



File: T&F18/0790  
A971511

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7 December 2018

Hon Stephen Mullighan MP  
Member for Lee  
62 Semaphore Road  
SEMAPHORE SA 5019

Sent via email: [lee@parliament.sa.gov.au](mailto:lee@parliament.sa.gov.au)

Dear Mr Mullighan

### Freedom of Information – Inquiries to the Productivity Commission

I refer to your application under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (FOI Act), received by the Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) on 8 November 2018.

Your application specifically requested:

*'All Documents from the Department of Treasury and Finance to the Treasurer's office relating to inquiries of the South Australian Productivity Commission. Date Range - 26/07/2018 - 7/11/2018'*

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of my determination. Two documents were identified as answering the terms of your application and I have determined to release the documents in part. Sections of the document not relevant to the application have been redacted.

Please note, in compliance with Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045 - *Disclosure Logs for Non-Personal Information Released through Freedom of Information* (PC045), DTF is now required to publish a log of all non-personal information released under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991*.

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: <http://dpc.sa.gov.au/what-we-do/services-for-government/premier-and-cabinet-circulars> Please visit the website for further information.

### Appeal Rights

If you are aggrieved with this determination, you have a right to apply for internal review under subsection 29(1) of the FOI Act. Pursuant to subsection 29(2), your application must:

- be in writing
- be addressed to the principal officer, and
- be lodged at an office of DTF, or emailed to [freedomofinformation2@sa.gov.au](mailto:freedomofinformation2@sa.gov.au) within 30 days after the day on which you receive this letter or within such further time as the principal officer may allow.

If you require any further information please phone Natalie Haigh on (08) 8429 0839.

Yours sincerely

  
Matthew Hawkins  
ACCREDITED FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER

## Schedule of Documents

T&F18/0790 - Hon Stephen Mullighan MP - " All Documents from the Department of Treasury and Finance to the Treasurer's office relating to inquiries of the South Australian Productivity Commission. Date Range - 26/07/18 - 7/11/18"

Doc. No.	Date	Description of Document	# of pages	Determination	Exemption Clause
1	7/11/2018	Minute - Correspondence from Master Builders South Australia	4	Released in part	Not relevant
2	7/11/2018	Draft letter of response to Master Builders South Australia	3	Released in part	Not relevant

**MINUTE**



**Government  
of South Australia**  
Department of Treasury  
and Finance

**MINUTES forming ENCLOSURE**

File T&F18/0349

Doc No A956944

To The Treasurer

(Ref: TRS18D2030)

**CORRESPONDENCE FROM MASTER BUILDERS SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

Timing: ROUTINE — For information only

**Recommendations/Issues:** It is recommended that you:

1. Consider and sign the attached draft reply to correspondence from Mr Ian Markos, Chief Executive Officer of Master Builders South Australia.
2. Discuss with the Premier the potential for a future inquiry by the South Australian Productivity Commission into the cost of building regulations.

Approved / Not Approved

Hon Rob Lucas MLC  
Treasurer

/ /

**BACKGROUND**

On 15 October 2018 the Chief Executive Officer of Master Builders South Australia (MBSA) wrote to you expressing concern around declining building approvals for private sector houses.

MBSA also made representations about the economic impact of the residential construction industry, population growth and interstate migration, housing affordability and labour market conditions.

# Out of scope



Out of scope

# Out of scope

**Proposal 3: A South Australian Productivity Commission investigation**

MBSA has proposed an inquiry into building costs by the South Australian Productivity Commission, including taxes. The scope of any Productivity Commission inquiry should be limited to regulatory costs, not extended to taxes. An inquiry would provide an opportunity for a rigorous evaluation of the benefits and costs of a range of building regulations, including the requirement for rainwater tanks (which is a requirement specific to South Australia).

# Out of scope

# Out of scope



David Reynolds  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

7/1/2018

Contact Officer:	Matthew Winefield
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<sup>1</sup> Productivity Commission (2011), *Performance Benchmarking of Australian Business Regulation: Planning, Zoning and Development Assessments*, Research Report, Canberra (p. xxii)

TRS18D2030

Mr Ian Markos  
Chief Executive Officer  
Master Builders Association of South Australia  
47 South Terrace  
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Mr Markos

Thank you for your recent letter about the level of dwelling approvals and construction activity in South Australia.

# Out of scope

Out of scope



# Out of scope

## Out of scope

I will raise with the Premier the possibility of a broader examination into the cost impacts of construction regulation, as a potential future inquiry for the South Australian Productivity Commission (which formally commenced operating in October). I am not inclined to include taxation with the scope of such an inquiry.

# Out of scope

Yours sincerely

**Hon Rob Lucas MLC**  
*Treasurer*

November 2018