



ACT
Government

Environment, Planning and
Sustainable Development

Phone: (02) 6207 1923
Reference: 25/0196670

Dear [REDACTED],

Decision on Freedom of Information Access Application 25/0196670

I refer to your application made under section 30 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (the Act) received by the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) on 13 May 2025.

Specifically, you are seeking:

Access to any documents held by the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD), or its predecessor the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate (ESDD), relating to the five-year (circa 2017) and ten-year (circa 2022) evaluations or assessments of the following master plans:

- *Erindale Group Centre Master Plan (September 2012)*
- *Kambah Group Centre Master Plan (July 2012)*

This request includes, but is not limited to:

- *Final reports, formal reviews, performance assessments, audits, or progress evaluations created internally or externally*
- *Briefing notes, executive memos, or emails confirming whether the five- or ten-year evaluations were scheduled, completed, delayed, or cancelled*
- *Internal emails (and attachments) from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2023 that reference the status, scheduling, or implementation of either plan*

I am not seeking:

- *Drafts of the original 2012 Master Plans*
- *Routine media releases, newsletters, or public-facing material*
- *Duplicates of documents already released under FOI 25/0100314*

If the volume of email correspondence is high, I am happy to further refine this part of the request by limiting the search to EPSDD executives, senior planners, and governance officers, and applying keywords such as: "Erindale Master Plan", "Kambah Master Plan", "evaluation", "review", "implementation", "five-year", "ten-year".

I am an Information Officer appointed under section 18 of the Act to deal with access applications made under Part 5 of the Act.

In accordance with section 40 of the Act, and as your application was suspended for 3 working days for scope consultation, a decision on your access application must be made on or by 26 June 2025.

Searches Conducted

Comprehensive searches were conducted and seven documents containing information within the scope of your application were identified.

The master plan program release dates for the final master plans began in 2011 and were finalised in 2017. The final master plans for Erindale and Kambah were release in 2012.

Searches for information relating to five-year and ten-year evaluations of the Erindale and Kambah master plans did not identify evaluation reports, nor any specific information regarding these evaluations.

However, searches identified information on the evaluation plans program for EPSDD which lists the master plans alongside other projects.

Decision on Access

I have included as **Attachment A** to this decision the schedule of relevant documents. The schedule provides a description of each document that falls within the scope of your application and the access decision for each of those documents.

I have decided to grant full access to seven documents relevant to your application.

Information that is not within scope of your application has been excluded.

To provide you with the information that I have determined to be in the public interest to release, copies of some documents have been prepared with personal information redacted in accordance with section 50 and the Objects of the Act.

My access decisions are detailed further in the following statement of reasons and the documents released to you are provided as **Attachment B** to this letter.

Material Considered

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

- the FOI Act, particularly sections 6, 17, 40, 50, and Schedule 2
- the content of the documents that fall within the scope of your request
- the *Human Rights Act 2004*
- information released to you previously

Public Interest Considerations

My reasons for deciding not to grant access to certain documents and components of these documents are as follows:

Information Disclosure – Schedule 2 of the Act

The Act recognises the right of every person to obtain access, under its provisions, to government information (see section 7, the Act). As an Information Officer, I am required to allow access to information subject to the Act, unless, on balance, disclosure would be contrary to the public interest.

In assessing the public interest, I must apply the test outlined under section 17 of the Act which requires consideration of factors favouring disclosure, any favouring nondisclosure and the balance of those factors when considered cumulatively.

Factors Favouring Disclosure

In applying the public interest test, I have determined that disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to do the following:

- Schedule 2, 2.1(a)(i) – promote open discussion of public affairs and enhance the government’s accountability.
- Schedule 2, 2.1(a)(ii) – contribute to positive and informed debate on important issues or matters of public interest.

Factors favouring Nondisclosure

No factors favouring the nondisclosure of the information were identified.

Charges

No charges are applicable to this application.

Online Publication

Under section 28 of the Act, EPSDD maintains an online record of access applications called a disclosure log. Your original access application, this decision and documents released will be published in the EPSDD disclosure log no earlier than three days after you receive this decision. Your personal contact details will not be published.

You may view the EPSDD disclosure log at

<https://www.environment.act.gov.au/about-us/access-government-information/disclosure-log>

Ombudsman Review

My decision on your access request is a reviewable decision as identified in Schedule 3 of the Act. You have the right to seek Ombudsman review of this outcome under section 73 of the Act within 20 working days from the day that my decision is published in the disclosure log, or a longer period allowed by the Ombudsman. For more information and the application form for Ombudsman review, please visit:

<https://www.ombudsman.act.gov.au/accountability-and-oversight/freedom-of-information/foi-complaints-and-reviews>

Alternatively, you may write to the 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 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
15 Constitution Avenue
GPO Box 370
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601
Telephone: (02) 6207 1740

<http://www.acat.act.gov.au/>

Further Information

If you have any queries concerning the Agency's processing of your request, or would like further information, please email EPSDFOI@act.gov.au or call (02) 6207 1923 and ask for the EPSDD Information Governance team.

Yours sincerely



Freya O'Brien
Information Officer
Executive Branch Manager, Planning and Sustainable Development
Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

26 June 2025