

# FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS

Legislation / local law requirements	<i>Freedom of Information Act 1992</i> <i>Freedom of Information Regulations 1993</i>
Relevant delegations	17.2 - Appointment of Principal Decision Maker
Related policies, procedures and supporting documentation	Guide 1. Recordkeeping Awareness Roles and Responsibilities Guide 2. Recordkeeping Awareness Unauthorised Disclosure of Official Information Guide 13. Freedom of Information Awareness Recordkeeping Procedure - Release of Planning approvals and associated stamped approved plans

## PRELIMINARY

### INTRODUCTION

Section 44 of the *State Records Act 2000* states:

*“If a government record is not a State archive, any right that a person may have to be given access to it is to be determined under the FOI Act.”*

There is no legislative requirement for this policy, however, in its absence all access applications would require a formal application to be lodged and there would be no mechanism in place to provide third party information outside of the *Freedom of Information Act 1992*.

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to allow for determination of FOI applications and to set provisions for waiving the prescribed FOI fee.

### OBJECTIVE

To:

- provide information to the public, free of charge where possible, while maintaining the privacy of third parties in accordance with the Act.
- reaffirm the City’s commitment to accountability.
- recognise and support the public right to access information held by local government.

# FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS

## POLICY

Upon receiving a Freedom of Information request, the Chief Executive Officer or their delegate will determine the status of the request in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

If the determination is such that the information can be provided:

1. with less than two hours of officer time; *and*
2. unedited or edited to the extent that identification of a third party is protected

then the fee, as prescribed by the Council, will be waived.

If the applicant is not satisfied with this outcome, then they will be required to lodge a formal Freedom of Information request and pay the appropriate fee in accordance with the regulations.

OFFICE USE ONLY	
Responsible Officer	Coordinator Information
Initial Council Adoption	14/04/1998
Previous Title	Policy 4.1.4 – Freedom of Information Requests
Reviewed / Amended	22/07/2003, 22/04/2008, 26/02/2013, 8/04/2025
Next Review Date	04/2029