

## **RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT 2009**

## **Application for Assessed Disclosure**

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# Information about assessed disclosure under the Right To Information Act 2009

#### **Object of the Act**

Section 3 of the Act includes this statement of the objects of the Act:

- (1) The object of this Act is to improve democratic government in Tasmania
  - (a) by increasing the accountability of the executive to the people of Tasmania; and
  - (b) by increasing the ability of the people of Tasmania to participate in their governance; and
  - **(c)** by acknowledging that information collected by public authorities is collected for and on behalf of the people of Tasmania and is the property of the State.
- **(2)** This object is to be pursued by giving members of the public the right to obtain information held by public authorities and Ministers.
- (3) This object is also to be pursued by giving members of the public the right to obtain information about the operations of Government.
- (4) It is the intention of Parliament -
  - (a) that this Act be interpreted so as to further the object set out in subsection (1); and
  - **(b)** that discretions conferred by this Act be exercised so as to facilitate and promote, promptly and at the lowest reasonable cost, the provision of the maximum amount of official information.

#### **Applications for assessed disclosure**

♦ Applications are to be addressed to:

Right to Information Officer Break O'Day Council 32-34 Georges Bay Esplanade ST HELENS TAS 7216

- Applications are to be made in writing and include the information required by Regulation 4 of the *Right to Information Regulations 2010*.
- Applications are to be accompanied by the application fee. This fee is 25 fee units (\$1.78 unit fee), which is \$55.85 as at 1 July 2023 and indexed annually.
- ♦ An applicant can apply for the application fee to be waived where the applicant is a Member of Parliament in the pursuit of their official duty; where the application is impecunious; and where the information sought is intended to be used for a purpose that is of general public interest or benefit.

### Responsibilities of the public authority

- Applicants are to be notified of the decision of an application for assessed disclosure within 20 working days of the application being accepted by the public authority.
- ♦ Before the application is accepted, the public authority has a maximum of 10 working days to negotiate with the applicant to further define the application.
- If a need to consult with a third party arises, a further 20 working days will be allowed in addition to the original 20 days.
- If these time limits are not conformed with, the application will be deemed to be refused and the applicant may apply to the Ombudsman for a review of that decision.