

Mr Robert Hogan
3 McLachlan Crescent
Weetangera ACT 2614

By email: harveyr35@aol.com

19 December 2023

Dear Mr Hogan

Right to Information – Deloitte Access Economics

I refer to the application for assessed disclosure of information made by you under the *Right to Information Act 2009* (Tas) (RTI Act) dated 26 January 2023.

I am a delegated officer of the University of Tasmania (the University) with power to make decisions in relation to applications for assessed disclosure under the RTI Act. I have now come to my decision and outline it below.

1. Background

On 23 October 2023, the Ombudsman released a decision under Case Reference: R2305-015 requiring the release by the University of the following documents:

- Deloitte Financial Feasibility Assessment – Working Draft, March 2022
- Deloitte Financial Inputs – Preliminary Assessment, 30 November 2021

These documents were subsequently released to you.

There was a third heading of information noted as “Internal scenario and sensitivity modelling to the concept Sandy Bay masterplan”. This information was the documentation listed in the two Deloitte reports at pages 76 (doc 1) and page 10 (doc 2).

On 10 July 2023, prior to the Ombudsman’s decision, it was agreed with you and the Ombudsman that a fresh decision would be provided with respect to those documents relevant to the abovementioned third heading.

At this time, a table of those documents was also provided to you noting that some of them, or later versions, were actively released together with the Sandy Bay Masterplan. The table noted where you could find those specific documents. The University requested that you confirm which of the remaining documents in the table you would like to be released to you.

On 13 November 2023, you returned a revised version of the table which indicated those documents you would want released.

2. Scope of the request

In order to define the scope of your request, I have considered the nature of the information requested, the relevant material that may fall within the scope of the request, as well as taking into account the following information in making my decision:

- The nature of the content of the documents that may fall within the scope of your request;
- The RTI Act and in particular Section 35 and Schedule 1 (see Annexure A);
- The guidelines and manual issued by the Tasmanian Ombudsman under section 49 of the RTI Act; and
- Those prior correspondences with yourself and the Ombudsman as well as their decision R2305-015.

3. Decision

This section outlines my decision and the reasons for my decision in relation to the accepted part of your request for information.

I have made investigations into the information requested and have received the information as outlined in the attached RTI Table.

I have determined that, in accordance with our prior exchange of correspondence, this information is within your scope and may be actively released.

Attached is a copy of the table you returned 13 November with some further comments relating to version control and version availability for one document.

Context of released information

Prior to completion of the 2021 Sandy Bay Masterplan, the University had undertaken wide ranging costings and financial testing for various scenarios under the proposed Masterplan. A significant portion of the information requested and provided herein contains variations of that scenario testing.

As we know, the proposed Masterplan was withdrawn in 2022. I am also informed that the Masterplan's contents and the financial modelling surrounding it is no longer relevant in the context of the University's future strategic planning.

4. Conclusion

In making each of these decisions, I am exercising powers delegated to me by the Vice-Chancellor of the University under section 24 of the RTI Act.

Under sections 43 and 44 of the RTI Act, you have the right to seek a review of my decision. Under section 43, you have the right to seek an internal review within 20 working days from the date this notice is given. The request for such a review should be sent in the first instance to the Vice-Chancellor, as Principal Officer of the University. This may be done by sending your application to Vice.Chancellor@utas.edu.au.

Under section 44 of the RTI Act you may, following the completion of an internal review, seek a review of the decision by the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman may be contacted on:

Phone: 1800 001 170
Email: ombudsman@ombudsman.tas.gov.au

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'BP' or similar initials, written in a cursive style.

Brendan Parnell
Right to Information Officer