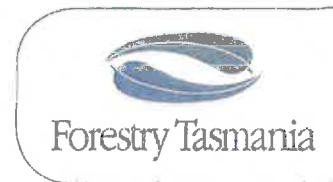


Phone: (03) 6235 8106
Your Ref:
Our File: F60757/37 (RTI15/3)



4 June 2015

Mr Stewart Hoyt

Dear Mr Hoyt

Right to Information (RTI) Assessed Disclosure Application – RTI15/3

I refer to your *Right to Information Act 2009* application for assessed disclosure for the following:

“Copies of any correspondence, including emails, file notes of conversations or minutes of meetings between Forestry Tasmania and any of the following parties in relation to the proposed forestry operations in coupe FD053a at Lapoinya:

- *The Minister for Resources, Hon Paul Harriss MHA*
- *The Treasurer, Hon Peter Gutwein MHA*
- *The Minister for the Environment, Hon Matthew Groom MHA*
- *Officers of the Forest Practices Authority*
- *Officers of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment*
- *Officers of Waratah-Wynyard Council, including councillors and council staff*
- *Officers of SCS Global Services or the Forestry Stewardship Council*

Copies of any reports or other documentation including emails, file notes of conversations or minutes of meetings in relation to coupe FD053a at Lapoinya including, but not limited to:

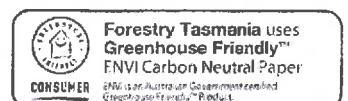
- *Draft Forest Practices Plans*
- *Natural values assessments*
- *Economic assessments, including any cost benefit analysis*
- *Ecological surveys (including fauna and flora)*
- *Cultural heritage surveys*
- *Documents relating to the Review as referred to by Suzette Weeding in her email dated 23 December 2014 sent to Barbara and Stewart Hoyt”*

As you would appreciate there is a large volume of information that meets the terms of your request. As you have asked for this information to be made available electronically, this has required considerable time to manually scan and then compile onto the enclosed DVD the extensive coupe file information and correspondence relating to your request.



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You will note that some information has been redacted in these documents – this has been done to protect personal information of individuals outside Forestry Tasmania.

In relation to correspondence with the Minister for Resources, the Hon Paul Harriss and Forestry Tasmania, I have identified a number of documents that fall within your request. Of these documents, I am releasing to you all emails between the two offices relating to coupe FD053A at Lapoinya. The remainder of the identified documents are Briefing Notes and Question Time Briefs that I believe to be exempt under Section 27(1) “Internal briefing information of a Minister” as they consist of opinions and advice prepared for the purpose of providing a Minister with a briefing, or are a record of deliberations that occurred for this purpose. While not releasing these documents, I note that the emails I have attached are consistent with the advice provided to the Minister.

I also believe three documents contained in the coupe file are exempt under Section 42(c) “Information likely to affect cultural, heritage and natural resources of the State”. These documents contain sensitive information in the regard to the location of Aboriginal sites. To protect this information, these documents have not been provided.

In regard to your request for copies of economic assessments relating to the coupe, I believe this information is exempt under Section 38(a)(ii) “Information relating to business affairs of public authority” and therefore will not be released. Forestry Tasmania considers any economic assessment to be commercial-in-confidence because disclosure of specific harvest, cartage, roading or product costs would jeopardise our ability to negotiate competitive future contracts with customers and contractors. I do not believe the release of this information serves any public interest and I consider that its disclosure would harm Forestry Tasmania in any future commercial dealings.

I have also not included copies of emails received by Forestry Tasmania from members of the community in regard to the planned harvesting of coupe FD053A, as I believe that you will already have copies of much of this material. However, if you would like copies of these emails please contact Ms Tamika Mayne on 6235 8106 and we will start third party consultation with the individuals who wrote the emails.

If you are dissatisfied with my decision, you have the right to seek a review under Section 43 of the Right to Information Act 2009. You may do this by writing to the Chief Executive Officer at the address on this letterhead within 20 working days of receipt of this letter.

Yours sincerely



James Shevlin
Executive General Manager,
Communications and Stakeholder Engagement
Designated RTI Officer