



Lisa Cox
The Guardian Australia
Level 8, 51 Queen Street
Melbourne, VIC 3000

Dear Ms Cox,

I am writing to you regarding FOI requests 180615 and 190102, our decisions in relation to those requests, and to bring your attention some information that was inadvertently released in the course of those decisions.

Disclosure of bird identification information

Documents were released under FOI 180615 and FOI 190102 which disclose bird ring and band numbers used to identify bird specimens (bird identification information).

Subsequent to those decisions, and following discussions with stakeholders (both internal and external), the Department has formed the view that the public release of this information could facilitate fraudulent export applications and would, or would be reasonably likely to, prejudice the effectiveness of the Department's methods or procedures of preventing and detecting breaches or evasions of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

For this reason, the Department would not have released the bird identification information if the stakeholder input had been available at the time those decisions were made. I have **attached** to this letter a revised version of the documents which redact the information in question. These redactions are marked in blue.

Disclosure of sensitive information

Additionally, documents were released as part of FOI 180615, which contain personal information, such as birth dates and name, and confidential business information. As with the bird identification information, the Department has formed the view that this information is more sensitive than it originally considered. I have **attached** a revised version of the documents which redact the information in question (marked in blue).

While we understand that the FOI decisions have already been made, and that you are under no obligation to follow the Department's wishes, we kindly request that you either:

- destroy the documents that the Department has previously released to you and instead use the redacted documents attached to this letter; or
- otherwise ensure that the information in question (bird identification information, personal information and confidential business information) is not further disclosed or made publicly available.

The Department's concern in making this request is to protect the above information from further disclosure, not to prevent you from making use of the documents for other purposes.

We are grateful for your consideration of these matters.

If you have questions in relation to this matter, please contact the FOI Contact Officer on (02) 6274 2098 or, by email, at foi@environment.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Paul Murphy
Assistant Secretary
Wildlife Trade and Biosecurity Branch

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