

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FeedbackRTIandprivacy](#)
Subject: RTI submission
Date: Friday, 3 February 2017 12:33:58 PM

Dear People,

I must apologise for the amateur response here to your consultation process, as I only learned of this submission possibility two days ago. Having looked over the supporting documents it is clear that I do not have the professional experience to know how the different points will affect the RTI. On the other hand, I would like to make the following comments in the hope that more transparency and speedier application processes will be encouraged by the changes you make to the Act.

-We would like to support a more proactive disclosure of information from all government departments. Many of them have a culture of restricting public access to various documents that has to be overcome by new requirements.

-We strongly support the setting up of a 'single stop' public record on line location to reduce the need to apply for RTIs. Disclosure logs should be expanded to include more categories, and be publicly available.

-We also strongly support the emphasis on the Public Interest over the non-disclosure based on "commercial-in-confidence" clauses. These are often used to abuse the transparency and access of the public to documents that are not actual "trade secrets"--the only reason for restricting access for commercial reasons.

-We hope you will encourage more public hearings for all development proposals, as the 'consultation process' is often done in a way that doesn't adequately engage the public with the information that might be affecting their futures.

--Yes, disclosure requirements should be extended to include Councils and Universities. These are both the 'pointy end' of our democracy, and should be made to be more transparent and accessible to the public.

-While QCAT may be over burdened by increased use over RTI issues, the OCI needs to be strengthened if it is to keep the load from being shifted to QCAT. There does need to be the ability for the review to not be limited to the legal technicalities but the overall public interest issues.

-Fewer exemption information categories should be instituted.

All of these suggestions are to reinforce the "push model" of disclosure by government agencies, over the historical "pull model" that necessitated individual actions to gain information that should be made available more freely.

The errors in terminology are mine, but I trust the emphasis is clear.

Respectfully,
Jonathan Peter

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