

Our reference: CIT FOI 2025-009

[REDACTED]

By email: [REDACTED]

DECISION ON YOUR ACCESS APPLICATION – CIT FOI 2025-009

[REDACTED]

I refer to your access application made under the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (FOI Act) received by Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) and partially accepted by the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) on 1 October 2025.

In your application you requested access to the following information that may be held by CIT:

“Documents created between the first day of the 2025-26 Budget Estimates hearings and the date this application is processed:

1. *The final draft version of answers to questions on notice and questions taken on notice concerning any ACT Public Service Directorate from the 2025-26 Legislative Assembly Budget Estimates hearings that were provided to any ACT Minister's office for review, comment, or approval.*
2. *All correspondence and advice between any staff member of any ACT Public Service Directorate and any Minister or member of a Minister's office staff where they have requested **amendments, alterations, or proposed changes** to the draft answers identified in Part 1. In relation to this point, you are [the applicant is] seeking any request for amendment from the Minister and/or their staff.”*

Authority

I am a Senior Executive officer appointed as a CIT Information Officer to make decisions about access to government information, in accordance with Section 18 of the FOI Act.

Timeframes

In accordance with Section 40 of the FOI Act, CIT is required to provide a decision on your access application within 30 days. Accordingly, CIT was required to respond to your application by 12 November 2025.

Document Search and Material Considered

Thorough searches for records held by CIT were undertaken to identify and locate any documents within the scope of your request. A total of 8 pages were identified within the scope of your access application.

Decision

I have decided to fully release 8 pages to you.

A schedule of all documents is included as **Attachment A**. All response documents are included as **Attachment B**.

My statement of reasons for this decision is below.

Statement of Reasons

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

- Your original access application.
- The FOI Act.
- The ACT Ombudsman FOI Guidelines
- The documents which fall within the scope of your request.

As a decision maker I am required to decide if release of the documents found to be within the scope of your request are within the public interest. Schedule 1 of the FOI Act provides categories of documents where release is not considered to be in the public interest. On reviewing the documents within the scope of your request, I do not consider that any of these documents fall within the categories prescribed under Schedule 1 of the FOI Act.

As I am not satisfied that any of the documents within the scope of your request are exempted from release in accordance with Schedule 1 of the FOI Act, I am required to consider the factors favouring disclosure and non-disclosure as found in Schedule 2.

Section 17(1) of the FOI Act sets out the test, to be applied to determine whether disclosure of information would be contrary to the public interest. Taking into consideration the information contained in the documents, I have identified that the following public interest factors are relevant to determine if release of the information contained within these documents is within the 'public interest'.

Factors favouring disclosure:

I consider that the following factors favouring disclosure apply in relation to these documents.

- promote open discussion and accountability (section 2.1 (a)(i).
- reveal the reason for a government decision and any background or contextual information that informed the decision (section 2.1(a)(viii).

- ensure effective oversight of expenditure of public funds 2.1(iv)

I consider the information requested would, on balance, support the factors favouring disclosure described as the release of this information promotes accountability.

Factors favouring non-disclosure:

I have not identified any factors favouring non-disclosure in relation to these documents.

Consideration of Factors

Taking into account the factors favouring disclosure and having undertaken the test under section 17 of the Act I consider that all of the information you have requested should be released to you in full.

Charges

You have not been charged for this request.

Disclosure Log

Section 28 of the FOI Act requires publication of access applications and any information subsequently released on CIT's disclosure log at:

<https://cit.edu.au/about/freedom of information/disclosure log>.

Review Rights

You may apply to the ACT Ombudsman to review my decision under Section 73 of the FOI Act. An application for review must be made in writing within 20 days of the date of my decision.

You may submit a request for review of my decision to the ACT Ombudsman by writing in one of the following ways:

Email (preferred): actfoi@ombudsman.gov.au
Post: The ACT Ombudsman
GPO Box 442
CANBERRA ACT 2601

More information about ACT Ombudsman review is available on the ACT Ombudsman website at: <http://www.ombudsman.act.gov.au/improving-the-act/freedom-of-information>.

Yours sincerely



Craig Jordon

Executive Director, Enabling Services and Partnerships
Canberra Institute of Technology

Date 30/10/2025.