2 – Public interest test

Factors favouring disclosure (Schedule 2.1)

- *Section 2.1(a)(i) - promote open discussion of public affairs and enhance the government's accountability.*
- *Section 2.1(a)(iii) - inform the community of the government's operations, including policies, guidelines and codes of conduct followed by the government in its dealings with members of the community.*

In reviewing the information within the scope of your application, I consider that disclosure promotes open discussion of public affairs and enhances government's accountability generally. It also provides extensive details on government operations and management of stormwater systems in Deakin and the Woden Valley area. I have placed moderate weight on these factors.

Factors favouring nondisclosure (Schedule 2.2)

- *No relevant factors have been identified.*

Having applied the public interest test outlined in section 17 of the FOI Act, I have concluded that the information contained in the records is the public interest to disclose. Accordingly, I have decided to provide you with full access.

Charges

Processing charges are applicable for this application because the total number of pages to be released to you exceeds the charging threshold of 50 pages. However, I have decided not to impose a fee in response to your application.

Online publishing – Disclosure Log

Under section 28 of the FOI Act, CED maintains a disclosure log, which is a public record of access applications and decisions. Your original access application and my decision will be published on the CED disclosure log. Your personal contact details will not be published.

ACT Ombudsman Review

My decision on your access application is a reviewable decision as identified in Schedule 3 of the FOI Act. You have the right to seek ACT Ombudsman review of this outcome under section 73 of the FOI Act within 20 working days from the day that my decision is provided to you, or a longer period allowed by the ACT Ombudsman. If you wish to request a review of my decision, you may write to the ACT Ombudsman at:

The ACT Ombudsman
GPO Box 442
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Via email: actfoi@ombudsman.gov.au

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) Review

Under section 84 of the FOI 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
GPO Box 370
Canberra City ACT 2601
Telephone: (02) 6207 1740
<https://www.acat.act.gov.au/>

Please contact the CED Information Access team if you have any queries in relation to your application via 6207 2987 or CEDFOI@act.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Signed electronically

Helen Stoddart
Information Officer
City and Environment Directorate
20 August 2026