

## INFORMATION REGARDING APPLICATIONS FOR ASSESSED DISCLOSURE UNDER THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT 2009 (Tasmania)

The *Right to Information Act 2009 (Tasmania)* ("the Act") provides a right for the public to obtain information in the possession of the government and public authorities

As of July 1 2010, the *Right to Information Act 2009 (Tasmania)* ("the Act") replaces the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* which has been repealed. The Act provides a right for the public to obtain information in the possession of the government and public authorities. Hydro Tasmania is a public authority under the Act.

Section 7 of the Act gives any person a legally enforceable right to be provided with information in the possession of a public authority or a Minister, provided that it is not exempt information. The Act promotes the proactive release of information by public authorities and Ministers.

There are four types of disclosure under the Act – required disclosure, routine disclosures, active disclosures and assessed disclosures. This document deals with applications for assessed disclosure.

### 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 the **RTI Officer and Corporation Secretary** and addressed as follows:

<b>email:</b>	<a href="mailto:corporation.secretary@hydro.com.au">corporation.secretary@hydro.com.au</a>
<b>street:</b>	RTI Officer and Corporation Secretary Hydro Electric Corporation 4 Elizabeth Street Hobart TAS 7000 Australia
<b>postal:</b>	RTI Officer and Corporation Secretary Hydro Electric Corporation GPO Box 355 Hobart TAS 7001 Australia

Applications are to be made in writing and include the information required by Regulation 4 of the *Right to Information Regulations 2010 (Tasmania)*. That information is:

- a) the name of the applicant;
- b) the address of the applicant, for communication on matters relating to the application;
- c) the daytime contact details of the applicant;
- d) the general topic of the application;
- e) details of the information sought by the applicant;
- f) details of any efforts undertaken by the applicant, before the application was made, to obtain the information sought;
- g) the date of the application; and
- h) the signature of the applicant.
- i) if the application includes a request for personal information of the applicant, proof of identity of the applicant.

The application must be accompanied by the application fee or contain a request for a fee waiver.

The application form attached to this document satisfies the requirements in this section.

### Application fee

Applications are to be accompanied by the application fee. This fee is 25 fee units, which is **\$47.75** (current as at 1 July 2025) and is indexed annually.

The fee can be paid by bank cheque or personal cheque made payable to "Hydro-Electric Corporation", or by electronic funds transfer using the following details:

<b>Account name:</b>	<b>Hydro-Electric Corporation</b>
<b>BSB:</b>	<b>037-001</b>
<b>Account number:</b>	<b>31 7228</b>
<b>Swift Code:</b>	<b>WPACAU2SXXX</b>
<b>Reference:</b>	<b>RTI [your surname]</b>

## Request for waiver of application fee

An applicant can apply for the application fee to be waived where:

- a) the applicant is a Member of Parliament in the pursuit of their official duty;
- b) the applicant is impecunious; and
- c) the information sought is intended to be used for a purpose that is of general public interest or benefit.

Applicants are encouraged to specify in their application whether they are seeking a waiver of the fee, and the basis upon which that request is made. Any decision on whether to waive the fee is at the discretion of Hydro Tasmania. It should be noted that an application for assessed disclosure must not be accepted unless the application fee has been paid, or waived.

## Hydro Tasmania's responsibilities

- Before the application is accepted, Hydro Tasmania has a maximum of 10 working days to negotiate with the applicant to further define the application.
- Applicants are to be notified of the decision regarding an application for assessed disclosure within 20 working days of the application being accepted by Hydro Tasmania.
- 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 Tasmanian Ombudsman for a review of that decision.

### OMBUDSMAN VICTORIA CONTACT DETAILS

phone	1800 001 170 (Free call from a landline nationally, but call charges may apply from a mobile phone or pay phone)
email	<a href="mailto:ombudsman@ombudsman.tas.gov.au">ombudsman@ombudsman.tas.gov.au</a>
street	NAB House, Level 6, 86 Collins Street, Hobart
postal	GPO Box 960 Hobart 7001

## Useful links

Further information regarding RTI legislation and obligations generally can be found at the following websites:

Legislation	<a href="https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-2009-070">https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-2009-070</a>
Ombudsman Tasmania – Right to Information Process	<a href="http://www.ombudsman.tas.gov.au/right_to_information/process">http://www.ombudsman.tas.gov.au/right_to_information/process</a>

**RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT 2009 (TASMANIA)**
**Application to Hydro Tasmania for Assessed Disclosure**

Full name:

Postal Address:

Daytime contact information:

*Telephone:*

Business

Home

Mobile

*Email:*

General topic of information applied for:

(one sentence summary of information requested)

Description of efforts made prior to this application to obtain this information:

Application fee included\*:

Yes

No (if no fee is paid, specify  
 in the next section whether a  
 waiver is being sought)

Please include cheque, or where payment is made by direct deposit or electronic funds transfer, a copy of transaction receipt.

NOTE: If no fee is paid and any application for waiver is not successful, your application may not be accepted.

Fees are not refundable.

Application for waiver:

Yes (complete next section)

No

## Basis of application for waiver:

 Member of Parliament Impecunious applicant General public interest or benefit

Please provide any information to support your request for a fee waiver:

If the application concerns the provision of personal information of the application, is proof of identity provided?

 Certified copy of driver's licence Certified copy of passport Other (specify) 

Details of information sought:

(If there is insufficient room in the space provided, please attach further details)

Applicant's signature: Date: 

\* Fees can be paid by cheque payable to Hydro Tasmania or by direct deposit/electronic funds transfer using the following details: **Account name:** Hydro-Electric Corporation, **BSB:** 037-001 **Account number:** 31 7229 **Swift Code:** WPACAU2SXXX **Ref:** (RTI Fee [surname])

Completed applications may be sent by email to [corporation.secretary@hydro.com.au](mailto:corporation.secretary@hydro.com.au) or by mail addressed to the RTI Officer and Corporation Secretary, Hydro Tasmania, GPO Box 355 Hobart 7001 (street address: 4 Elizabeth Street, Hobart 7000)