



CSIRO
csiro.au
foi@csiro.au
ABN 41 687 119 230

26 July 2022

Our ref: FOI 2022/32

s 22 - Excluded from scope by applicant (personal information of FOI applicant)

Email: s 22 - Excluded from scope by applicant (personal information of FOI applicant)

Dear s 22 - Excluded from scope by applicant (personal information of FOI)

Notice of charge pursuant to section 29 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth)

I refer to your request under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* ("FOI Act") on 14 June 2022 for access to:

"a digital copy of all test results, reports and data (including video footage) related to the home battery vehicle impact testing conducted at the CSIRO Energy Centre site in Newcastle from 2017 onwards"

On 8 July 2022, you revised the scope of the request to:

"Test reports and videos etc only of tests impacting home battery systems,

Any reports/literature background research on chemistry, products of emission, products of combustion.

Any reports of 'lessons learnt' value around safety when testing batteries.

Exclude:

*All personal information,
Any audio from videos."*

As an officer authorised under section 23(1) of the FOI Act to make decisions in relation to this FOI request, I am writing to advise you of my decision that you are liable to pay a charge in respect of the processing of your request.

In accordance with section 29 of the FOI Act and the *Freedom of Information Charges Regulations 1982*, my preliminary assessment of the charge you are liable to pay is **\$822.17**.

Basis for my preliminary assessment of the charge

I have assessed the work that CSIRO would need to do to process your request and have calculated the following breakdown of approximate relevant charges:

Document estimate	
Number of relevant pages (or other size descriptor)	515

PROCESSING CHARGES		
Search and retrieval		
Task	Time	Cost @ \$15/hr
Search and retrieval of relevant electronic and registry files & Search and retrieval of relevant pages in file and preparation of schedule of documents	17.50	\$262.50
A. Search and retrieval subtotal		
Decision making		
Task	Time	Cost @ \$20/hr
Examination of documents (5 mins per page)	25.75	\$515.00
Consultation with third parties	N/A	N/A
Preparation of documents for release (5 mins per page for redactions)	5.15	\$103.00
Preparation of notice of access decision (3 hours for decision)	2.08	\$41.67
<i>Decision making subtotal (before deduction of 5 hours)</i>	32.98	\$659.67
B. Decision making subtotal (after deduction of first 5 hours free)	27.98	\$559.67

ACCESS AND DELIVERY CHARGES		
	Time (hours)	Cost
Photocopying charges (@ 10 cents per page)		N/A
C. Access and delivery charges subtotal		N/A

Since I will provide any documents (that you are entitled to access under the FOI Act and which are relevant to your request) electronically, there will be no delivery/postage fee.

ESTIMATED TOTALS AND DEPOSIT	
ESTIMATED TOTAL (total of A, B and C)	\$822.17
REQUIRED DEPOSIT	\$205.54

Your right to contend the charge

Under the FOI Act, you have the right to contend that the charge:

- has been wrongly assessed, or
- should be reduced, or
- should not be imposed.

In deciding whether a charge should be reduced or not imposed, CSIRO's FOI decision maker must take into account:

- i. whether payment of the charge, or part of it, would cause you financial hardship;
- ii. whether giving access to the document[s] is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public; and
- iii. any other relevant matter.

Payment of a deposit

As the charge exceeds \$100, a 25% deposit, namely, **\$205.54** will be sought if the charge is imposed.

The deposit is not refundable except in some limited circumstances or may be refundable in part if the final charge is less than the deposit paid.

Your electronic payment should be to:

Acc Name: CSIRO Collectors Receipts
Acc Number: 53-221-1423
BSB: 082-902
Description/Reference: FOI2022/32 - Charges

You should also send an email to csiro-accountsreceivable@csiro.au and a copy to foi@csiro.au to confirm a transfer of funds has been made. Please note in your correspondence that the payment was for your FOI request and note my name - *Annabel Kent*.

The time you have to respond and what you need to do

You have 30 days to respond in writing to this notice. We therefore expect a response from you by **25 August 2022**. By that date, you must do one of the following things in writing:

- agree to pay the charge (this will mean that you will not be entitled to access the requested documents until the full charge (other than any inspection charge) is paid);
- contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed, or should be reduced or not imposed and explain your reasons; or
- withdraw your request.

Please send your response to:

Attention: Annabel Kent
foi@csiro.au

If you do not provide us with a written response by 25 August 2022 your request will be taken to have been withdrawn.

The period for processing your request is suspended from the day that you receive this notice and resumes on either the day you pay the charge (in full or the required deposit) or the day on which CSIRO makes a decision not to impose a charge.

Questions about this notice

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this notice with us, please contact me via foi@csiro.au.

More information about charges under the FOI Act is available in Fact Sheet 7 on the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner's website and in part 4 of the Australian Information Commissioner's FOI guidelines: www.oaic.gov.au/publications/guidelines.html#foi_guidelines.

Yours sincerely,



Annabel Kent
Legal Counsel
CSIRO



CSIRO
 csiro.au
 foi@csiro.au
 ABN 41 687 119 230

29 November 2022

Our ref: FOI2022/55

s 22 - Excluded from scope by applicant (personal information of FOI applicant)

Email: s 22 - Excluded from scope by applicant (personal information of FOI applicant)

Dear s 22 - Excluded from scope by applicant (personal information of FOI applicant)

Notice of charge pursuant to section 29 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth)

I refer to your request under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* ("FOI Act") on 11 October 2022:

"On 12 July, 2022, The Metals Company announced that CSIRO would lead the development of an environmental management plan for deep-sea mining in the CCZ of the Pacific Ocean.

The Metals Company said CSIRO: "Will draw upon TMC's extensive environmental baseline data to identify appropriate indicators and tolerance limits to enable the company to minimize impacts in its deep-sea operating environment."

I am seeking access to:

- (1) CSIRO's final agreed terms of reference for this work (or similar) and any draft terms of reference*
- (2) Any reports, briefings, memos or similar provided to CSIRO by The Metals Company*
- (3) Any internal reports, memos, briefings or similar prepared by CSIRO in both (i) the course of agreeing to undertake this work and (2) in the course of conducting this work to date*
- (4) Copies of any documents, presentations, briefings, memos or similar prepared for the CSIRO board in both (i) the course of agreeing to under this work and (2) in the course of conducting this work to date*
- (5) Copies of all media advice (talking points, emails, briefings) prepared by CSIRO regarding this project (including media advice prepared for the relevant minister)*

Following consultation with relevant CSIRO officers and correspondence between us, on 28 November 2022, you confirmed the reduced the scope of the request so that is excludes all emails, duplicate material and personal information that identifies individuals.

CSIRO
 Australia's National Science Agency

I am writing to advise you of my decision that you are liable to pay a charge in respect of the processing of your request. I confirm I am an officer authorised under section 23(1) of the FOI Act to make decisions in relation to FOI requests.

In accordance with section 29 of the FOI Act and the *Freedom of Information Charges Regulations 1982*, my preliminary assessment of the charge you are liable to pay is **\$818.33**.

Basis for preliminary assessment of the charge

I have assessed the work that CSIRO would need to do to process your request and have calculated the following breakdown of charges:

Document estimate	
Approximate number of relevant pages requiring review	1000 (approx. 1,300 pages requiring detailed review)

PROCESSING CHARGES		
Search and retrieval		
Task	Time	Cost @ \$15/hr
All search and retrieval of relevant electronic and registry documents and preparation of schedule of documents	27 hrs	\$405.00
A. Search and retrieval subtotal	27 hrs	\$405.00
Decision making		
Task	Time	Cost @ \$20/hr
Examination of documents requiring detailed review (5 mins per page)	12.5 hrs	\$250
Consultation with third parties	5 hrs	\$100
Preparation of documents for release (5 mins per page for redactions)	6.25 hrs	\$125
Preparation of notice of access decision (3 hours for decision)	1.5 hrs	\$30
<i>Decision making subtotal (before deduction of 5 hours)</i>	<i>26.67 hrs</i>	<i>\$513.33</i>
B. Decision making subtotal (after deduction of first 5 hours free)	20.67	\$413.33

ACCESS AND DELIVERY CHARGES		
	Time (hours)	Cost
Photocopying charges (@ 10 cents per page)		
C. Access and delivery charges subtotal		

I note that since I will provide the documents relevant to your request electronically, there will be no delivery/postage fee.

ESTIMATED TOTALS AND DEPOSIT	
ESTIMATED TOTAL (total of A, B and C)	\$818.33
REQUIRED DEPOSIT	\$204.58

Your right to contend the charge

Under the FOI Act, you have the right to contend that the charge:

- has been wrongly assessed, or
- should be reduced, or

- should not be imposed.

In deciding whether a charge should be reduced or not imposed, CSIRO's FOI decision maker must take into account:

- whether payment of the charge, or part of it, would cause you financial hardship;
- whether giving access to relevant documents is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public; and
- any other relevant matter.

Payment of a deposit

As the charge exceeds \$100, a 25% deposit, namely, **\$204.58** will be sought if the charge is imposed.

The deposit is not refundable except in some limited circumstances or may be refundable in part if the final charge is less than the deposit paid.

Your electronic payment should be to:

Acc Name: CSIRO Collectors Receipts
Acc Number: 53-221-1423
BSB: 082-902
Description/Reference: FOI2022/55 - Charges

You should also send an email to foi@csiro.au and a copy to csiro-accountsreceivable@csiro.au to confirm a transfer of funds has been made. Please note in your correspondence that the payment was for your FOI request and note my name *Annabel Kent*.

Next steps

You have 30 days to respond in writing to this notice. We therefore expect a response from you by **29 December 2022**. By that date, you must do one of the following things in writing:

- agree to pay the charge (this will mean that you will not be entitled to access the requested documents until the full charge (other than any inspection charge) is paid);
- contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed, or should be reduced or not imposed and explain your reasons;
- withdraw your request.

Please send your response to:

Att: Annabel Kent
FOI@csiro.au

If you do not provide us with a written response by 29 December 2022, your request will be taken to have been withdrawn.

The period for processing your request is suspended from the day that you receive this notice and resumes on either the day you pay the charge (in full or the required deposit) or the day on which CSIRO makes a decision not to impose a charge.

Consultation with affected third party

As your request covers documents which contain information concerning the business, commercial or financial affairs of an organisation, or a person's business or professional affairs, I have considered and decided that CSIRO is required to consult with the person or organisation concerned (under section 27 of the FOI Act).

The consultation mechanism under section 27 applies when we believe the person or organisation concerned may wish to contend that the requested documents are exempt because their release would disclose trade secrets or commercially valuable information or may adversely affect their business or financial affairs.

Once the deposit has been paid, CSIRO will commence the consultation process with the affected third party and the period for processing your request will be extended by **30 days** in order to allow our agency time to consult with that person or organisation (section 15(6) of the FOI Act).

More information about exemptions under the FOI Act are available from the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner's website including: <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/foi-guidelines/part-3-processing-requests-for-access>

Questions about this notice

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this notice with us, please contact me.

More information about charges under the FOI Act is available in Fact Sheet 7 on the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner's website and in part 4 of the Australian Information Commissioner's FOI guidelines: www.oaic.gov.au/publications/guidelines.html#foi_guidelines.

Yours sincerely,



Annabel Kent
Legal Counsel
CSIRO

LEGAL
www.csiro.au



Telephone (02) 6276 6436 • ABN 41 687 119 230
Email: FOI@csiro.au

4 January 2023

Our ref: FOI 2022/59

Email: s 22 - Excluded from scope by applicant (personal information of FOI applicant)

Dear s 22 - Excluded from scope by applicant (personal information of FOI applicant)

Notice of charge pursuant to section 29(8) of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth)

I refer to your email of 5 December 2022 in which you requested a full waiver of applicable charges pursuant to section 29(5)(b) of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act), on public interest grounds of public interest.

I am an officer authorised under section 23(1) of the FOI Act to make decisions in relation to FOI requests.

In response to your request, I have decided under s 29(4) to reduce the amount by 50%. The amount you are now liable to pay is **\$456.75**.

The reasons for my decision under section 29(4) are set out below.

Section 29(5) of the FOI Act states that in my decision as to whether or not to reduce or not impose the charge, I must take into account:

- (a) whether payment of the charge, or part of it, would cause financial hardship to the applicant, to a person on whose behalf the application was made; and*
- (b) whether the giving or access to the documents in question is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public.*

You have not contended that the charges would cause any financial hardship to you.

I note your contentions regarding the public interest attached to the documents requested in your FOI request. I agree that there is public interest in providing the public with access to some information prepared by Government agencies for the purpose of public Senate Estimates hearings.

I have therefore decided, on CSIRO's behalf, to reduce the applicable charges by 50%.

Payment of a deposit

As the charge exceeds \$100, a 25 per cent deposit, namely, **\$114.18** is sought from you in order to continue processing your FOI request. The deposit is not refundable except in some limited circumstances or may be refundable in part if the final charge ends up being less than the deposit paid.

Please make electronic payment to:

Acc Name: CSIRO Collectors Receipts
Acc Number: 53-221-1423
BSB: 082-902
Description/Reference: FOI 2022-59 Charges

Please also send an email to csiro-accountsreceivable@csiro.au and to foi@csiro.au to notify us once a transfer of funds has been made. Please note in your correspondence that the payment was for your FOI request and note my name *Annabel Kent*.

Your review rights

In accordance with section 29(9) of the FOI Act, a statement setting out your rights of review under the Act is included at **Attachment A** to this letter.

Yours sincerely,



Annabel Kent
Legal Counsel
CSIRO

Review rights

If you are dissatisfied with my decision in relation to the charge, you may apply for internal review or Information Commissioner review of the decision. We encourage you to seek internal review as a first step as it may provide a more rapid resolution of your concerns.

Internal Review

Firstly, under section 54 of the FOI Act, you may apply for an internal review of the decision. Your application must be made by whichever date is the later between: 30 days of you receiving this notice; or 15 days of you receiving the documents to which you have been granted access.

An internal review will be conducted by a different officer from the original decision-maker. No particular form is required to apply for review although it will assist your case to set out in the application the grounds on which you believe that the original decision should be overturned. An application for a review of the decision should be addressed to: FOI@csiro.au

If you choose to seek an internal review, you will subsequently have a right to apply to the Australian Information Commissioner for a review of the internal review decision.

External review by the Australian Information Commissioner

Alternatively, under 54L of the FOI Act, you may seek review of this decision by the Australian Information Commissioner without first going to internal review. Your application must be made within 60 days of you receiving this notice.

The Information Commissioner is an independent office holder who may review decisions of agencies and Ministers under the FOI Act. More information is available on the Information Commissioner's website www.oaic.gov.au.

You can contact the Information Commissioner to request a review of a decision online or by writing to the Information Commissioner at:

GPO Box 2999
Canberra ACT 2601

Complaints to Ombudsman or Information Commissioner

You may complain to either the Commonwealth Ombudsman or the Information Commissioner about action taken by CSIRO in relation to the application. The Ombudsman will consult with the Information Commissioner before investigating a complaint about the handling of an FOI request.

Your enquiries to the Ombudsman can be directed to:

Phone 1300 362 072 (local call charge)
Email ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au

Your enquiries to the Information Commissioner can be directed to:

Phone 1300 363 992 (local call charge)
Email enquiries@oaic.gov.au

There is no particular form required to make a complaint to the Ombudsman or the Information Commissioner. The request should be in writing and should set out the grounds on which it is considered that the action taken in relation to the request should be investigated and identify CSIRO as the relevant agency.



CSIRO
 csiro.au
 foi@csiro.au
 ABN 41 687 119 230

Our ref: FOI2023/3

s 22 - Excluded from scope by applicant (personal information of FOI applicant)

Email: s 22 - Excluded from scope by applicant (personal information of FOI applicant)

Dear s 22 - Excluded from scope by applicant (personal information of FOI applicant)

Notice of charge pursuant to section 29 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Cth)*

I refer to your request under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982 (FOI Act)* via email on 13 January 2023 for access to:

1. All documents written by s 47E(c) (certain operations of agencies) concerning the validity of the application of FullCAM to human induced regeneration areas that contain significant amounts of pre-existing woody vegetation.
2. Any emails in the possession of the named authors and their CSIRO managers or executives concerning those documents and the issues they raise.

You have specifically excluded the following from the scope of your request:

- Duplicates of any document captured within the scope of the request
- Drafts, unless there is no final, in which case you seek the most recent draft.
- The mobile numbers or full email addresses of CSIRO or government officials, nor the names and contact details of CSIRO or government officials not in the Senior Executive Service or equivalent. You have asked that junior official's position or titles be left unredacted, along with email domains that provide useful information as to the origin and destination of communication e.g. [redacted]@industry.gov.au

Background

On 9 February 2023, I wrote to you via email with an update regarding the processing of your FOI request and confirmed the need to consult with several affected third parties before CSIRO could decide what information amongst the collated relevant documents could be released in accordance with the FOI Act.

I also flagged in my email that charges are likely to be applicable to your request and that we were close to finalising the applicable amount of charges.

Thank you for acknowledging receipt of my email on the same day, 9 February 2023.

I am writing to you today to advise you of my decision that you are liable to pay a charge in respect of the processing of your request. I am an officer authorised under section 23(1) of the FOI Act to make decisions in relation to FOI requests.

Preliminary assessment of charge

In accordance with section 29 of the FOI Act and the *Freedom of Information Charges Regulations 1982*, my preliminary assessment of the charge you are liable to pay is **\$1,636.37**.

I have assessed the work that CSIRO would likely need to do to process your request and have calculated the following breakdown of charges:

Document estimate	
Number of relevant pages (or other size descriptor)	708

PROCESSING CHARGES		
Search and retrieval		
Task	Time	Cost @ \$15/hr
Search and retrieval of relevant electronic and registry files & Search and retrieval of relevant pages in file and preparation of schedule of documents	8.59	\$128.85
A. Search and retrieval subtotal	8.59	\$128.85
Decision making		
Task	Time	Cost @ \$20/hr
Examination of documents (5 mins per page)	59	\$1,180.00
Consultation with third parties	15	\$300.00
Preparation of documents for release (5 mins per page for redactions)	4.13	\$82.60
Preparation of notice of access decision (3 hours for decision)	2.24	\$44.92
<i>Decision making subtotal (before deduction of 5 hours)</i>	<i>80.38</i>	<i>\$1,607.52</i>
B. Decision making subtotal (after deduction of first 5 hours free)	75.38	\$1,507.52

ACCESS AND DELIVERY CHARGES		
	Time (hours)	Cost
Photocopying charges (@ 10 cents per page)		
C. Access and delivery charges subtotal		Nil

I note that since I will provide the documents relevant to your request, electronically, there will be no delivery/postage fee.

ESTIMATED TOTALS AND DEPOSIT	
ESTIMATED TOTAL (total of A, B and C)	\$1,636.37
REQUIRED DEPOSIT	\$409.09

Your right to contend the charge

Under the FOI Act, you have the right to contend that the charge:

- has been wrongly assessed, or
- should be reduced, or
- should not be imposed.

In deciding whether a charge should be reduced or not imposed, CSIRO's FOI decision maker must take into account:

- i. whether payment of the charge, or part of it, would cause you financial hardship and;
- ii. whether giving access to the document[s] is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public
- iii. any other relevant matter.

Payment of a deposit

As the charge exceeds \$100, a 25% deposit, namely, **\$409.09** will be sought if the charge is imposed.

The deposit is not refundable except in some limited circumstances or may be refundable in part if the final charge is less than the deposit paid.

Your electronic payment should be to:

Acc Name: CSIRO Collectors Receipts
 Acc Number: 53-221-1423
 BSB: 082-902
 Description/Reference: FOI2023/3 - Charges

You should also send an email to foi@csiro.au and a copy to csiro-accountsreceivable@csiro.au to confirm a transfer of funds has been made. Please note in your correspondence that the payment was for your FOI request and note my name - *Annabel Kent*.

The time you have to respond and what you need to do

You have 30 days to respond in writing to this notice. We therefore expect a response from you by **16 March 2023**. By that date, you must do one of the following things in writing:

- agree to pay the charge (this will mean that you will not be entitled to access the requested documents until the full charge (other than any inspection charge) is paid);
- contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed, or should be reduced or not imposed and explain your reasons;
- withdraw your request.

Please send your response to:

Att: Annabel Kent
FOI@csiro.au

If you do not provide us with a written response by 16 March 2023, your request will be taken to have been withdrawn.

The period for processing your request is suspended from the day that you receive this notice and resumes on either the day you pay the charge (in full or the required deposit) or the day on which CSIRO makes a decision not to impose a charge.

Questions about this notice

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this notice with us, please contact me.

More information about charges under the FOI Act is available in Fact Sheet 7 on the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner's website and in part 4 of the Australian Information Commissioner's FOI guidelines: www.oaic.gov.au/publications/guidelines.html#foi_guidelines.

Yours sincerely,



Annabel Kent
Legal Counsel
CSIRO



CSIRO
 csiro.au
 foi@csiro.au
 ABN 41 687 119 230

Our ref: FOI2023/11

27 February 2023

§ 22 - Excluded from scope by applicant (personal information of FOI applicant)

Email: § 22 - Excluded from scope by applicant (personal information of FOI applicant)

Dear § 22 - Excluded from scope by applicant (personal information of FOI applicant)

Notice of charge pursuant to section 29 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth)

I refer to your request under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* ("FOI Act") on 13 February 2023 for access to:

a copy of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation's finalised estimates briefing pack, including an index of back pocket briefs, for the 2023 February Supplementary Budget Estimates.

I am writing to advise you of my decision that you are liable to pay a charge in respect of the processing of your request.

I am an officer authorised under section 23(1) of the FOI Act to make decisions in relation to FOI requests.

Decision

In accordance with section 29 of the FOI Act and the *Freedom of Information Charges Regulations 1982*, my preliminary assessment of the charge you are liable to pay is **\$637.54**.

Basis for my preliminary assessment of the charge

I have assessed the work that CSIRO would need to do to process your request and have calculated the following breakdown of charges:

Document estimate	
Approximate number of relevant pages	373 (50 documents)

PROCESSING CHARGES		
Search and retrieval		
Task	Time	Cost @ \$15/hr
Search and retrieval of relevant files and preparation of schedule of documents	1.75 hours	\$26.25
A. Search and retrieval subtotal		\$26.25
Decision making		
Task	Time	Cost @ \$20/hr

Examination of documents (5 mins per page)	31.08	\$621.67
Consultation with third parties (5 hours per third party)	15	\$300.00
Preparation of documents for release, including making any redactions (4 mins per page)	18.65	\$373.00
Preparation of notice of access decision, including finalisation of schedule with decisions recorded	2.7	\$54.17
<i>Decision making subtotal (before deduction of 5 hours)</i>		\$1,348.83
<i>B. Decision making subtotal (after deduction of first 5 hours free)</i>		\$1,248.83

ACCESS AND DELIVERY CHARGES		
	Time (hours)	Cost
Photocopying charges (@ 10 cents per page)		
<i>C. Access and delivery charges subtotal</i>		

I note that since I will provide the documents relevant to your request, electronically, there will be no delivery/postage fee.

ESTIMATED TOTALS AND DEPOSIT	
ESTIMATED TOTAL (total of A, B and C)	\$1,275.08
Public interest discount of 50%	\$637.54
REQUIRED DEPOSIT	\$159.39

Your right to contend the charge

Under the FOI Act, you have the right to contend that the charge:

- has been wrongly assessed, or
- should be reduced, or
- should not be imposed.

In deciding whether a charge should be reduced or not imposed, CSIRO's FOI decision maker must take into account:

- i. whether payment of the charge, or part of it, would cause you financial hardship and;
- ii. whether giving access to the document[s] is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public
- iii. any other relevant matter.

In accordance with subsection 29(5), I have decided to apply a 50% discount to the total estimated charge, given there is public interest in providing the public with access to some of the information you have requested.

Payment of a deposit

As the charge exceeds \$100, a 25% deposit, namely, **\$159.39** will be sought if the charge is imposed.

The deposit is not refundable except in some limited circumstances or may be refundable in part if the final charge is less than the deposit paid.

Please make any electronic payment to:

Acc Name: CSIRO Collectors Receipts
Acc Number: 53-221-1423
BSB: 082-902
Description/Reference: FOI2023/11 - Charges

Please also send an email to foi@csiro.au and a copy to csiro-accountsreceivable@csiro.au to confirm a transfer of funds has been made. Please note in your correspondence that the payment was for your FOI request and note my name - *Annabel Kent*.

The time you have to respond and what you need to do

You have 30 days to respond in writing to this notice. We will therefore expect a response from you, if you wish CSIRO to continue processing your request, by close of business **Wednesday 29 March 2023**. By that date, you are required to do one of the following things in writing:

- agree to pay the charge (this will mean that you will not be entitled to access the requested documents until the full charge (other than any inspection charge) is paid);
- contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed, or should be reduced or not imposed and explain your reasons;
- withdraw your request.

Please send your response to:

Attention: Annabel Kent
FOI@csiro.au

If you do not provide us with a written response by close of business Wednesday 29 March 2023, your request will be taken to have been withdrawn.

The period for processing your request is suspended from the day that you receive this notice and resumes on either the day you pay the estimated charges (in full or the required deposit) or the day on which CSIRO makes a decision not to impose any charges.

Questions about this notice

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this notice with us, please contact me.

More information about charges under the FOI Act is available in Fact Sheet 7 on the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner's website and in part 4 of the Australian Information Commissioner's FOI guidelines: www.oaic.gov.au/publications/guidelines.html#foi_guidelines.

Yours sincerely,



Annabel Kent
Legal Counsel
CSIRO

CSIRO
Australia's National Science Agency



CSIRO
 csiro.au
 foi@csiro.au
 ABN 41 687 119 230

16 May 2023

Our ref: FOI2023/30

s 22 - Excluded from scope
 by applicant (personal
 information of FOI applicant)

Email: s 22 - Excluded from scope by applicant
 (personal information of FOI applicant)

Dear s 22 - Excluded from scope by
 applicant (personal information
 of FOI applicant)

Notice of charge pursuant to section 29 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth)

I refer to your request under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* ("FOI Act") submitted to CSIRO via email on 20 April 2023 for access to:

"Emails and correspondence to and from s 47E(c) (certain operations of agencies) based at CSIRO referring to MRFF Funding, the University of Qld and CEPI between the dates 1st January 2020 and 31st July 2020."

I am writing to advise you of my decision that you are liable to pay a charge in respect of the processing of your request.

I am an officer authorised under section 23(1) of the FOI Act to make decisions in relation to FOI requests.

Decision

In accordance with section 29 of the FOI Act and the *Freedom of Information Charges Regulations 1982*, my preliminary assessment of the charge you are liable to pay is **\$1,523.50**.

Basis for my preliminary assessment of the charge

I have assessed the work that CSIRO would need to do to process your request and have calculated the following breakdown of charges:

Document estimate	
Approximate number of relevant documents and pages	380 or 760 pages

PROCESSING CHARGES		
Search and retrieval		
Task	Time	Cost @ \$15/hr
Search and retrieval of relevant electronic and registry files & Search and retrieval of relevant pages in file and preparation of schedule of documents	13.83	\$207.50

CSIRO
 Australia's National Science Agency

A. Search and retrieval subtotal		\$207.50
Decision making		
Task	Time	Cost @ \$20/hr
Examination of documents (3 mins per page)	38.00	\$760.00
Consultation with third parties	7.50	\$456.00
Preparation of documents for release (2 mins per page for redactions)	22.80	\$150.00
Preparation of notice of access decision (2.5 hours for decision)	2.5	\$50.00
<i>Decision making subtotal (before deduction of 5 hours)</i>	70.80	\$1,416.00
B. Decision making subtotal (after deduction of first 5 hours free)	65.80	\$1,316.00

ACCESS AND DELIVERY CHARGES		
	Time (hours)	Cost
Photocopying charges (@ 10 cents per page)		
C. Access and delivery charges subtotal		

I note that since I will provide the documents relevant to your request, electronically, there will be no delivery/postage fee.

ESTIMATED TOTALS AND DEPOSIT	
ESTIMATED TOTAL (total of A, B and C)	\$1,523.50
REQUIRED DEPOSIT	\$380.88

Your right to contend the charge

Under the FOI Act, you have the right to contend that the charge:

- has been wrongly assessed, or
- should be reduced, or
- should not be imposed.

In deciding whether a charge should be reduced or not imposed, CSIRO's FOI decision maker must take into account:

- i. whether payment of the charge, or part of it, would cause you financial hardship and;
- ii. whether giving access to the document[s] is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public
- iii. any other relevant matter.

Payment of a deposit

As the charge exceeds \$100, a 25% deposit or **\$380.88** will be sought if the charge is imposed.

The deposit is not refundable except in some limited circumstances or may be refundable in part if the final charge is less than the deposit paid.

Your electronic payment should be to:

Acc Name: CSIRO Collectors Receipts
 Acc Number: 53-221-1423
 BSB: 082-902

CSIRO
 Australia's National Science Agency

Description/Reference: FOI2023/30 - Charges

You should also send an email to foi@csiro.au and a copy to csiro-accountsreceivable@csiro.au to confirm a transfer of funds has been made. Please note in your correspondence that the payment was for your FOI request and note my name *Annabel Kent*.

The time you have to respond and what you need to do

You have 30 days to respond in writing to this notice. We therefore expect a response from you by **15 June 2023**. By that date, you must do one of the following things in writing:

- agree to pay the charge (this will mean that you will not be entitled to access the requested documents until the full charge (other than any inspection charge) is paid);
- contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed, or should be reduced or not imposed and explain your reasons;
- withdraw your request.

Please send your response to:

Att: Annabel Kent
FOI@csiro.au

If you do not provide us with a written response by **15 June 2023** your request will be taken to have been withdrawn.

The period for processing your request is suspended from the day that you receive this notice and resumes on either the day you pay the charge (in full or the required deposit) or the day on which CSIRO makes a decision not to impose a charge.

Questions about this notice

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this notice with us, please contact me.

More information about charges under the FOI Act is available in Fact Sheet 7 on the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner's website and in part 4 of the Australian Information Commissioner's FOI guidelines: www.oaic.gov.au/publications/guidelines.html#foi_guidelines.

Yours sincerely,



Annabel Kent
Legal Counsel
CSIRO



CSIRO
 csiro.au
 foi@csiro.au
 ABN 41 687 119 230

17 May 2023

Our ref: FOI2023/31

s 22 - Excluded from scope by applicant (personal information of FOI applicant)

Email: s 22 - Excluded from scope by applicant (personal information of FOI applicant)

Dear s 22 - Excluded from scope by applicant (personal information of FOI applicant)

Notice of charge pursuant to section 29 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth)

I refer to your requests submitted to CSIRO under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* ('FOI Act') via email on 22 April 2023:

"The applications both relate to the publication by CSIRO Publishing of the following paper:

Wedd et al., Journal of Southern Hemisphere Earth System Science 72 218-42 (2022)

I would be grateful if you were to advise me of any plans to notify anyone other than the staff of CSIRO Publishing of the below applications. You will see that I have copied this message to s 47E(c) (certain operations of agencies)

1 Correspondence

Please provide me with copies of any correspondence between the authors of the above cited paper, the journal's editors and governance board, CSIRO Publishing, or others, in relation to the submission, review, and publication of that paper. I do not now seek the identities of peer reviewers, or their reviews, or the authors' replies.

I do seek any text that involves discussion of, or consent to, or acceptance of, the ethical rules that appear on the CSIRO Publishing website. It is usual for the lead author to sign, perhaps electronically, a declaration saying that the paper was prepared in accordance with certain rules, and that the work is actually the work of the individuals listed as authors or acknowledged. There is usually a declaration as to the truth of the content of the submission and related statements. Please provide me with a copy of this signed declaration, or if there is no such declaration explain to me in writing how CSIRO Publishing obtains the agreement of its lead authors.

The identity of the lead author is public, and I assume all lead authors sign the same declaration. If this is not so, please let me know.

Reputable scientific journals may obtain a declaration from the lead author in a variety of ways. It may be submitted to an electronic publishing system, to the publisher, or to the editor(s). In any

case, this document must have been provided to CSIRO Publishing staff because they could not have published the paper without it.

2 Other documents

In the event that CSIRO Publishing has other documents on which it relies to establish that a paper has been prepared in accordance with the ethical and other rules on the CSIRO Publishing website, in accordance with best practice, using sound research methods, or is otherwise fit for publication, then I ask that you provide me with copies of these."

I am writing to advise you of my decision that you are liable to pay a charge in respect of the processing of the first of your two requests, outlined above.

I am an officer authorised under section 23(1) of the FOI Act to make decisions in relation to FOI requests.

Decision

In accordance with section 29 of the FOI Act and the *Freedom of Information Charges Regulations 1982*, my preliminary assessment of the charge you are liable to pay is **\$708.02**.

Basis for my preliminary assessment of the charge

I have assessed the work that CSIRO would need to do to process your request and have calculated the following breakdown of charges:

Document estimate	
Approximate number of relevant documents and pages	122 and 250 pages

ESTIMATED PROCESSING CHARGES		
Search and retrieval		
Task	Time	Cost @ \$15/hr
Search and retrieval of relevant electronic and registry files, search and retrieval of relevant pages in those files and preparation of a schedule of documents	6.42	\$96.35
A. Search and retrieval subtotal	6.42	\$96.35
Decision making		
Task	Time	Cost @ \$20/hr
Examination of documents (5 mins per page)	8.33	\$166.67
Consultation with third parties	7.50	\$150.00
Preparation of documents for release (5 mins per page for redactions)	17.25	\$345.00
Preparation of notice of access decision (3 hours for decision)	2.50	\$50
<i>Decision making subtotal (before deduction of 5 hours)</i>	<i>35.58</i>	<i>\$711.67</i>
B. Decision making subtotal (after deduction of first 5 hours free)	30.58	\$611.67

ACCESS AND DELIVERY CHARGES		
	Time (hours)	Cost
Photocopying charges (@ 10 cents per page)	N/A	N/A
C. Access and delivery charges subtotal		

I note that since you have provided an email address for CSIRO to electronically send to you any documents relevant to your request, there is no applicable delivery/postage fee.

ESTIMATED TOTALS AND DEPOSIT	
ESTIMATED TOTAL (total of A, B and C)	\$708.02
REQUIRED DEPOSIT	\$177.00

Your right to contend the charge

Under the FOI Act, you have the right to contend that the charge:

- has been wrongly assessed, or
- should be reduced, or
- should not be imposed.

In deciding whether a charge should be reduced or not imposed, CSIRO's FOI decision maker must take into account:

- i. whether payment of the charge, or part of it, would cause you financial hardship and;
- ii. whether giving access to the document[s] is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public
- iii. any other relevant matter.

Payment of a deposit

As the charge exceeds \$100, a 25% deposit or \$177.00 is required before CSIRO can continue processing your request.

The deposit is not refundable except in some limited circumstances, or it may be refundable in part if the final charge is less than the deposit paid.

Your electronic payment should be to:

Acc Name: CSIRO Collectors Receipts
 Acc Number: 53-221-1423
 BSB: 082-902
 Description/Reference: FOI2023/31 - Charges

Please also send an email to foi@csiro.au and a copy to csiro-accountsreceivable@csiro.au to confirm a transfer of funds has been made. Please note in your correspondence that the payment was for your FOI request and note my name *Annabel Kent*.

The time you have to respond and what you need to do

You have 30 days to respond in writing to this notice. We therefore expect a response from you no later than **16 June 2023**. By that date, you are required to do one of the following things in writing:

- agree to pay the charge (on the understanding that you will not be entitled to access the requested documents until the full charge (other than any inspection charge) is paid);
- contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed, or should be reduced or not imposed and explain your reasons;
- withdraw your request.

Please send your response to:

Att: Annabel Kent
FOI@csiro.au

If you do not provide us with a written response by 16 June 2023, your request will be taken to have been withdrawn.

The period for processing your request is suspended from the day that you receive this notice and resumes on either the day you pay the charge (in full or the required deposit) or the day on which CSIRO makes a decision not to impose a charge.

Questions about this notice

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this notice with us, please contact me.

More information about charges under the FOI Act is available in Fact Sheet 7 on the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner's website and in part 4 of the Australian Information Commissioner's FOI guidelines: [available via this link](#).

Yours sincerely,



Annabel Kent
Legal Counsel
CSIRO



CSIRO
 csiro.au
 foi@csiro.au
 ABN 41 687 119 230

23 May 2023

Our ref: FOI2023/32

§ 22 - Excluded from scope by applicant (personal information of FOI applicant)

Email: § 22 - Excluded from scope by applicant (personal information of FOI applicant)

Dear § 22 - Excluded from scope by applicant

Notice of charge pursuant to section 29 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth)

I refer to your request under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* ("FOI Act") on 26 April 2023 for access to:

"all email correspondence between CSIRO employees of Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness (including the former Australian Animal Health Laboratory) and:

1. § 47F (personal privacy) of China's Academy of Military Medical Science (aka State Key Laboratory of Pathogen and Biosecurity or Beijing Institute of Microbiology and Epidemiology.

2. § 47F (personal privacy) of Wuhan Institute of Virology

Known email addresses are: § 47F (personal privacy),

This request is for correspondence between 1/1/2011 and 31/12/2015."

I am writing to advise you of my decision that you are liable to pay a charge in respect of the processing of your request.

I am an officer authorised under section 23(1) of the FOI Act to make decisions in relation to FOI requests.

In accordance with section 29 of the FOI Act and the *Freedom of Information Charges Regulations 1982*, my preliminary assessment of the charge you are liable to pay is **\$1,544.25**.

Basis for my preliminary assessment of the charge

I have assessed the work that CSIRO would need to do to process your request and have calculated the following breakdown of charges:

Document estimate	
Approximate number of relevant documents and pages	330 documents or 900 pages

PROCESSING CHARGES		
Search and retrieval		
Task	Time	Cost @ \$15/hr
Search and retrieval of relevant electronic and registry files	15	\$225
search and retrieval of relevant pages in file and Preparation of schedule of documents	2.75	\$41.25
A. Search and retrieval subtotal	17.75	\$266.25
Decision making		
Task	Time	Cost @ \$20/hr
Examination of documents (2 mins per page)	30	\$600
Consultation with 4 third parties (2 hour per third party)	8	\$160
Preparation of documents for release (2 mins per page for redactions)	27	\$540
Preparation of notice of decision (2.5 hours to write decision, 1.4 hours to complete schedule with record of decision)	3.9	\$78
<i>Decision making subtotal (before deduction of 5 hours)</i>	68.9	\$1,378
B. Decision making subtotal (after deduction of first 5 hours free)		\$1,278

ACCESS AND DELIVERY CHARGES		
	Time (hours)	Cost
Photocopying charges (@ 10 cents per page)		
C. Access and delivery charges subtotal		

I note that since I am able to provide any documents relevant to your request, to you electronically, there is no applicable delivery/postage fee.

ESTIMATED TOTALS AND DEPOSIT	
ESTIMATED TOTAL (total of A, B and C)	\$1,544.25
REQUIRED DEPOSIT	\$386.06

Your right to contend the charge

Under the FOI Act, you have the right to contend that the charge:

- has been wrongly assessed, or
- should be reduced, or
- should not be imposed.

Without limiting the matter CSIRO may take into account in deciding whether a charge should be reduced or not imposed, CSIRO must take into account:

- i. whether payment of the charge, or part of it, would cause you financial hardship; and
- ii. whether giving access to the document[s] in question is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public.
- iii. any other relevant matter.

Payment of a deposit

As the charge exceeds \$100, a 25% deposit or **\$386.06** will be sought if the charge is imposed.

The deposit is not refundable except in some limited circumstances or may be refundable in part if the final charge is calculated to be less than the deposit paid.

Your electronic payment should be to:

Acc Name: CSIRO Collectors Receipts
Acc Number: 53-221-1423
BSB: 082-902
Description/Reference: FOI2023/32 - Charges

You should also send an email to foi@csiro.au and a copy to csiro-accountsreceivable@csiro.au to confirm a transfer of funds has been made. Please note in your correspondence that the payment was for your FOI request and note my name - *Annabel Kent*.

The time you have to respond and what you need to do

You have 30 days to respond in writing to this notice. We therefore expect a response from you by **22 June 2023**. By that date, you must do one of the following things in writing:

- agree to pay the charge (noting that you will not be entitled to access any requested documents until the full charge (other than any inspection charge) is paid);
- contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed, or should be reduced or not imposed and explain your reasons; or
- withdraw your request.

Please send your response to:

Att: Annabel Kent
FOI@csiro.au

If you do not provide us with a written response by **22 June 2023**, your request will be taken to have been withdrawn.

The period for processing your request is suspended from the day that you receive this notice and resumes on either the day you pay the charge (in full or the required deposit) or the day on which CSIRO makes a decision not to impose a charge.

Questions about this notice

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this notice with us, please contact me.

More information about charges under the FOI Act is available on the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC)'s website, including in Part 4 of OAIC's FOI guidelines: [Part 4 - FOI guidelines - Charges](#).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "AKent".

Annabel Kent
Legal Counsel
CSIRO



19 June 2023

Our ref: FOI2023/32

s 22 - Excluded from scope by applicant
 (personal information of FOI applicant)

Dear s 22 - Excluded from scope by applicant

Notice of charge (revised estimate) pursuant to section 29 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth)

I refer to your request under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* ("FOI Act") on 26 April 2023 for access to:

"all email correspondence between CSIRO employees of Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness (including the former Australian Animal Health Laboratory) and:

1. s 47F (personal privacy) of China's Academy of Military Medical Science (aka State Key Laboratory of Pathogen and Biosecurity or Beijing Institute of Microbiology and Epidemiology).
2. s 47F (personal privacy) of Wuhan Institute of Virology

Known email addresses are: s 47F (personal privacy),

This request is for correspondence between 1/1/2011 and 31/12/2015."

On 23 May 2023, I emailed you to provide an update regarding the processing work undertaken to date to search for and collate relevant emails. I also provided you with a notice of applicable charges (preliminary estimate) that amounted to \$1,544.25.

On 24 May 2023, you sent an email requesting that the charges be waived, referring to several grounds including related to public interest and financial hardship. The detail you provided in your email about your key interest in requested documents prompted us to consider the relevant package of material further, given so many collated relevant documents appeared to not relate to your key area of interest.

On 9 June 2023, I emailed you with some options for you to consider, which would reduce the number of relevant emails. On the same day, you responded confirming that you were happy to **limit relevant emails to those "relating to work regarding bats, coronavirus and MERS CoV"**

(assuming "coronavirus also includes SARS CoV"). You also indicated that you were willing to exclude from your request scope non-work-related contact details, such as telephone numbers, relating to individuals referred to in relevant email correspondence.

As foreshadowed, we have revised the set of relevant documents to match your revised scope and come up with a revised preliminary charges estimate.

I confirm my decision that you are still liable to pay a charge in respect of the processing of your request and that I am an officer authorised under section 23(1) of the FOI Act to make decisions in relation to FOI requests.

In accordance with section 29 of the FOI Act and the *Freedom of Information Charges Regulations 1982*, my revised preliminary assessment of the charge you are liable to pay is **\$826.33**.

Basis for my preliminary assessment of the charge

I have assessed the work that CSIRO would need to do to process your request and have calculated the following breakdown of charges:

Document estimate	
Approximate number of relevant documents and pages	160 documents or 350 pages

PROCESSING CHARGES		
Search and retrieval		
Task	Time	Cost @ \$15/hr
Search and retrieval of relevant electronic and registry files	15	\$225
search and retrieval of relevant pages in file and		
Preparation of schedule of documents	1.33	\$20
A. Search and retrieval subtotal		\$245
Decision making		
Task	Time	Cost @ \$20/hr
Examination of documents (2 mins per page)	11.67	\$233.33
Consultation with 4 third parties (2 hour per third party)	8	\$160
Preparation of documents for release (2 mins per page for redactions)	10.50	\$210
Preparation of notice of decision (2.5 hours to write decision, 1.4 hours to complete schedule with record of decision)	3.9	\$78.00
<i>Decision making subtotal (before deduction of 5 hours)</i>	34.07	\$681.33
B. Decision making subtotal (after deduction of first 5 hours free)	29.07	\$581.33

ACCESS AND DELIVERY CHARGES		
	Time (hours)	Cost
Photocopying charges (@ 10 cents per page)		
C. Access and delivery charges subtotal		

I note that since I am able to provide any documents relevant to your request, to you electronically, there is no applicable delivery/postage fee.

ESTIMATED TOTALS AND DEPOSIT	
ESTIMATED TOTAL (total of A, B and C)	\$826.33
REQUIRED DEPOSIT	\$206.58

Your right to contend the charge

Under the FOI Act, you have the right to contend that the charge:

- has been wrongly assessed, or
- should be reduced, or
- should not be imposed.

Without limiting the matter CSIRO may take into account in deciding whether a charge should be reduced or not imposed, CSIRO must take into account:

- i. whether payment of the charge, or part of it, would cause you financial hardship; and
- ii. whether giving access to the document[s] in question is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public.
- iii. any other relevant matter.

Payment of a deposit

As the charge exceeds \$100, a 25% deposit or **\$206.58** will be sought if the charge is imposed.

The deposit is not refundable except in some limited circumstances or may be refundable in part if the final charge is calculated to be less than the deposit paid.

Your electronic payment should be to:

Acc Name: CSIRO Collectors Receipts
 Acc Number: 53-221-1423
 BSB: 082-902
 Description/Reference: FOI2023/32 - Charges

You should also send an email to foi@csiro.au and a copy to csiro-accountsreceivable@csiro.au to confirm a transfer of funds has been made. Please note in your correspondence that the payment was for your FOI request and note my name - *Annabel Kent*.

The time you have to respond and what you need to do

You have 30 days to respond in writing to this notice. We therefore expect a response from you by **19 July 2023**. By that date, you must do one of the following things in writing:

- agree to pay the charge (noting that you will not be entitled to access any requested documents until the full charge (other than any inspection charge) is paid);
- contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed, or should be reduced or not imposed and explain your reasons; or
- withdraw your request.

Please send your response to:

Att: Annabel Kent
FOI@csiro.au

If you do not provide us with a written response by **19 July 2023**, your request will be taken to have been withdrawn.

The period for processing your request is suspended from the day that you receive this notice and resumes on either the day you pay the charge (in full or the required deposit) or the day on which CSIRO makes a decision not to impose a charge.

Questions about this notice

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this notice with us, please contact me.

More information about charges under the FOI Act is available on the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC)'s website, including in Part 4 of OAIC's FOI guidelines: [Part 4 - FOI guidelines - Charges](#).

Yours sincerely,



Annabel Kent
Legal Counsel
CSIRO



1 August 2023

Our ref: FOI2023/32

§ 22 - Excluded from scope by applicant (personal information of FOI applicant)

Email: § 22 - Excluded from scope by applicant (personal information of FOI applicant)

Dear § 22 - Excluded from scope by applicant

NOTICE OF DECISION - FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI2023/32

I refer to your request submitted under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) on 26 April 2023.

I am an authorised decision maker under section 23 of the FOI Act. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with written notice of my decision and reasons for the decision, in response to your FOI request.

Processing background

On 26 April 2023, you submitted your FOI request via email, requesting access to -

all email correspondence between CSIRO employees of Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness (including the former Australian Animal Health Laboratory) and:

1. § 47F (personal privacy) of China's Academy of Military Medical Science (aka State Key Laboratory of Pathogen and Biosecurity or Beijing Institute of Microbiology and Epidemiology).
2. § 47F (personal privacy) of Wuhan Institute of Virology

Known email addresses are: § 47F (personal privacy)

This request is for correspondence between 1/1/2011 and 31/12/2015.

On 27 April 2023, I wrote to you to acknowledge receipt of your request.

On 19 May 2023, I wrote to you to advise you of the processing work that had been undertaken in response to your request, including extensive searches and a preliminary review of potentially

relevant documents, which numbered over 1,000 documents. Duplicates and irrelevant documents had been removed from the relevant package.

First charge notice

On 23 May 2023, I provided you with a notice under section 29 of the FOI Act in relation to preliminary assessment of charges, which included references to 327 potentially relevant documents or an estimated 900 pages of relevant material, and the expected need to consult with multiple third parties.

On 24 May 2023, you emailed me and requested that CSIRO waive the charges on several grounds, including public interest and financial hardship grounds. You indicated that your primary interest in the documents was linked to work regarding bats and coronavirus.

On 9 June 2023, I wrote to you asking whether you would consider refining your request so that documents to topics other than bats and coronavirus were excluded.

Revised request

On 9 June 2023, you confirmed your willingness to refine the request scope to:

Email correspondence relating to work regarding bats, coronavirus (including SARS CoV) and MERS CoV, dated between 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2015, between CSIRO employees of ACDP/AAHL and:

1. § 47F (personal privacy) of China's Academy of Military Medical Science (aka State Key Laboratory of Pathogen and Biosecurity or Beijing Institute of Microbiology and Epidemiology); and/or
2. § 47F (personal privacy) of Wuhan Institute of Virology

Following the scope refinement request, CSIRO's FOI team worked on removing irrelevant emails from the packages and adjusting the charges calculation. We also arranged for several emails to be translated from Chinese to English before confirming their lack of relevance to your request.

Second charge notice

On 19 June 2023, I emailed you and provided a new charges notice under section 29 of the FOI Act which included a charges assessment based on 160 documents (excluding some large draft attachments).

On 21 June 2023, you emailed me to confirm your request that the charges be waived or reduced on previously stated grounds, providing further information related your claimed public interest grounds.

Processing timeline error

On 23 June 2023, CSIRO's FOI team had completed assessing the waiver request and had decided to waive half the charges based on public interest grounds.

On 26 June 2023, I wrote to you confirming that a notice of decision regarding charges would be provided shortly.

On 29 June 2023, CSIRO's FOI team determined that a decision in response to your request for the charges to be waived, ought likely to have been made and communicated to you by 23 June 2023 (30 days since the original waiver request was received). The second charges notice was likely issued in error and did not add an additional 30 days to the FOI processing clock. Consequently, it was determined that it was likely a deemed refusal decision had been made on 26 June 2023, in accordance with subsection 15AC(3) of the FOI Act. This was because:


- the first charges notice was issued on the 23 May 2023
- CSIRO's decision to your request to waive charges was due on the 23 June 2023 (30 days after the waiver request was made, in accordance with subsection 29(6)); and
- there were 3 days left on the clock after CSIRO's decision was due in relation to your charges meaning that CSIRO's decision in relation to your FOI request was due on the 26 June 2023.

On 29 June 2023, you emailed me to express concerns regarding the delay in processing your request.


On 30 June 2023, I wrote to you apologising for the delay and asking for the opportunity to discuss the matter via telephone. At the same time, CSIRO's FOI team urgently prepared third-party consultation packages and engaged internal scientists who were familiar with the relevant documents to review the documents for any sensitivities. We understood that even if a deemed decision had likely been made, CSIRO needed to complete the processing of the request.

On 3 July 2023, I telephoned you and confirmed my understanding that CSIRO had erred in failing to meet the statutory timeline for processing your request, which likely occurred soon after the second charges notice was erroneously issued and the resulting timing miscalculation. I confirmed that charges no longer applied due to the deemed refusal decision, and I apologised for the error, indicating that CSIRO was working to make a revised decision as quickly as possible. Urgent internal and external consultation with affected parties had commenced.


s 22 - Excluded from scope by applicant (matters not relating to charge decision or waiver)




s 22 - Excluded from scope by applicant (matters not relating to charge decision or waiver)




s 22 - Excluded from scope by applicant (matters not relating to charge decision or waiver)



s 22 - Excluded from scope by applicant (matters not relating to charge decision or waiver)



s 22 - Excluded from scope by applicant (matters not relating to charge decision or waiver)



Rights of Review

In accordance with section 26 of the FOI Act, a statement setting out your rights of review under the FOI Act follows at **Attachment A**.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "akent".

Annabel Kent
Legal Counsel
CSIRO

Attachment A**Review rights**

You are entitled to seek review of this decision.

Internal Review

Firstly, under section 54 of the FOI Act, you may apply for an internal review of the decision. Your application must be made by whichever date is the later between:
30 days of you receiving this notice; or 15 days of you receiving the documents to which you have been granted access.

An internal review will be conducted by a different officer from the original decision-maker. No particular form is required to apply for review although it will assist your case to set out in the application the grounds on which you believe that the original decision should be overturned. An application for a review of the decision should be addressed to: FOI@csiro.au

If you choose to seek an internal review, you will subsequently have a right to apply to the Australian Information Commissioner for a review of the internal review decision.

External review by the Australian Information Commissioner

Alternatively, under 54L of the FOI Act, you may seek review of this decision by the Australian Information Commissioner without first going to internal review. Your application must be made within 60 days of you receiving this notice.

The Information Commissioner is an independent office holder who may review decisions of agencies and Ministers under the FOI Act. More information is available on the Information Commissioner's website www.oaic.gov.au.

You can contact the Information Commissioner to request a review of a decision online or by writing to the Information Commissioner at:

GPO Box 2999
Canberra ACT 2601

Complaints to Ombudsman or Information Commissioner

You may complain to either the Commonwealth Ombudsman or the Information Commissioner about action taken by CSIRO in relation to the application. The Ombudsman will consult with the Information Commissioner before investigating a complaint about the handling of an FOI request.

Your enquiries to the Ombudsman can be directed to:

Phone 1300 362 072 (local call charge)
Email ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au

Your enquiries to the Information Commissioner can be directed to:

Phone 1300 363 992 (local call charge)
Email enquiries@oaic.gov.au

There is no particular form required to make a complaint to the Ombudsman or the Information Commissioner. The request should be in writing and should set out the grounds on which it is considered that the action taken in relation to the request should be investigated and identify CSIRO as the relevant agency.



CSIRO
 csiro.au
 foi@csiro.au
 ABN 41 687 119 230

Our ref: FOI2023/63

§ 22 - Excluded from scope by applicant (personal information of FOI applicant)

Via Email: § 22 - Excluded from scope by applicant (personal information of FOI applicant)

Dear § 22 - Excluded from scope by applicant (personal information of FOI applicant)

Notice of charge pursuant to section 29 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth)

I refer to your request under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 ("FOI Act") on 10 October 2023 for access to:

- 1 Any documents that mention the organization known as "Greenpeace"
- 2 Any documents regarding OGTR application DIR092
- 3 Any documents that mention the 2011 incident where individuals dressed in hazmat gear destroyed experimental crops belonging to CSIRO
- 4 Any documents that mention the CSIRO facility that was located at Ginninderra
- 5 Any documents regarding the specific genetically modified crop that was growing in the facility in Ginninderra in 2011.

On 20 October 2023, you agreed to revise the scope of the request to:

all documents that are specifically about the 2011 incident in which Greenpeace broke into the facility and destroyed crops.

I am writing to advise you of my decision that you are liable to pay a charge in respect of the processing of your request.

I am the officer authorised under section 23(1) of the FOI Act to make decisions in relation to FOI requests.

Decision

In accordance with section 29 of the FOI Act and the *Freedom of Information Charges Regulations 1982*, my preliminary assessment of the charge you are liable to pay is **\$1544.83**.

Basis for my preliminary assessment of the charge

I have assessed the work that CSIRO would need to do to process your request and have calculated the following breakdown of charges:

Document estimate	
Approximate number of relevant documents and pages	905

PROCESSING CHARGES		
Search and retrieval		
Task	Time	Cost @ \$15/hr
Search and retrieval of relevant electronic and registry files & Search and retrieval of relevant pages in file and preparation of schedule of documents	9.733	146.00
A. Search and retrieval subtotal	9.733	146.00
Decision making		
Task	Time	Cost @ \$20/hr
Examination of documents (3 mins per page)	45.25	905.00
Consultation with third parties	0	0
Preparation of documents for release (2 mins per page for redactions)	27.15	543.00
Preparation of notice of access decision (2 hours for decision)	2.54	50.83
<i>Decision making subtotal (before deduction of 5 hours)</i>	<i>74.94</i>	<i>1,498.83</i>
B. Decision making subtotal (after deduction of first 5 hours free)	69.94	1,398.83

ACCESS AND DELIVERY CHARGES		
	Time (hours)	Cost
Photocopying charges (@ 10 cents per page)		
C. Access and delivery charges subtotal		

I note that since I will provide the documents relevant to your request, electronically, there will be no delivery/postage fee.

ESTIMATED TOTALS AND DEPOSIT	
ESTIMATED TOTAL (total of A, B and C)	\$1,544.83
REQUIRED DEPOSIT	\$386.21

Your right to contend the charge

Under the FOI Act, you have the right to contend that the charge:

- has been wrongly assessed, or
- should be reduced, or
- should not be imposed.

In deciding whether a charge should be reduced or not imposed, CSIRO's FOI decision maker must take into account:

- i. whether payment of the charge, or part of it, would cause you financial hardship and;

- ii. whether giving access to the document[s] is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public
- iii. any other relevant matter.

Payment of a deposit

As the charge exceeds \$100, a 25% deposit, namely, **\$386.21** will be sought if the charge is imposed.

The deposit is not refundable except in some limited circumstances or may be refundable in part if the final charge is less than the deposit paid.

Your electronic payment should be to:

Acc Name: CSIRO Collectors Receipts
Acc Number: 53-221-1423
BSB: 082-902
Description/Reference: FOI2023/63 - Charges

You should also send an email to foi@csiro.au and a copy to csiro-accountsreceivable@csiro.au to confirm a transfer of funds has been made. Please note in your correspondence that the payment was for your FOI request and note my name Mitchell Tucker.

The time you have to respond and what you need to do

You have 30 days to respond in writing to this notice. We therefore expect a response from you by **11 December 2023**. By that date, you must do one of the following things in writing:

- agree to pay the charge (this will mean that you will not be entitled to access the requested documents until the full charge (other than any inspection charge) is paid);
- contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed, or should be reduced or not imposed and explain your reasons;
- withdraw your request.

Please send your response to:

Att: Mitchell Tucker
foi@csiro.au

If you do not provide us with a written response by __ December 2023 your request will be taken to have been withdrawn.

The period for processing your request is suspended from the day that you receive this notice and resumes on either the day you pay the charge (in full or the required deposit) or the day on which CSIRO makes a decision not to impose a charge.

Questions about this notice

CSIRO
Australia's National Science Agency

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this notice with us, please contact me.

More information about charges under the FOI Act is available on the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner's website: [What charges may apply? | Office of the Australian Information Commissioner \(OAIC\)](#)

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mitchell Tucker', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Mitchell Tucker
Legal Counsel



Our ref: FOI2024/35

s 22 - Excluded from scope by applicant
 (personal information of FOI applicant)

Dear s 22 - Excluded from
 scope by applicant
 (personal information),

Notice of charge pursuant to section 29 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth)

I refer to your request under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* ("FOI Act") on 17 May 2024 for access to:

1. *All draft versions of the CSIRO's submission(s) to the Chubb review / Independent Review of Australian Carbon Credit Units (hereafter 'Chubb review') in 2022.*
2. *Documents* from 15 September 2022 to 10 October 2022 inclusive containing internal discussions or commentary about the substance and/or scope of the CSIRO's submission to the Chubb review, including while that submission was still in draft form.*
3. *Documents* relating to any contact that occurred from 1 October 2022 to 31 October 2022 inclusive:*
 - a. *between the CSIRO and the Clean Energy Regulator about the ERF/ACCU scheme methods, FullCAM, the Chubb review, and/or the CSIRO's submission to the Chubb review, as well as any documents* made in preparation for, during, or following any such contact (for example, in relation to the meeting on 7 October 2022 referenced in Document 7 in FOI 2024/24); and/or*
 - b. *between CSIRO staff and the Chubb review secretariat and/or Chubb review panellists specifically about the CSIRO's submission to the Chubb review (i.e. please exclude any generic administrative communications that the secretariat sent to stakeholders).*
4. *With reference to Document 6 in FOI 2024/24, any documents* relating to the "10.30 call" and/or the "mechanisms" to be "put in place for more senior level visibility and oversight in [the CSIRO's] relationship" with the Clean Energy Regulator about any of the following topics: the ERF/ACCU scheme methods, FullCAM, and/or the Chubb review.*

** including, but not limited to, emails, letters, briefs, phone calls, text messages, handwritten notes, meeting notes/minutes, diary records, and messages/documents exchanged via electronic communication platforms.*

I am writing to advise you of my decision that you are liable to pay a charge in respect of the processing of your request.

I am the officer authorised under section 23(1) of the FOI Act to make decisions in relation to FOI requests.

Decision

In accordance with section 29 of the FOI Act and the *Freedom of Information Charges Regulations 1982*, my preliminary assessment of the charge you are liable to pay is **\$643.00**.

Basis for my preliminary assessment of the charge

I have assessed the work that CSIRO would need to do to process your request and have calculated the following breakdown of charges:

Document estimate		
Approximate number of relevant documents and pages	Over 60 documents totalling over 440 pages	
PROCESSING CHARGES		
Search and retrieval		
Task	Time	Cost @ \$15/hr
Search and retrieval of relevant electronic and registry files & Search and retrieval of relevant pages in file and preparation of schedule of documents	7.5	
A. Search and retrieval subtotal		\$45.00
Decision making		
Task	Time	Cost @ \$20/hr
Examination of documents (3 mins per page) - approximate	22	
Consultation with third parties		
Preparation of documents for release (2 mins per page for redactions) - approximate	10	
Preparation of notice of access decision (3 hours for decision)	3	
<i>Decision making subtotal (before deduction of 5 hours)</i>	35	\$698.00
B. Decision making subtotal (after deduction of first 5 hours free)		\$598.00

I note that since I will provide the documents relevant to your request, electronically, there will be no delivery/postage fee.

ESTIMATED TOTALS AND DEPOSIT	
ESTIMATED TOTAL	\$643.00
REQUIRED DEPOSIT (25%)	\$160.75

Your right to contend the charge

Under the FOI Act, you have the right to contend that the charge:

- has been wrongly assessed, or
- should be reduced, or
- should not be imposed.

In deciding whether a charge should be reduced or not imposed, CSIRO's FOI decision maker must take into account:

- i. whether payment of the charge, or part of it, would cause you financial hardship and;
- ii. whether giving access to the document[s] is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public
- iii. any other relevant matter.

Payment of a deposit

As the charge exceeds \$100, a 25% deposit, namely, **\$160.75** will be sought if the charge is imposed.

The deposit is not refundable except in some limited circumstances or may be refundable in part if the final charge is less than the deposit paid.

Your electronic payment should be to:

Acc Name: CSIRO Collectors Receipts
Acc Number: 53-221-1423
BSB: 082-902
Description/Reference: FOI2024/35 - Charges

You should also send an email to foi@csiro.au and a copy to csiro-accountsreceivable@csiro.au to confirm a transfer of funds has been made. Please note in your correspondence that the payment was for your FOI request and note my name.

The time you have to respond and what you need to do

You have 30 days to respond in writing to this notice. We therefore expect a response from you by **Monday 15 July 2024**. By that date, you must do one of the following things in writing:

- agree to pay the charge (this will mean that you will not be entitled to access the requested documents until the full charge (other than any inspection charge) is paid);
- contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed, or should be reduced or not imposed and explain your reasons;
- withdraw your request.

If you do not provide us with a written response by 15 July 2024 your request will be taken to have been withdrawn.

The period for processing your request is suspended from the day that you receive this notice and resumes on either the day you pay the charge (in full or the required deposit) or the day on which CSIRO makes a decision not to impose a charge.

Questions about this notice

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this notice with us, please contact me.

More information about charges under the FOI Act is available from the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner's website: [What charges may apply? | Office of the Australian Information Commissioner \(OAIC\)](#)

CSIRO
Australia's National Science Agency

Yours sincerely,

Alex Briggs

Alex Briggs
Senior Legal Counsel



26 June 2024

Our ref: FOI2024/35

s 22 - Excluded from scope by applicant (personal information of FOI applicant)

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – DECISION FOI2024/35

Your request

On 17 May 2024, you sought access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) to:

1. *All draft versions of the CSIRO's submission(s) to the Chubb review / Independent Review of Australian Carbon Credit Units (hereafter 'Chubb review') in 2022.*
2. *Documents* from 15 September 2022 to 10 October 2022 inclusive containing internal discussions or commentary about the substance and/or scope of the CSIRO's submission to the Chubb review, including while that submission was still in draft form.*
3. *Documents* relating to any contact that occurred from 1 October 2022 to 31 October 2022 inclusive:*
 - a. *between the CSIRO and the Clean Energy Regulator about the ERF/ACCU scheme methods, FullCAM, the Chubb review, and/or the CSIRO's submission to the Chubb review, as well as any documents* made in preparation for, during, or following any such contact (for example, in relation to the meeting on 7 October 2022 referenced in Document 7 in FOI 2024/24); and/or*
 - b. *between CSIRO staff and the Chubb review secretariat and/or Chubb review panellists specifically about the CSIRO's submission to the Chubb review (i.e. please exclude any generic administrative communications that the secretariat sent to stakeholders).*
4. *With reference to Document 6 in FOI 2024/24, any documents* relating to the "10.30 call" and/or the "mechanisms" to be "put in place for more senior level visibility and oversight in [the CSIRO's] relationship" with the Clean Energy Regulator about any of the following topics: the ERF/ACCU scheme methods, FullCAM, and/or the Chubb review.*

** including, but not limited to, emails, letters, briefs, phone calls, text messages, handwritten notes, meeting notes/minutes, diary records, and messages/documents exchanged via electronic communication platforms.*

Please exclude the following from the scope of the request: personal information of third parties and junior officers, documents previously provided to ACF under the FOI Act, and publicly available information.

On 17 June 2024, charges were issued and following consultation you amended the scope of your request to:

1. *A copy of the draft version of the CSIRO's submission to the Chubb review / Independent Review of Australian Carbon Credit Units (hereafter 'Chubb review') as it stood on 3 October 2022 by close of business, as well as all draft versions of the CSIRO's submission(s) to the Chubb review thereafter.*
2. *Documents* from 4 October 2022 to 10 October 2022 inclusive containing internal discussions or commentary about the substance and/or scope of the CSIRO's submission to the Chubb review, including while that submission was still in draft form.*
3. *Documents* relating to any contact that occurred from 1 October 2022 to 31 October 2022 inclusive:*
 - a. *between the CSIRO and the Clean Energy Regulator about the ERF/ACCU scheme methods, FullCAM, the Chubb review, and/or the CSIRO's submission to the Chubb review, as well as any documents* made in preparation for, during, or following any such contact (for example, in relation to the meeting on 7 October 2022 referenced in Document 7 in FOI 2024/24); and/or*
 - b. *between CSIRO staff and the Chubb review secretariat and/or Chubb review panellists specifically about the CSIRO's submission to the Chubb review (i.e. please exclude any generic administrative communications that the secretariat sent to stakeholders).*
4. *With reference to Document 6 in FOI 2024/24, any documents* relating to the "10.30 call" and/or the "mechanisms" to be "put in place for more senior level visibility and oversight in [the CSIRO's] relationship" with the Clean Energy Regulator about any of the following topics: the ERF/ACCU scheme methods, FullCAM, and/or the Chubb review.*

Decision maker

I am an authorised decision maker under section 23 of the FOI Act. This letter sets out my decision and reasons for the decision in relation to your application.

Decision

Charges


Following initial review of the documents that were captured by your request, a decision to issue a request for charges was sent to you on 17 June 2024. During the consultation process, you requested that the scope of your request be amended, and that charges be reviewed based on the amended scope.

After conducting a review of the documents captured by your amended request, it was decided that charges are no longer applicable. Therefore we have withdrawn the request for charges.

s 22 - Excluded from scope by applicant (matters not relating to charge decision or waiver)



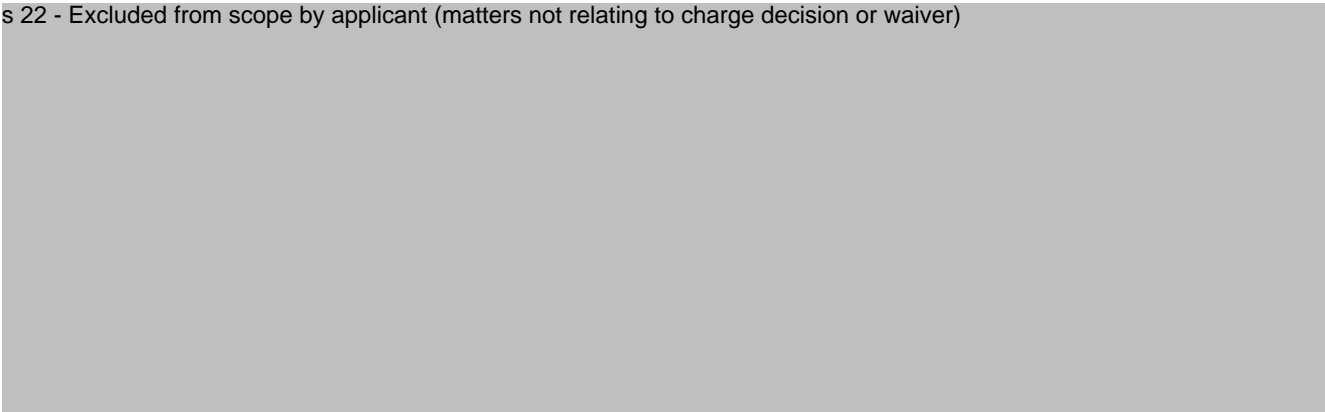
s 22 - Excluded from scope by applicant (matters not relating to charge decision or waiver)



s 22 - Excluded from scope by applicant (matters not relating to charge decision or waiver)



s 22 - Excluded from scope by applicant (matters not relating to charge decision or waiver)



Rights of Review

In accordance with section 26 of the FOI Act, a statement setting out your rights of review under the FOI Act follows at **Attachment A**.

Yours sincerely

Alex Briggs

Alex Briggs
Senior Legal Counsel

Attachment A**Review rights**

You are entitled to seek review of this decision.

Internal Review

Firstly, under section 54 of the FOI Act, you may apply for an internal review of the decision. Your application must be made by whichever date is the later between:

30 days of you receiving this notice; or 15 days of you receiving the documents to which you have been granted access.

An internal review will be conducted by a different officer from the original decision-maker. No particular form is required to apply for review although it will assist your case to set out in the application the grounds on which you believe that the original decision should be overturned. An application for a review of the decision should be addressed to:

FOI@csiro.au

If you choose to seek an internal review, you will subsequently have a right to apply to the Australian Information Commissioner for a review of the internal review decision.

External review by the Australian Information Commissioner

Alternatively, under 54L of the FOI Act, you may seek review of this decision by the Australian Information Commissioner without first going to internal review. Your application must be made within 60 days of you receiving this notice.

The Information Commissioner is an independent office holder who may review decisions of agencies and Ministers under the FOI Act. More information is available on the Information Commissioner's website www.oaic.gov.au.

You can contact the Information Commissioner to request a review of a decision online using the link [Contact us | OAIC](#) or by writing to the Information Commissioner at:

GPO Box 2999
Canberra ACT 2601

Complaints to Ombudsman or Information Commissioner

You may complain to either the Commonwealth Ombudsman or the Information Commissioner about action taken by CSIRO in relation to the application. The Ombudsman will consult with the Information Commissioner before investigating a complaint about the handling of an FOI request.

Your enquiries to the Ombudsman can be directed to:

Phone 1300 362 072 (local call charge)

Email ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au

Your enquiries to the Information Commissioner can be directed to:

Phone 1300 363 992 (local call charge)

Online via link: [Contact us | OAIC](#)

There is no particular form required to make a complaint to the Ombudsman or the Information Commissioner. The request should be in writing and should set out the grounds on which it is considered that the action taken in relation to the request should be investigated and identify CSIRO as the relevant agency.