



A2917296

Treasurer

Level 8

State Administration Centre

200 Victoria Square

Adelaide SA 5000

GPO Box 2264

Adelaide SA 5001

DX 56203 Victoria Square

Tel 08 8226 1866

treasurer.dtf@sa.gov.au

Mr Matt Cowdrey OAM MP
Member for Colton
2A / 130 Valetta Road
FULHAM GARDENS SA 5024

colton@parliament.sa.gov.au

Dear Mr Cowdrey

APPLICATION UNDER THE *FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1991*

I refer to your application made under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (the Act), dated 31 May 2023 and your Internal Review Application dated 5 July 2023.

Your applications seek access to:

“A copy of all documents (including but not limited to hard copy or electronic briefings, minutes, reports, emails, letters (including draft versions), meeting agendas, diary entries and any other correspondence) in relation to credit rating agencies Moody's, Standard & Poor's, and Fitch.”

Determination under review

My office did not make a determination on your initial application within the 30-day time period required by the Act. Accordingly, my office was deemed to have refused access in full to all documents relevant to your application.

Outcome of internal review

Under section 29(3) of the Act, on an application for internal review, as Principal Officer, I may confirm, vary or reverse the determination under review.

I am varying the original determination of a deemed refusal.

An extensive search was conducted within this office, with a total of six (6) documents found that fall within scope of your application:

- I grant you access in full to two (2) documents; copies of which are enclosed.
- I grant you access in part to three (3) documents; copies of which are enclosed.
- I refuse you access in full to one (1) document.

Refused in Full

I have refused access to document 4 under clause 17(c) of Schedule 1 of the Act.

Clause 17 – Parliament Documents

17—Documents subject to contempt etc

A document is an exempt document if it contains matter the public disclosure of which would, but for any immunity of the Crown—

(c) infringe the privilege of Parliament.

Document 4 is a Parliamentary Briefing Note which was prepared specifically for use in Parliament, the disclosure of which would infringe the privilege of Parliament. I have therefore determined exempt this document in full pursuant to clause 17(c) of Schedule 1 to the FOI Act.

Released in Part

I have granted partial access to documents 3, 5 and 6 under clause 6(1) of Schedule 1 of the FOI Act.

Clause 6 – Documents affecting personal affairs

(1) A document is an exempt document if it contains matter the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead).

Information redacted in documents 3, 5 and 6 refers to mobile phone numbers that appear in the email. Whilst the mobile numbers appear in the public servant's signature block, it is difficult to determine whether the mobile number is used solely for work purposes or mixed employment and personal use. The ability for an individual to be contacted outside of their ordinary work hours is unreasonable. Moreover, the Ombudsman has ruled that mobile numbers constitute the personal affairs of the individuals concerned¹. Therefore, in line with the Ombudsman determination, the mobile numbers are exempt pursuant to clause 6(1) of Schedule 1 to the Act.

Please note, in compliance with Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045 - *Disclosure Logs for Non-Personal Information Released through Freedom of Information* (PC045), the Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) is now required to publish a log of all non-personal information released under the Act.

In accordance with this Circular, any non-personal information determined for release as part of this application may be published on the DTF website. A copy of PC045 can be found at the following address: <https://dpc.sa.gov.au/resources-and-publications/premier-and-cabinet-circulars>. Please visit the website for further information.

¹ Ombudsman Reference: 2019/01163; 2019/01165; 2019/01206; 2019/01207 [44]

If you are unhappy with this determination, you are entitled to exercise your rights of external review with the Ombudsman SA. Alternatively, you can apply to the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (SACAT). If you wish to seek a review, you must do so within 30 calendar days of receiving this internal review determination.

For more information about seeking a review, please contact the Ombudsman SA on telephone (08) 8226 8699 or SACAT on 1800 723 767.

Yours sincerely



Hon. Stephen Mullighan MP
Treasurer
Principal Officer

24 July 2023

Schedule of Documents

A2917296 - "A copy of all documents (including but not limited to hard copy or electronic briefings, minutes, reports, emails, letters (including draft versions), meeting agendas, diary entries and any other correspondence) in relation to credit rating agencies Moody's, Standard & Poor's, and Fitch."

Doc. No.	Description of Document	Determination Recommendation	Exemption Clause
1	DRAFT LETTER	Released in full	
2	LETTER	Released in full	
3	EMAIL	Released in part	6(1) - Unreasonable disclosure of personal affairs
4	ATTACHMENT TO DOC 4	Refused in full	17(c) - Disclosure would infringe the privilege of Parliament
5	EMAIL	Released in part	6(1) - Unreasonable disclosure of personal affairs
6	EMAIL	Released in part	6(1) - Unreasonable disclosure of personal affairs

A2746763

Hon. David Speirs MP
Leader of the Opposition
Parliament House
North Terrace
ADELAIDE SA 5000

leaderoftheopposition@parliament.sa.gov.au

Dear Mr Speirs

APPLICATION UNDER THE *FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1991*

I refer to your application made under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (the Act), dated 23 February 2023.

Your application seeks access to:

"Please provide all records and documents, including but not limited to emails, text messages, diary entries, and any other forms of correspondence, that pertain to communication between SAFA and the Treasurer, as well as any correspondence that pertain to communication between SAFA and the Treasurer's Chief of Staff and/or the Minister's advisers and/or administrative staff. Between 21 March 2022 to 19 January 2023."

In accordance with section 18(2) of the Act, on 6 March 2023 the scope of your application was amended to:

'Please provide all records and documents, including but not limited to emails, text messages, diary entries, and any other forms of correspondence from DTF and/or SAFA regarding South Australia's credit ratings, Interstate comparisons of credit ratings, impact of credit rating downgrades and credit rating history for South Australia by any of the following credit rating agencies, Standard and Poor's, Moody's and Fitch. Between 21 March 2022 to 6 March 2023.'

Pursuant to section 23(1)(b) of the FOI Act, I advise that, following an extensive search conducted within this office, I have not been able to locate any documents within scope of your request.

In accordance with Premier and Cabinet Circular PC035 – Proactive disclosure of regularly requested information, Ministers must proactively publish details of overseas travel to the public via departmental websites. Details of the travel will be publicly available at treasury.sa.gov.au/Our-services/proactive-disclosure, subsequent to the reconciliation of expenditure.

No fees and charges are payable for this application.

Should you wish to discuss the above, please contact the Office of the Treasurer on (08) 8226 1866.

Yours sincerely

Elicea Tomlinson
Accredited FOI Officer
Office of the Treasurer

April 2023



Government
of South Australia

A2746763

Hon. David Speirs MP
Leader of the Opposition
Parliament House
North Terrace
ADELAIDE SA 5000

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Yours sincerely



Elicea Tomlinson
Accredited FOI Officer
Office of the Treasurer

4 April 2023

From: [Vernocchi, Alanah \(DTF\)](#)
To: [Tonkin, Kate \(DTF\)](#)
Cc: [Probst, Thomas \(DTF\)](#)
Subject: PBN FOR REVIEW - CREDIT RATINGS
Date: Wednesday, 1 March 2023 3:51:11 PM
Attachments: [9 - Credit Ratings - 270223.docx](#)
[image001.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi Kate,

Please see attached PBN for review prior to going to Tom for final review.

Thanks!

Alanah Vernocchi

Cabinet/Administration Officer | Office of the Treasurer, the Hon. Stephen Mullighan MP

State Administration Centre, Level 8, 200 Victoria Square ADELAIDE SA 5000
t 8226 1802 | m [Clause 6\(1\)](#) | e Alanah.Vernocchi@sa.gov.au | w treasury.sa.gov.au



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Probst, Thomas (DTF)

From: Raymond, Greg (DTF)
Sent: Thursday, 13 October 2022 9:59 AM
To: Persse, Rick (DTF); Pribanic, Tammie (DTF); Atkinson, John (DTF); Probst, Thomas (DTF); Blight, Tricia (DTF)
Cc: Zhang, Pei (DTF)
Subject: Fitch - credit rating
Attachments: Rating Report - State of South Australia (2022).pdf

Hi All

Just FYI – Fitch have released the attached publication that provides some more detailed analysis on South Australia.

Fitch affirmed the AA+ stable credit rating for South Australia in August, following the release of the 22-23 Budget. This publication just provides a more detailed analysis supporting the decision made in August.

Thanks,

Greg Raymond

Director | Revenue & Intergovernmental Relations | Budget and Performance Branch

State Administration Centre, Level 7, 200 Victoria Square ADELAIDE SA 5000

t (08) 842 93193 | m **Clause 6(1)** | e greg.raymond@sa.gov.au | w treasury.sa.gov.au

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Government of South Australia
Department of Treasury
and Finance



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Probst, Thomas (DTF)

From: Raymond, Greg (DTF)
Sent: Friday, 3 March 2023 9:01 AM
To: Atkinson, John (DTF)
Cc: Leyson, Matthew (DTF); Probst, Thomas (DTF); Persse, Rick (DTF); Pribanic, Tammie (DTF); Blight, Tricia (DTF); Zhang, Pei (DTF)
Subject: Moody's - post MYBR update on Australian states
Attachments: Australia-Regional-Governments-02Mar2023-PBC_1358168.pdf

OFFICIAL

Hi John

For your information, Moody's have issued an comment/note on the financial position of state government's following the release of mid-year budgets.

The main themes are that temporary COVID related expenditures (mainly health) are taking longer than expected to be unwound. It also flags the risk that rising interest rates combined with increasing debt burdens (ie debt affordability) could impact the credit profiles of some states over the next four years.

The focus of the note is really on NSW and Victoria. South Australia is not specifically mentioned, but is included in the relevant interstate comparisons.

Regards,

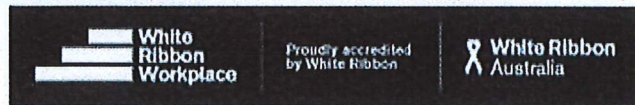
Greg Raymond

Director | Revenue & Intergovernmental Relations | Budget and Performance Branch

State Administration Centre, Level 7, 200 Victoria Square ADELAIDE SA 5000

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