

Document 1

From: [Government Relations](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [Astrid Heward](#); [REDACTED]; [Timothy McLean](#); [DLO Watt](#); [REDACTED]; [Government Relations](#)
Subject: FOR INFO: Website update & FOI requests
Date: Tuesday, 25 November 2025 5:11:35 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)

OFFICIAL

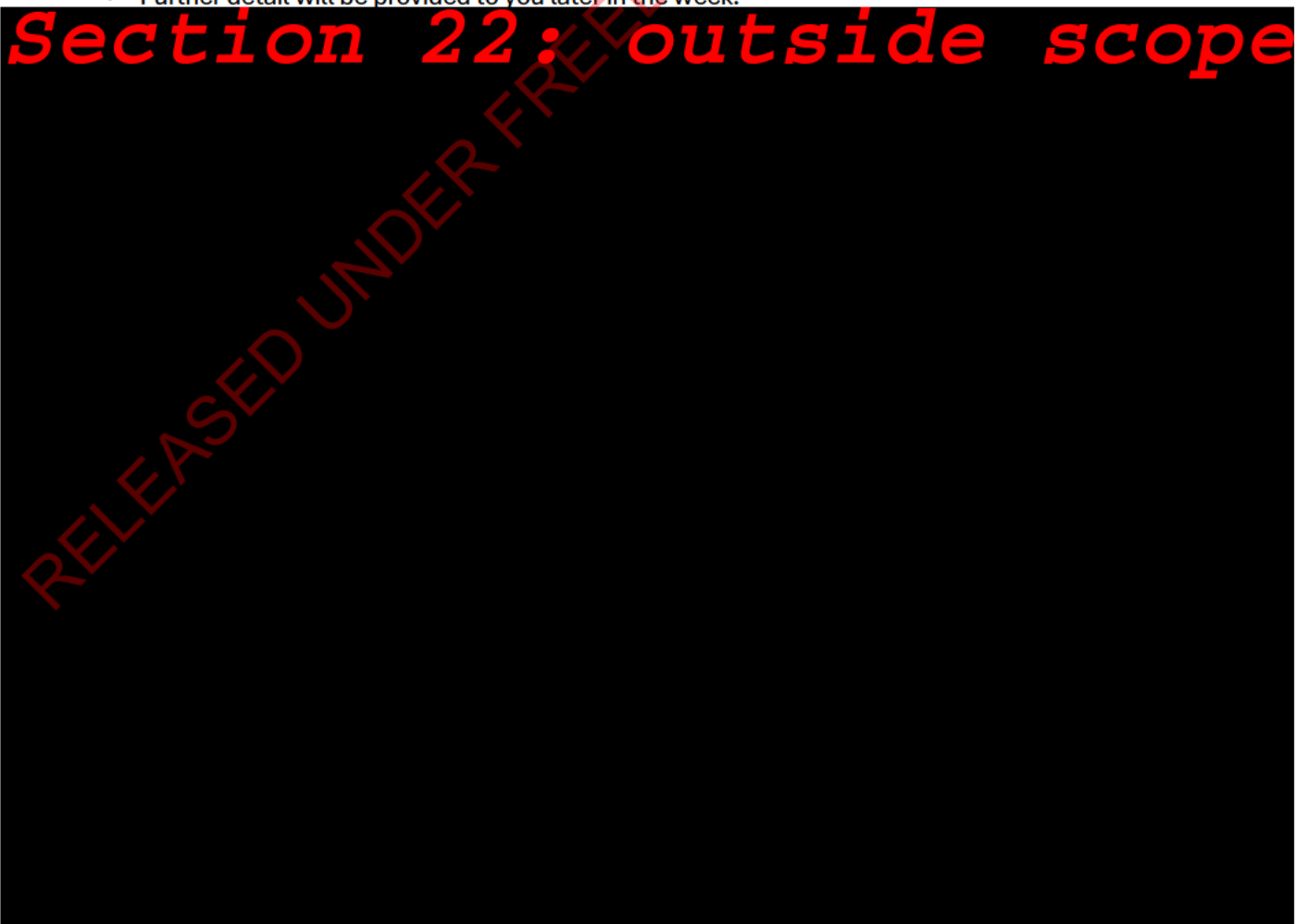
Hi [REDACTED]

For your awareness, please note the following:

Website FOI requests

- The Bureau has received an additional **11 FOI requests related to the website** (totalling 17), many of which relate to cost and have been received from individuals and media organisations.
- Among the 17 FOIs, 15 are active. One FOI was completed and sent to the applicant on 15 November 2025 and will be published on our FOI disclosure log on our website early next week. One FOI has been withdrawn.
- Further detail will be provided to you later in the week.

Section 22: outside scope



Many thanks

excluded by comp

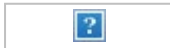
Government Relations

Communications (ESG)

E: section 22, env @bom.gov.au

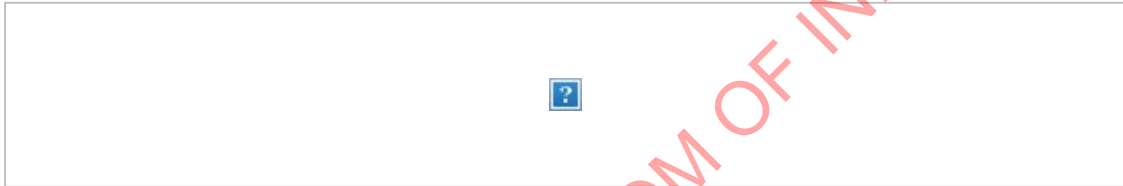
1 & 2 B Block Treasury Building, Parkes Place West

Parkes ACT 2600



The Bureau of Meteorology acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea and community.
My main workplace is on Wurundjeri Country.

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OFFICIAL

RELEASED UNDER FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Document 2

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]; [FOI](#)
Subject: FW: FOI Request
Date: Friday, 12 December 2025 9:52:26 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi [redacted] as discussed, can you please send the below response from the FOI inbox when you get the chance.

Good morning [redacted]

Thank you for your agreement to remove certain materials from the documents.

Shutdown period extends from 25 December 2025 to 1 January 2026 and applies to most staff in the Bureau. Some Bureau staff continue to work during this period to ensure the continuity of service to the Australian public.

Although this is only a short period, many staff will also take leave both before and after shutdown period to fulfil family obligations, attend cultural events etc.

We are also processing a significantly higher volume of FOI matters due at this time.

While we will apply our best efforts to address all FOI requests as soon as possible, it may not be possible to resolve your request by 24 December 2025.

Given this context, do you agree to extend time frame for response to **23 January 2025**, pursuant to section 15AA of the FOI Act?

We would be grateful for your response by reply email by **close of business Monday 15 December 2025.**

Freedom of Information

FOI@bom.gov.au | www.bom.gov.au

OFFICIAL

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 10 December 2025 6:06 AM
To: FOI <FOI@bom.gov.au>
Subject: Re: FOI Request

Dear Team,

Thank you for your email.

On your request for further time, would you be able to please clarify how long this shutdown period is?

I agree with your request to remove certain materials from documents provided.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

On Mon, Dec 8, 2025 at 3:48 PM FOI <FOI@bom.gov.au> wrote:

OFFICIAL

Ref: FOI30/192

Dear [REDACTED]

1. We refer to and acknowledge receipt of your email dated 24 November 2025 (below), in which you request access under the *Freedom of Information 1982* (Cth) ('FOI Act').

Request for further time:

2. The Bureau received your request on 24 November 2025. Section 15(5) of the FOI Act provides the Bureau 30 days to provide you a decision on your request. This means a decision comes due on 24 December 2025.
3. However, having regard to operational demands and high volume of FOI matters, especially near the Bureau's 'shutdown' period where staff resources become limited, we request your agreement to extend time by further 30 days pursuant to section 15AA of the FOI Act. This means a decision will be due by 23 January 2025.

Consent to remove materials:

4. We further write to ask whether you agree to remove from any documents in scope of your request the following:

- a. the names (including any signatures or initials), position titles and direct contact details of non-senior officers of the Bureau (being staff below the General Manager level);
- b. the signatures, initials, and direct contact details of senior staff (we note that position titles of senior staff will be released);
- c. the names (including any signatures or initials), position titles and direct contact details of any third-party individuals; and
- d. duplicate materials, including duplicate email threads.

5. An agreement to remove the above information from scope of your request would further minimise privacy concerns and reduce duplication.

Your response:

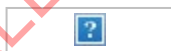
6. We would be grateful for your response by reply email **by close of business Friday 12 December 2025** regarding:

- Your agreement to further time pursuant to s 15AA; and
- Your agreement to further exclude specific materials from the scope of your request.

Kind regards,

Freedom of Information

FOI@bom.gov.au | www.bom.gov.au



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OFFICIAL

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 24 November 2025 2:21 PM
To: FOI <FOI@bom.gov.au>
Subject: FOI Request

Dear FOI Officer,

Under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 (FOI Act), I seek access to the following:

- Any correspondence between the Bureau of Meteorology and the Office of Senator the Hon Murray Watt, Minister for the Environment and Water, regarding the cost of recent upgrades to the Bureau of Meteorology website.
- Screenshots of text messages, WhatsApp Messages, Signal Messages, and iMessages sent or received by Dr Stuart Minchin in his capacity as CEO and Director, which contain the words "97", "97 Million", "Minister", "Resign" or "Fire".
- The dates and times, as well as any briefing notes, of meetings held between Dr Minchin and Minister Watt, since Dr Minchin's appointment.

Should you require further information, or clarification, please let me know.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

RELEASED UNDER FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Document 3

Date	Time	Attendees	Meeting Focus
10.11.2025	1.30-2.00	Minister Watt BOM CEO Stuart Minchin Excluded by consent: section 22	General phone call discussion. No briefing notes regarding website upgrade.
20.11.2025	12.00-12.25	Minister Watt BOM CEO Stuart Minchin	Website upgrade was discussed but not primary topic. No briefing notes regarding website upgrade.
01.12.2025	8.45-9.15	Minister Watt BOM CEO Stuart Minchin	No specific meeting agenda for website, discussion focussed on pre- senate estimates briefing. No briefing notes regarding website upgrade.
16.01.2026	10.30-11.00	Minister Watt BOM CEO Stuart Minchin Excluded by consent: section 22	No agenda, topics discussed: Future budget scenarios and direction of Bureau. No briefing notes regarding website upgrade.

Date	Time	Attendees	Meeting Focus
10.11.2025	1.30-2.00	Minister Watt BOM CEO Stuart Minchin Excluded by consent: section 22	General phone call discussion. No briefing notes regarding website upgrade.

File

Meeting

Scheduling Assistant

Tracking

Help

Tell me what you want to do

Delete

Copy to My Calendar

Forward

Join Teams Meeting

Send to OneNote

Accept

Tentative

Decline

Propose New Time

Respond

Show As: Busy

Reminder: None

Categorize

High Importance

Low Importance

Tags

Dictate

All Apps

Immersive Reader

Immersive

New Scheduling Poll

Find Time

Accepted by Stuart Minchin on 3/11/2025 1:42 PM.

Priority meeting

Mtg BOM CEO Dr Stuart Minchin and Minister Watt [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Organizer

Minister Watt

Mon 3/11/2025 1:41 PM

Time

Monday, 10 November 2025 1:30 PM-2:00 PM

Location

Microsoft Teams Meeting: ACT APH.MG.611.VC (Restricted)

Response

Accepted

Change Response

Microsoft Teams

Need help?

Join the meeting now

Meeting ID: 428 306 453 210

Passcode: sG6cd6s3

Dial in by phone

Australia, Sydney

Find a local number

Phone conference ID: 331 578 499#

For organizers: Meeting options | Reset dial-in PIN

Date	Time	Attendees	Meeting Focus
20.11.2025	12.00-12.25	Minister Watt BOM CEO Stuart Minchin	Website upgrade was discussed but not primary topic. No briefing notes regarding website upgrade.

File Appointment Scheduling Assistant Insert Format Text Review Help Tell me what you want to do

Delete Copy to My Calendar Forward Teams Meeting Send to OneNote Invite Attendees Show As: Busy Reminder: None Recurrence Categorize High Importance Low Importance Dictate All Apps Immersive Reader New Scheduling Poll Find Time

Red Category

Save & Close

Title: Minister and CEO meeting

Start time: Thu 20/11/2025 12:00 PM Canberra, Melbourne, Sy All day Time zones

End time: Thu 20/11/2025 12:25 PM Canberra, Melbourne, Sy Make Recurring

Location: Teams link below

Good morning

We have time in the Minister's diary for this meeting on Thursday 20th November at 12pm to 12.30pm AEDT.

Please find below a Teams link.

Please let me know if you have any concerns re the date/time.

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 445 406 143 991 5

Passcode: V2ov2pS2

For organizers: [Meeting options](#)

Kind regards

Excluded by consent: section 22

Office of Senator the Hon Murray Watt
Minister for the Environment and Water

Excluded by consent: section 22 (Brisbane)

Date	Time	Attendees	Meeting Focus
01.12.2025	8.45-9.15	Minister Watt BOM CEO Stuart Minchin	No specific meeting agenda for website, discussion focussed on pre- senate estimates briefing. No briefing notes regarding website upgrade.

File

Appointment

Scheduling Assistant

Insert

Format Text

Review

Help

Tell me what you want to do

Delete

Copy to My Calendar

Calendar

Forward

Teams Meeting

Send to OneNote

Invite Attendees

Show As

Busy

Recurrence

Categorize

Private

High Importance

Low Importance

Tags

Dictate

All Apps

Apps

Immersive Reader

Immersive

New Scheduling Poll

Find Time

Actions

Teams Meeting

OneNote

Attendees

Options

Tags

Voice

Apps

Immersive

Find Time

External meeting

Save & Close

Title

Teams Meeting with Minister Watt

Start time

Mon 1/12/2025

8:45 AM

Canberra, Melbourne, Sy

End time

Mon 1/12/2025

9:15 AM

Canberra, Melbourne, Sy

All day

Time zones

Make Recurring

Location

via Teams link below

OFFICIAL

Microsoft Teams

Help: https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Faka.ms%2FJoinTeamsMeeting%3Fomkrt%3Den-US&data=05%7C02%7Cdebra.green%40bom.gov.au%7Cebe168a4b9584bf33bec008de2ff123e2%7Cd1ad7db597dd4f2b16e50d663b7bb94%7C0%7C0%7C639009090915274412%7CUnknown%7CTWfpbg6zsb3d8eyrFxB0eU1hcGkiOnRydYUsilYDihwIjAUADAwMcISlAIaiOxW4Z_MitsKtQJoiqWfPpbCIslldUljovfO%3D%3D%7C0%7C7%7C7%7C&sdata=hvlybWQdaNDoes7CWncmAKV%2FuQ3xax4yzpsRmFrzpZY%3D&reserved=0

[illegible]

Meeting ID: 440 409 485 434 02

Passcode: Ue36bF67

For organisers

[illegible]

Date	Time	Attendees	Meeting Focus
16.01.2026	10.30-11.00	Minister Watt BOM CEO Stuart Minchin Excluded by consent: section 22	No agenda, topics discussed: Future budget scenarios and direction of Bureau. No briefing notes regarding website upgrade.

FileMeetingScheduling AssistantTrackingHelpTell me what you want to do

Delete

Copy to My Calendar

Forward

Calendar

Join Teams Meeting

Send to OneNote

Accept

Tentative

Decline

Propose New Time

Respond

Show As

Busy

Reminder

None

Categorize

Private

High Importance

Low Importance

Tags

Dictate

All Apps

Immersive Reader

New Scheduling Poll

Find Time

Accepted by Lynn Williams on 14/01/2026 1:24 PM.

This meeting has been adjusted to reflect your current time zone. It was initially created in the following time zone: (UTC+10:00) Brisbane.

Priority meeting

Mtg: Stuart Minchin, BOM and Minister Watt

Organizer

Minister Watt <

Excluded by consent: section 22

>
stddcccw.gov.au>

Sent: Wed 14/01/2026 1:24 PM

Time

Friday, 16 January 2026 10:30 AM-11:00 AM

Location

Microsoft Teams Meeting: QLD BNE CPO IE 29.08.VC

Response

Accepted

Change Response

Microsoft Teams

Need help?

Join the meeting now

Meeting ID: 486 479 319 767 32

Passcode: 4cN7e2C9

For organizers: Meeting options

OFFICIAL

Document 4

From: [Government Relations](#)
To: [DLO Watt](#); [Government Relations](#)
Cc: [Excluded by consent, section 22](#)
Subject: RE: Request for standard reply - BoM website correspondence [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 27 November 2025 1:43:07 PM
Attachments: [Standard words on website for MO.docx](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi [Excluded by consent, section 22](#)

Please find attached a standard reply to assist your office in responding to correspondence on the BOMs website.

Please let me know if there's anything else you need on this.

Kind regards

[Excluded by consent, section 22](#)

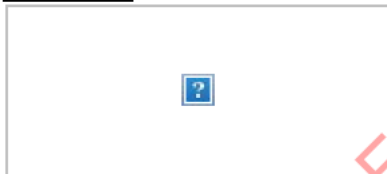
[Excluded by consent, section 22](#) (she/her)

[Excluded by consent, section 22](#)

Government Relations | Enterprise Services Group

[Excluded by consent, section 22](#)

[@bom.gov.au](#) | [www.bom.gov.au](#)



The Bureau of Meteorology acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea and community.

My main workplace is on Wurundjeri Country.

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OFFICIAL

From: DLO Watt
Sent: Tuesday, 25 November 2025 8:48 AM
To: Government Relations
Cc: [Excluded by consent, section 22](#); DLO Watt
Subject: Request for standard reply - BoM website correspondence [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good morning,

Minister Watt continues to receive a high volume of correspondence relating to the new website. I have attached three examples for your reference.

Could your team please provide a brief standard response which the MO can use to respond to correspondence from the general public?

We would be grateful to have this back by COB 27 November 2025.

Many thanks,

Excluded by consent: section 22

Excluded by consent: section 22

| Office of Senator the Hon Murray Watt

Minister for the Environment and Water

Excluded by consent: section 22

@dcceew.gov.au



OFFICIAL

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Dear [Initiator]

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the Bureau of Meteorology's (BOM) new website.

I have been concerned to hear of the issues that Australians are having when using the new BOM website. It is crucial that the BOM provides access to the trusted services that millions of Australians rely on to not just plan their day, but also to stay safe during extreme weather.

[if having trouble finding information] If you are having trouble finding information on the new website, I encourage you to visit <https://www.bom.gov.au/website-help> for guidance on navigation, search tips and key functions.

The BOM's new website and technology infrastructure upgrades have significantly enhanced the security, stability and resilience of the BOM's observing and forecasting systems, ensuring that Australians have continuous and cyber-secure access to weather information. However, I acknowledge the feedback from the community regarding usability.

Since the launch, I have met with the BOM's Acting CEO, Dr Peter Stone, and recently with the new CEO, Dr Stuart Minchin, to discuss these concerns and request urgent improvements to functionality and user experience. Importantly, these changes must ensure that user safety is never compromised.

The BOM recognises the significance of these changes and is actively reviewing the website in response to user feedback. For example, on 31 October 2025, the BOM adjusted the default weather map rain view to a scale more familiar to website visitors. It also briefed emergency management partners on the changes and received clear guidance on further improvements to assist the sector.

The BOM will continue to refine the website and help the community to use its features and navigation. I encourage you to provide feedback directly via [bom.gov.au/contact](https://www.bom.gov.au/contact) or by calling 1300 754 389. New content, features and upgrades will be rolled out regularly, based on feedback and subject to weather conditions.

[if asking about website cost] The total investment for the new website was \$96.5 million. This included the website design, the underpinning ICT infrastructure and data integration, the website functional build and technical support services. This investment was essential to ensure the site is secure, meets modern usability and accessibility requirements, and is capable of handling the significant data required to deliver weather services nationwide.

The BOM has acknowledged and apologised that some changes have not met community expectations. I am assured the organisation is working diligently to address feedback and improve the experience for all users.

The Government remains committed to ensuring Australians have timely, accurate weather forecasts and can stay safe during severe weather events.

Thank you again for raising this matter.

BOM WEBSITE

BOM WEBSITE KEY ISSUES

An update on the Bureau of Meteorology's new website.

KEY POINTS

New website

1. The Bureau's new website went live on 22 October 2025. It is secure, stable and resilient, helping the Bureau to keep delivering trusted services to all Australians.
2. The website was designed in consultation with the community, including being available to the community to explore as a beta website for over 15 months.
3. On 31 October 2025, in response to community feedback, the Bureau changed the default Weather map rain setting to the product that was familiar to website visitors.
4. The Bureau also briefed emergency management partners on the changes at a meeting on 31 October 2025 and received clear guidance on additional improvements it could make to assist the sector.
5. The Bureau continues to respond to feedback and will assess options for further changes, while helping the community adapt to the new website.

Website cost

6. The re-design of the Bureau website (the interface experienced by the public) cost \$4.1 million.
7. The website is supported by a network of technology infrastructure, security controls, data integrations, geospatial viewers and content management systems.
8. Improving the security, stability and resilience of this supporting infrastructure and data was the work of the ROBUST Program.
9. The total cost of the program was \$866m, with approximately 10% of that investment connected to the overall website and its supporting systems.
10. This investment includes all of the technology build that underpins the website, makes it secure and allows it to draw in huge amounts of data, much of which was needed regardless of what the actual website looks like.

Rain radar and weather map

- The Bureau changed the default rain view in the new rain radar and weather map to rain reflectivity (dBZ).
- Rain reflectivity displays extreme rainfall activity, and sometimes hail, as very dark red or black.
- Rain reflectivity displays rain using an intensity scale that customers accustomed to the legacy website's radar loops are more familiar with.
- At launch, the weather map's default rain view was rain rate in millimetres per hour (mm/h), which is how the BOM Weather app displays rain.
- Customers who prefer to view observed rainfall rate in millimetres per hour will still be able to switch to that view using the More weather map settings.

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