

Our reference: CIT FOI 2025–010(6)

By email: [REDACTED]

DECISION ON YOUR ACCESS APPLICATION – CIT FOI 2025-010(6)

I refer to your access application made under the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (FOI Act) received by Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) on 15 October 2025.

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

“All information relating to discussions and meetings held between CIT Board Chair Craig Sloan and CIT CEO Leanne Cover with ABC journalists during the period June to December 2020.”

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 working days. Accordingly, CIT was required to respond to your application by 25 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 3 pages were identified within the scope of your access application.

Decision

I have decided to partially release documents identified as being within the scope of your access application. The primary reason for non-disclosure of this information is due to the impact that release may have on individuals or business' right to personal privacy or impact on business affairs.

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 and subsequent clarifications.
- The FOI Act 2016.
- 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))
- contribute to positive and informed debate on important issues or matters of public interest (section 2.1(a)(ii))
- ensure effective oversight of expenditure of public funds (section 2.1(iv))
- reveal the reason for a government decision and any background or contextual information that informed the decision (section 2.1(a)(viii)).

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 consider that the following factor favouring non-disclosure applies in relation to the response documents provided:

- prejudice the protection of an individual's right to privacy or any other right under the Human Rights Act 2004 (section 2.2(a)(ii)).
- May prejudice trade secrets (business affairs) or research of an agency or person.

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](https://cit.edu.au/about/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log).

Review Rights

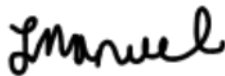
You may apply to the ACT Ombudsman to review my decision under Section 73 of the FOI Act. An application for review must be made in writing within 20 days of the date of my decision.

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

**Tania Manuel**

Executive Branch Manager, Policy and Governance
Canberra Institute of Technology
24 November 2025