



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 25 June 2026. Thank you for engaging with our office on the same date to confirm the scope of your application, in which you have sought access to the following information:

“ Under the FOI Act, I request access to the following government information, however recorded, held by the City and Environment Directorate or any other ACT Government directorate or Page 2 agency that holds it (including any Transport Canberra and City Services records transferred under the 1 July 2025 directorate restructure): Any document(s) recording the traffic engineering justification, rationale, or risk assessment relied upon when MIS13 set the mounting height for fold-down 40 km/h school zone sign blades below the 2-metre minimum specified in AS 1742.2.

- 1. The specific clause(s) or provision(s) of AS 1742.2:2009 and/or AS 1742.2:2022 that were relied upon, or cited, as authorising or permitting this variation from the Australian Standard's minimum mounting height.*
- 2. Any document(s) assessing or considering the impact of the reduced mounting height on sign visibility, conspicuity, or driver detection distance for approaching motorists.*
- 3. Any document(s) recording consideration of alternative sign designs that could meet the operational need to fold signs closed and open between school terms while retaining the 2-metre minimum height specified in AS 1742.2 — for example, a side-by-side fold-out design that would not require a ladder.*
- 4. Any minutes, memoranda, expert reports, or correspondence relating to the decision to apply the reduced mounting height as a standard, Territory-wide specification in MIS13, rather than as a site-specific departure.*
- 5. Any document(s) recording whether, and on what basis, the variation in MIS13 was assessed against the “particular circumstances” and “documented” requirements set out in AS 1742.2.*

Time period sought: From the date in 2009 when AS1742.2 2009 was released to the present.”

Authority

I am an Information Officer appointed by the Director-General of CED under section 18 of the FOI Act to deal with access applications made under part 5 of the FOI Act.

Timeframe for decision

In accordance with section 40 of the FOI Act, a decision is required to be made on your access application within 30 working days of receipt. Therefore, a decision is due by 6 August 2026.

Decision on access

A search of records held by CED has been completed, with no information relevant to your application being identified. I am satisfied that all reasonable steps have been taken to locate the information requested. Accordingly, pursuant to section 35(1)(b) of the FOI Act, I have determined that the information you have requested is not held by CED.

While no relevant records have been identified, the following information provided by Roads ACT has been included as a customer service approach to your application to increase transparency:

- *Any document(s) recording the traffic engineering justification, rationale, or risk assessment relied upon when MIS13 set the mounting height for fold-down 40 km/h school zone sign blades below the 2-metre minimum specified in AS 1742.2.*

The MIS 13 replicated the design of the fold-down 40km/h school zone sign from earlier ACT standards. This sign is a 'special sign' used in the ACT. It is my understanding that Roads ACT have previously discussed the need for this sign to comply with Australian Standards with you directly.

- *The specific clause(s) or provision(s) of AS 1742.2:2009 and/or AS 1742.2:2022 that were relied upon, or cited, as authorising or permitting this variation from the Australian Standard's minimum mounting height.*

The Australian Standards are not, in themselves, legally binding unless specifically incorporated into legislation or another statutory instrument. They are generally applied as nationally recognised guidance based on good practice. In the ACT, the legal status of traffic control devices is established under the *Road Transport (Road Rules) Regulation 2017*. That Regulation provides that traffic control devices are valid where they are a reasonable likeness of the prescribed form, even where there are differences in size, layout or configuration. AS 1742.2 also expressly permits variation from its requirements in particular circumstances were supported by sound traffic engineering principles.

- *Any document(s) assessing or considering the impact of the reduced mounting height on sign visibility, conspicuity, or driver detection distance for approaching motorists.*

The design of the 40km/h school zone sign was likely undertaken in the early 1990's. The designers at the time would have considered how the sign would be used (flapped open and closed), along with the sign visibility and conspicuity. Records from this time will be largely paper based. Most likely in personal notebooks and diaries no longer available to the territory as the retention set out in the *Territory Records Act 2002* has been exceeded.

- *Any document(s) recording consideration of alternative sign designs that could meet the operational need to fold signs closed and open between school terms while*

retaining the 2-metre minimum height specified in AS 1742.2 — for example, a side-by-side fold-out design that would not require a ladder.

See above.

- *Any minutes, memoranda, expert reports, or correspondence relating to the decision to apply the reduced mounting height as a standard, Territory-wide specification in MIS13, rather than as a site-specific departure.*

See above. Please note, the 40km/h school zone sign is not a departure from standards, it is the standard used in the ACT. Given the effectiveness of the school zones in reducing vehicle speed and road trauma there has been no apparent reason to revise the design.

- *Any document(s) recording whether, and on what basis, the variation in MIS13 was assessed against the “particular circumstances” and “documented” requirements set out in AS 1742.2.*

See above. Please note the 40km/h school zone sign included in MIS 13 is a reproduction of a similar sign from previous ACT standards. It is not ‘a variation’ or ‘a particular circumstance’ nor is it a ‘departure from standards’ it is the standard sign to be used in the ACT.

Charges

Processing charges are not applicable for this application as no records are being released.

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. As your request sought your own personal information, section 28(6)(a) of the FOI Act provides that your access application 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. Your original access application and my decision will be published on the CED disclosure log. Your personal contact details will not be published.

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

Craig Weller
Information Officer
City and Environment Directorate

05 August 2026