

21 December 2023

The Honourable Dean Winter MP
Member for Franklin
Parliament House
HOBART TAS 7000

By email only: celeste.miller@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Sir,

APPLICATION FOR ASSESSED DISCLOSURE – MINISTERIAL BRIEFING INFORMATION – DETERMINATION

I refer to your application for assessed disclosure dated 27 November 2023 (**Application**) made pursuant to section 13 of the *Right to Information Act 2019* (Tas) (**RTI Act**).

1. Power to determine Application

In accordance with section 21(1)(c) of the RTI Act, I have assessed and determined the Application in my capacity as a delegated officer (see section 24 of the RTI Act).

2. Your Request

The Application originally requested copies of the following information:

“All Ministerial Brief information provided to Ministers in preparation for 2023 GBE hearings for:

- a. Tasmanian Networks Pty Ltd*
- b. Hydro Tasmania*
- c. Tasracing Pty Ltd*
- d. Tasmanian Railways Pty Ltd*
- e. Tasmanian Ports Corporation Pty Ltd*
- f. Aurora Energy Pty Ltd”*

As advised in our letter to you of 6 December 2023, Hydro Tasmania (Hydro) does not hold any of the requested information with respect to the other five named organisations and can only address the Application insofar as it concerns Hydro.

As a result of consultation between Hydro and your offices (culminating in an email from your office dated 15 December 2023), the scope of information sought by the Application has been refined to the following:

Ministerial Brief information provided to Hydro's Minister in preparation for 2023 GBE hearings concerning the following topics:

*Basslink;
Onerous contracts;
Buy local and consultant spend;
Board and associated spend;
Energy in Tasmania;
Energy availability in Tasmania;
North West Transmission Development (NWTD) 118;
Gas generation in Tasmania 119;
Tamar Valley Power Station 122;
Hydrogen 126;
Tasmanian electricity pricing 128;
Major industrial customers 132;
Renewable Energy Guarantee of Origin (REGOs) 135;
Storages and generations Maugean Skate 198; and
Great Lake Adventure Trail.*

(here referred to as the **Revised Request**).

3. Searches

Hydro's records have been searched for information which comes within the scope of the Revised Request and was in the possession of Hydro as at the date of the Application (i.e. 27 November 2023). That search has identified numerous documents which I will refer to collectively in this determination as the '**Identified Information**'.

4. Determination and Disclosure

Having considered both the exemptions in the RTI Act and other matters that I deem relevant, I have determined to disclose all the Identified Information in response to the Application. See attached copies of the Identified Information; please let me know if you encounter any difficulties accessing that information.

Should you have any questions regarding the information provided please contact the undersigned. As the Application has been addressed in full, this matter is considered closed.



Sharlene Brown
Head of Legal Services
e Sharlene.Brown@hydro.com.au
t 61 3 62 402243