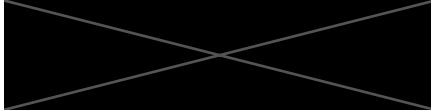


28 August 2025

Our ref: 26T-0120

Mr Jake Coppinger



By email: jake@jakecoppinger.com

Dear Mr Coppinger,

**Notice of decision on your access application under the
Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA Act)**

Applicant:	Mr Jake Coppinger
File reference:	26T-0120
Decision maker:	Melissa Armstrong
Received date:	17 July 2025
Extended due date:	28 August 2025
Date of decision:	28 August 2025

1 Your access application

1.1 On 17 July 2025, Transport for NSW ('TfNSW') received your access application under the GIPA Act for the following information:

'Specifically, I am requesting:

1. electronic copies of documents of "comments" or any other correspondence between TfNSW and Mott MacDonald on 11 February 2025, regarding the Epping Bridge project ('Point 1').

Examples of such documents include but are not limited to:

- Email correspondence*
- Briefing notes*
- Statistical reports*
- Presentations; and*

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- Meeting minutes

2. The previous version of the "Base Year Model Technical Note" document, dated before 17th March 2025 (**Point 2**)

3. The "Base Case Model Calibration and Validation Technical Note" and "Option Testing Technical Note" documents, which appear to be missing in the appendix of the Transport Impact Assessment. I am unsure if the "Base Case Model Calibration" document is the same as the "Base Year Model Technical Note" document. (**Point 3**)

I also request a schedule of documents captured by this request.

If parts of the information are deemed sensitive, I request partial release of documents where possible, in line with Section 6 of the GIPA Act. For example, I do not request telephone numbers and I do not request names of people external to TfNSW (i.e, I do not request names or personal information of any Mott MacDonald employees that may be within this correspondence/documents).'

- 1.2 In the terms of your request received on 17 July 2025 you indicated that you do not require access to telephone numbers together with personal information of third parties, such as names and contact details. I have therefore understood that you do not require access to personal information of third parties, including names, signatures and images and would therefore consent to this personal information being removed from the information for release.
- 1.3 On 31 July 2025, we informed you that we were required to consult third parties in relation to your application. In accordance with section 57(2) of the GIPA Act, we extended the timeframe for deciding your application to 28 August 2025.
- 1.4 In your access application, you indicated a preference for receiving a copy of the document/s, as well as preference for receiving correspondence by email at jake@jakecoppinger.com. Therefore, this Notice is directed to that email address in accordance with your request.

2 Searches for information

- 2.1 Under the GIPA Act, we must conduct reasonable searches to locate the government information for which you have applied.
- 2.2 The following areas of TfNSW have conducted searches:
 - Infrastructure Projects & Engineering ('IPE') Division
 - Public Transport Projects
 - City & North Delivery
 - Planning, Integration & Passenger ('PIP') Division
 - Sydney Integration
 - Integration & Place West
 - North-West Network Management & Development
- 2.3 Searches were conducted by 2 subject matter experts ('SMEs') within TeamBinder, shared drives and Microsoft Outlook. The following key terms were used to conduct searches:

- Epping Bridge Project
- Epping Bridge Technical Note
- Epping Bridge Traffic
- Traffic Modelling

2.4 Information has been identified as falling within the scope of your application.

3 Decision

3.1 I am authorised by the Principal Officer, for the purposes of section 9(3) of the GIPA Act, to decide your access application.

3.2 I have decided to provide access to the information under section 58(1)(a).

3.3 Please see below a summary of my decision:

Item Ref.	Information	Act Ref.	Access
1 (pg 1)	Email from TfNSW to Mott Macdonald, dated 11 February 2025 (Point 1) Information not relevant to the information applied for has been deleted pursuant to section 74	s58(1)(a), s74	Full
2 (pg 2-3)	Email from TfNSW to Mott Macdonald, dated 11 February 2025 (Point 1) Information not relevant to the information applied for has been deleted pursuant to section 74	s58(1)(a), s74	Full
3 (pg 3-72)	Base Year Technical Note, dated 25 July 2025 (Point 2)	s58(1)(a)	Full
4 (pg 73-119)	Options Testing Technical Note, dated 9 April 2025 (Point 3)	s58(1)(a)	Full

3.4 Under section 74 of the GIPA Act, when providing access to a copy of a record in response to an access application, TfNSW can delete information from the copy of the record which is not relevant to the information applied for.

3.5 Items 1 and 2 contain administrative details regarding Microsoft Teams meetings on 11 February 2025. I have understood that you seek information evidencing communications between TfNSW and Mott Macdonald in relation to the Epping Bridge Project on 11 February 2025. I therefore consider that ancillary administrative information created for the purposes of facilitating a meeting is not relevant to the

terms of your request. I have therefore marked this information as ‘out of scope’ in accordance with section 74 of the GIPA Act.

4 Reasons for Decision

4.1 Under section 9(1) of the GIPA Act, you have a legally enforceable right to access the information you asked for, unless there is an overriding public interest against its disclosure.

4.2 Under section 5 of the GIPA Act, there is a presumption in favour of disclosing government information unless there is an overriding public interest against its disclosure.

Public interest test

4.3 To decide whether or not there is an overriding public interest against disclosure of contained in the records identified in the Table at Part 3.3 above, I applied the public interest test, which is set out in section 13 of the GIPA Act.

4.4 I applied the public interest test by:

- a. identifying any public interest considerations in favour of disclosure;
- b. identifying any relevant public interest considerations against disclosure;
- c. attributing weight to each consideration for and against disclosure; and
- d. deciding where the balance between them lies.

Public interest considerations in favour of disclosure

4.5 Under section 12(1) of the GIPA Act, there is a general public interest in favour of disclosing government information. Section 12(2) of the GIPA Act sets out some examples of other public interest considerations in favour of disclosure. However, I am not limited to those considerations in deciding your application.

4.6 In addition to the general public interest in favour of disclosure, I find the following considerations in favour of disclosure relevant to your application:

- Disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to inform the public about the traffic modelling considerations, analysis and discussion between TfNSW and Mott Macdonald for the Epping Bridge Project.

4.7 I have applied moderate weight to this consideration in favour of disclosure, noting that there is interest generally in infrastructure projects that affect local communities in NSW. In the case of the Epping Bridge Project, disclosure of the associated traffic modelling considerations, analysis and discussion would inform the public of the underlying data that was used to support agency decision-making (being the concept design of the new Epping Bridge) as seen in the Traffic Impact Assessment.¹

Personal factors of the application

4.8 Under section 55 of the GIPA Act, I can also take into account any personal factors of your application. I have considered that you are a community advocate regarding the

¹ Transport for NSW, ‘*Epping Bridge Concept Design: Traffic Impact Assessment*’ (Web Page, May 2025) <https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/system/files/media/documents/2025/Epping-Bridge-Transport-Impact-Assessment-Revised-May-2025_1.pdf>.

transport network and that you have contributed towards community consultation on issues of importance to members of the public.

- 4.9 I have considered the above as a factor in favour of disclosing the information to you.

Consultation

- 4.10 The information you requested includes the business information of a third party. Under section 54 of the GIPA Act, I was therefore required to consult with that third party before releasing the information.

- 4.11 I received no objection from the third party to the release of their business information.

Public interest considerations against disclosure

- 4.12 When applying the public interest test, the only public interest considerations against disclosure that I can take into account are those set out in the table to section 14 of the GIPA Act.

- 4.13 Noting that I have not received any objection from the third party to release of their information, and upon review of the information within the scope of your request, I have not identified any public interest considerations against disclosure which apply to Items 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Balancing the public interest considerations

- 4.14 As detailed above, I have considered the public interest considerations in favour of disclosure, as well as the personal factors of your application, and subsequently applied moderate weight in favour of disclosing the information to you.

- 4.15 In the absence of any public interest considerations against disclosure, the balance lies in favour of disclosure and, accordingly, I have decided to provide access to Items 1, 2, 3 and 4 under section 58(1)(a) of the GIPA Act.

5 Access

Form of access

- 5.1 A copy of the information that has been identified for release will be provided to you in a Portable Document Format ('PDF').
- 5.2 In accordance with section 74 of the GIPA Act, information that falls outside the scope of your application has been deleted from the information released.

6 Processing Charges

- 6.1 Under section 64 of the GIPA Act, we may require you to pay processing charges, at a rate of \$30 per hour, for the time spent dealing with your access application. The \$30 application fee counts as payment of one hour of the processing charges.
- 6.2 Please see below the Table of Processing Charges, which details how time was spent processing your application and the applicable charges:

Action	Time	Cost
Consideration of the application (including identification of the most efficient way to conduct searches for records and requesting searches)	30 minutes	\$ 15.00
Searching for records (including compiling, assessing, recording and providing records to the decision maker)	2 hours	\$ 60.00
Consultation (1 third party was consulted)	1 hour	\$ 30.00
Providing access in response to the application and other functions (review of information retrieved, including considering the application of any public interest considerations for and against release, compiling and preparing information for release)	1 hour	\$ 30.00
Decision making (drafting the decision letter)	1 hour	\$ 30.00
Total time:	5 hours 30 minutes	\$ 165.00
Discounting application fee and first hour of processing:		-\$ 30.00
Balance of processing charges payable:		\$ 135.00

6.3 On this occasion, I have decided to waive the balance of processing charges for dealing with your access application.

6.4 I am therefore not required to consider the application of any special benefit to the public.

7 Disclosure Log

7.1 If information that would be of interest to other members of the public is released in response to a formal access application, an agency must record certain details about the application in its 'disclosure log' (under sections 25 and 26 of the GIPA Act).

7.2 In the letter acknowledging receipt of your application, you were told about the disclosure log. You were also advised of your right to object to the inclusion of details about your access application in the disclosure log.

7.3 I note that you have objected to such disclosure. I have decided not to include details of your application in the disclosure log.

8 Review rights

- 8.1 If you disagree with my decision, you may apply for this decision to be reviewed by seeking:
- an internal review by another officer of TfNSW, who is no less senior than me;
 - an external review by the NSW Information Commissioner; or
 - an external review by the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT).
- 8.2 You have 20 working days from the date of this letter to apply for an internal review and 40 working days to apply for an external review by the NSW Information Commissioner or the NCAT.

9 Further information

- 9.1 For your information and assistance, I have enclosed a fact sheet explaining your rights to have my decision reviewed.
- 9.2 Please do not hesitate to contact Steffany Ngu by email at steffany.ngu@transport.nsw.gov.au if you have any questions about this letter.

Yours sincerely,



Melissa Armstrong
Senior Advisor, Access Applications