



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Defence**

Reference: BI6121724

**FOI 154/19/20 STATEMENT OF REASONS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT**

1. I refer to the application by [REDACTED] under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act), for access to:

*The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works is considering a proposal to upgrade facilities at HMAS Watson. The Committee has published a Statement of Evidence from Defence outlining the proposal. That statement contains the following declaration: "Defence assessed the future of HMAS Watson, including potential relocation options. It was concluded that there would be no benefit in closing the Base and relocating its functions to other existing Defence sites."*

*I would like to access the report of the assessment outlined above including the options considered and criteria used to undertake the assessment.*

**FOI decision maker**

2. I am the authorised officer pursuant to section 23 of the FOI Act to make a decision on this FOI request.

**Documents identified**

3. I identified one document as matching the description of the request.

**Decision**

4. I have decided to:
- a. release the document in full; and
  - b. remove irrelevant material as referred to in the scope of the request in accordance with section 22(1)(b)(ii) of the FOI Act.

**Material taken into account**

5. In making my decision, I had regard to:
- a. the terms of the request;
  - b. the content of the identified document in issue;
  - c. relevant provisions in the FOI Act;
  - d. the Guidelines published by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner under section 93A of the FOI Act (the Guidelines); and
  - e. advice received from Navy Headquarters.

**Further Information**

6. While the document in scope, Review of Disposition of Future Navy Training Phase 2 – Training Infrastructure Requirements, contains 32 pages, only pages 19, 23 to 25 and 31 to 32 contain material relevant to HMS Watson. The remainder of the material has been removed in accordance with section 22(1)(b)(ii) of the FOI Act.

7. The document released as part of this request contained a dissemination limiting marker, as the document is approved for public release the marker has been struck through.

*Mark McIntosh*

**MJ McIntosh**  
Captain, Royal Australian Navy  
Accredited Decision Maker  
Navy Group