

## Question on Notice

No. 665

Asked on 17 May 2018

**MR J LANGBROEK** ASKED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE (HON Y D'ATH) –

### QUESTION:

Will the Attorney-General advise whether the 2013 Ministerial guidelines on the operation of publication schemes and disclosure logs for Right to Information requests are still in place in the original form, or whether they have been reviewed or amended since that time?

### ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Surfers Paradise for his question and his interest in the *Ministerial Guidelines for the Operation of Publication Schemes and Disclosure Logs* (the Ministerial Guidelines).

To support the pro-active release of information, the *Right to Information Act 2009* (RTI Act) requires agencies, other than an excluded agency, to publish a scheme setting out the classes of information it has available and the terms on which it will make information available (publication schemes). Agencies are also required to publish certain information disclosed in applications under the RTI Act (disclosure logs). Publication schemes and disclosure logs must comply with any guidelines published by the Minister.

In 2009, the Ministerial Guidelines were published to ensure that publication schemes and disclosure logs facilitated access to information held by agencies. In 2013 updated Ministerial guidelines were published, to reflect amendments to the disclosure log provisions under the RTI Act.

The Ministerial Guidelines have not been amended since 2013. However, the current disclosure log and publication scheme requirements were considered as part of the *Review of the Right to Information Act 2009 and Information Privacy Act 2009* (the review). On 12 October 2017, I tabled the report of the review in the Parliament. It contains recommendations in relation to the publication scheme and disclosure logs requirements under the RTI Act, implementation of which will reduce the burden on agencies (without compromising the availability of information).

The Government is considering the findings and recommendations of that report, which saw 69 submissions received from a broad cross section of the community including individuals, corporations, media and government agencies. It should be noted that the report found that the primary objective of the RTI Act and the *Information Privacy Act 2009* remain valid.