



Our ref: eA202778
Obj ID: A6830294
Receipt: 21338201

The Hon Ben Hood MLC
Member of the Legislative Council
Parliament House
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Mr Hood *Ben,*

Determination under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991*

I refer to your application made under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* received by the Office of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries on 15 April 2025 requesting access to the following:

“All correspondence received from the Member for MacKillop, Nick McBride MP, and any responses (Member initiated) and correspondence sent by the Minister to the Member (Minister initiated) including responses to that correspondence. The correspondence in scope is correspondence relating to the Minister for Primary Industries, Regional Development and Forest Industries.”

Date range: 11/12/2024 – 15/04/2025

Accordingly, the following determination has been finalised.

I have located eight documents captured within the scope of your request.

Determination 1

I have determined that access to the following documents is **granted in full**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
1	Email from the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development to the Member for MacKillop dated 23 December 2024 re mobile towers on the Limestone Coast	1
2	Email from the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development to the Member for MacKillop dated 23 December 2024 re African Lovegrass	1

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Minister for Forest Industries

GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001
Telephone 08 8226 2931 | Email minister.scriven@sa.gov.au



3	Email from the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development to the Member for MacKillop dated 25 February 2025 re Little Desert Nature Lodge	1
3a	Attachment to Document 3 – Letter from the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development dated 25 February 2025 re Little Desert Nature Lodge	1
4	Email from the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development to the Member for MacKillop dated 2 April 2025 re Aussie Hay Runners	1
4a	Attachment to Document 4 – Letter from the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development dated 1 April 2025 re Aussie Hay Runners	2

Determination 2

I have determined that access to the following documents is **granted in part**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
1a	Attachment to Document 1 – Letter from the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development dated 23 December 2024 re mobile towers on the Limestone Coast	1

The information removed from the above document is pursuant to Clause 9(1) of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act which states:

“9—Internal working documents

(1) A document is an exempt document if it contains matter—

(a) that relates to -

(i) any opinion, advice or recommendation that has been obtained, prepared or recorded; or

(ii) any consultation or deliberation that has taken place, in the course of, or for the purpose of, the decision-making functions of the Government, a Minister or an agency; and

(b) the disclosure of which would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.”

The information removed consists of detail relating to a matter for internal decision-making purposes.

In addressing the public interest test for the Clause 9(1) exemption, I have balanced the following factors:

In favour of the public interest:

- Meeting the objects of the Act favouring access to documents.
- Ensuring optimal use of public resources.
- High level of interest in the accountability of public office holders.
- The importance of transparency and openness and the interest that the public has in the decision-making processes of Government.

- High level of community and media interest in the issue.

Contrary to the public interest:

- The recent age of the information was considered and the continuing relevance of the matters, particularly as the biosecurity response is currently in place.
- Protection of the deliberative processes of Government.
- Providing an agency with the ability to brief its Minister without unnecessary interference.
- Allowing internal communications to occur in a reasonably uninhibited manner, particularly where the discussion is of a sensitive nature.
- Release of this information would discourage the flow of free exchange of ideas and options during deliberative processes.
- The confidentiality of some details must be maintained for internal decision-making purposes of Government.
- Disclosing this information may compromise the manner in which information is gathered in the future for the decision-making processes of Government to the detriment of the betterment for South Australia.

Having considered the various factors weighing for and against disclosure, I have determined that disclosure this information would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

Determination 3

I have determined that access to the following documents is **granted in part**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
2a	Attachment to Document 2 – Letter from the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development dated 23 December 2024 re African Lovegrass	2

The information removed from the above document is pursuant to Clause 6(1) of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act which states:

“6 - Documents affecting personal affairs

(1) A document is an exempt document if it contains matter the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead).”

The information removed from Document 2a includes:

- The name and email address of an office employee.
- The name of a constituent

There is an expectation that the name of an employee, regarded as personal information, would not be released in this way.

It is considered that members of the public can correspond with their local Member of Parliament without fear that their identities are released.

Accordingly, it is considered that disclosure of this information would be an unreasonable intrusion into the privacy rights of the individuals concerned.

The timeframe of your requests includes documents released as per the determination made by the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development on 21 March 2025 (eA202465), ie Document 1, 1a.

Accordingly, these documents are not considered as being in scope of eA202778 and are therefore not included in this determination.

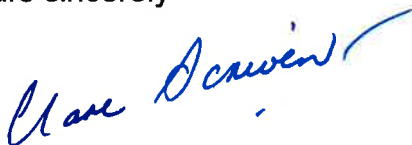
If you are unhappy with this determination you are entitled to exercise your rights of external review with the Ombudsman SA. Alternatively, you can apply to the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (SACAT). If you wish to seek a review, you must do so within 30 calendar days of receiving this determination.

For more information about seeking a review or appeal, please contact the Ombudsman SA on telephone (08) 8226 8699 or SACAT on 1800 723 767.

In accordance with the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045, details of your application, and the documents to which you are given access, will be published in PIRSA's disclosure log. A copy of PC045 can be found at http://dpc.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0019/20818/PC045-Disclosure-Log-Policy.pdf

Should you require further information or clarification with respect to this matter, please contact Ms Rachael Colegate on 8226 2931 or email: Minister.Scriven@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Hon Clare Scriven MLC
MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
MINISTER FOR FOREST INDUSTRIES

9 / 5 / 2025

Houston, Jaime (PIRSA)

From: PIRSA:Minister Scriven
Sent: Monday, 23 December 2024 4:16 PM
To: mackillop@parliament.sa.gov.au
Subject: eA202142 - Minister Scriven Correspondence
Attachments: eA202142 - Minister Scriven Correspondence.pdf

MPIRD ref: eA202142

Good afternoon Mr McBride

Please find attached correspondence from Minister Scriven.

Kindest regards

Office of the Hon Clare Scriven MLC

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development

Minister for Forest Industries

Government of South Australia | 1 King William Street, Adelaide

GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001

T: +61 8226 2931 | **E:** Minister.Scriven@sa.gov.au

pir.sa.gov.au



The Department of Primary Industries and Regions respects Aboriginal people as the state's first people and nations. We recognise Aboriginal people as traditional owners and occupants of South Australian land and waters. We pay our respects to Aboriginal cultures and to Elders past, present and emerging.

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eA202142



Government
of South Australia

The Hon Clare Scriven MLC

Mr Nick McBride MP
Member for MacKillop
146 Smith Street
NARACOOORTE SA 5271

mackillop@parliament.sa.gov.au

Dear Mr McBride *Nick,*

Thank you for your letter dated 27 November 2024 to the Hon Nick Champion MP in relation to mobile phone connectivity and your request for expedition of the construction of the 27 mobile towers in the Limestone Coast. Your letter has been referred to me to respond in my capacity as Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development.

I note the concerns you have raised on behalf of your constituents about a loss of network coverage due to the closure of the 3G network. **Clause 9(1)**

The State Government has been very pleased to partner with Telstra, the Federal Government, local governments, and local industry to invest in the mobile phone base station project for the Limestone Coast. The project will provide a significant boost to mobile phone connectivity in the region, delivering benefits to business, individuals, the community of the Limestone Coast.

I understand that the funding agreement for the Federal Government's \$15.365 million commitment to the project has recently been executed by both parties. I am advised that funding agreements with all project partners, including the State Government, are now able to progress and the timeframes for delivery of the project are being confirmed.

I look forward to the timely completion of this process and the implementation of the project.
Yours sincerely

Clare Scriven

Hon Clare Scriven MLC
MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
MINISTER FOR FOREST INDUSTRIES

23/12 / 2024

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Minister for Forest Industries

GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001
Telephone 08 8226 2931 | Email minister.scriven@sa.gov.au



Houston, Jaime (PIRSA)

From: PIRSA:Minister Scriven
Sent: Monday, 23 December 2024 3:55 PM
To: mackillop@parliament.sa.gov.au
Subject: eA201605 - Minister Scriven correspondence
Attachments: eA201605 - Minister Scriven correspondence.pdf

Importance: High

Good afternoon Mr McBride

Please find attached correspondence from Minister Scriven.

Kind regards

Office of the Hon Clare Scriven MLC

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Minister for Forest Industries

Government of South Australia | 1 King William Street, Adelaide
GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001

T: +61 8226 2931 | **E:** Minister.Scriven@sa.gov.au

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eA201605



Government
of South Australia

The Hon Clare Scriven MLC

Mr Nick McBride MP
Member for Mackillop
146 Smith Street
NARACOORTE SA 5271

mackillop@parliament.sa.gov.au

Dear Mr McBride, *Nick,*

Thank you for your letter regarding African lovegrass in the Limestone Coast region.

Upon receiving your correspondence my office has made enquiries to what specific support is available to **Clause 6(1)**

However, I have recently been advised that **Clause 6(1)** is currently utilising all available support from the Limestone Coast Landscape Board.

African lovegrass (*Eragrostis curvula*) is a highly invasive tussock forming grass that has low nutritional value to livestock and can significantly impact pastures. This weed is declared under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, which requires landholders (private land), landscape boards (roadsides) and rail operators (railway corridors) to undertake control measures.

The state policy on African lovegrass aims to prevent its incursion into weed free areas and at a regional level, the Limestone Coast Landscape Board is working to reduce its spread by creating:

- a containment and control zone in the north - where it treats roadsides and assists landholders to control their infestations.
- a buffer zone from Bordertown to Kingston – where active surveillance, roadside treatment, and landholder control requirements are enforced.
- an eradication zone in the south – where it responds rapidly to any outbreaks.

Since 2020-21 the Board has invested \$155,000 into African lovegrass management (excluding staff costs), including control along 420 kilometres of roadsides in the region. Landholders are encouraged to support roadside control efforts by treating infestations on their property.

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Minister for Forest Industries

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The Department of Primary Industries and Regions has partnered with the Limestone Coast Landscape Board on the Priority Weeds, Cropping and Pasture Weeds Program, which over three years is investing an additional \$209,000 into African lovegrass control through offering free control assistance to landholders in the region. Of the 400 impacted landholders contacted in 2023/24, less than 30 decided to engage in the assistance program.

I seek your support to encourage your constituents to actively participate in this program and in the treatment of infestations on their properties. Opportunities to engage with the program include landholder workshops.

Staff of my department have conveyed the concerns you raise in your letter to key staff of the Limestone Coast Landscape Board.

I acknowledge African lovegrass is a major issue in your region and across the state and that a concerted collaborative effort to reduce its impact is required. I will continue to promote the effective control of this weed and seek funding opportunities to contribute to its management.

I will also be writing to the Minister for Environment, the Hon Susan Close MP to request consideration be given to providing the Limestone Coast Landscape Board additional resources to allow for a greater response to African lovegrass in the region.

I thank you again for your letter and for bringing these important matters to my attention. Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Limestone Coast Landscape Board, or the Coordinator of the Priority Weeds, Cropping and Pasture Weeds Program, Mr Simon Roos-Freeman, within the Department of Primary Industries and Regions on **Clause 6(1)** or simon.roos-freeman@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Hon Clare Scriven MLC
MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
MINISTER FOR FOREST INDUSTRIES

23/12 / 2024

Houston, Jaime (PIRSA)

From: PIRSA:Minister Scriven
Sent: Tuesday, 25 February 2025 2:39 PM
To: mackillop@parliament.sa.gov.au
Subject: eA202463 - Minister Scriven correspondence
Attachments: eA202463 - Minister Scriven correspondence.pdf

Good afternoon Mr McBride

Please find attached correspondence from Minister Scriven.

Kind regards

Office of the Hon Clare Scriven MLC
Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Minister for Forest Industries
Government of South Australia | 1 King William Street, Adelaide
GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001
T: +61 8226 2931 | **E:** Minister.Scriven@sa.gov.au
pir.sa.gov.au



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eA202463



Government
of South Australia

The Hon Clare Scriven MLC

Mr Nick McBride MP
Member for Mackillop
146 Smith Street
NARACOORTE SA 5271

mackillop@parliament.sa.gov.au

Dear Mr ~~McBride~~ *Nick,*

Thank you for your letter of 14 February 2025 regarding the recent reports of the breeding of dingoes at Little Desert Nature Lodge.

I am informed that Little Desert Nature Lodge has a licence to possess dingoes, that the dingoes there have always been held in a secure enclosure, and that all dingoes are accounted for, despite the Lodge being lost to a recent bushfire.

I share your concerns about the risks to primary producers from incursions of wild dogs and dingoes from northwest Victoria. In addition to supplying baits to all affected producers within the region, a professional trapper is currently working in Ngarkat Conservation Park and on surrounding properties as part of our response.

I have a meeting scheduled with the Victorian Minister of Agriculture, the Hon Ros Spence, to raise these concerns.

Once again, thank you for writing to me on this important matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Clare Scriven' with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Hon Clare Scriven MLC
MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
MINISTER FOR FOREST INDUSTRIES

25/2 / 2025

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Minister for Forest Industries

GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001
Telephone 08 8226 2931 | Email minister.scriven@sa.gov.au



Houston, Jaime (PIRSA)

From: PIRSA:Minister Scriven
Sent: Wednesday, 2 April 2025 9:58 AM
To: mackillop@parliament.sa.gov.au
Subject: eA202600 - Minister Scriven correspondence
Attachments: eA202600 - Minister Scriven correspondence.pdf

Importance: High

MPIRD ref: eA202600

Good morning Mr McBride

Please find attached correspondence from Minister Scriven.

Kind regards

Office of the Hon Clare Scriven MLC
Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Minister for Forest Industries
Government of South Australia | 1 King William Street, Adelaide
GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001
T: +61 8226 2931 | **E:** Minister.Scriven@sa.gov.au
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Government
of South Australia

The Hon Clare Scriven MLC

eA202600

Mr Nick McBride MP
Member for MacKillop
146 Smith Street
NARACOORTE SA 5271

mackillop@parliament.sa.gov.au

Dear Mr McBride *Nick,*

Thank you for your letter to the Premier on behalf of Mr Fraser Ellis MP, Mr Geoff Brock MP, Mr Troy Bell MP and Mr Dan Cregan MP regarding Aussie Hay Runners. The Premier has asked me to respond as the matter falls within my portfolio.

The Malinauskas Government announced an \$18 million drought support package in November 2024 which included a variety of measures to help farmers and regional communities affected by drought.

The support package includes \$2 million for the Donated Fodder Transport Drought Assistance Scheme. The scheme provides transport subsidies to assist charitable organisations with the cost of fuel to transport donated hay to producers in need.

Hay runs were already being conducted by charities across the state without Government support. The purpose of the scheme is to make it easier for the charities to continue the fantastic work they were already doing.

Aussie Hay Runners is one of five charitable organisations participating in the scheme, the others being Need for Feed, Rapid Relief Team, Rural Aid and Farmers Relief Agency. All five organisations have entered into funding agreements with the Government to receive funding support for fuel costs to transport donated hay to farmers.

It's important to note that three of those charities, being Rural Aid, the Rapid Relief Team and Farmers Relief Agency, have remaining funding and are still conducting targeted hay deliveries to farmers, with the Government providing funding for the transport costs.

I have been in contact with Aussie Hay Runners. They have requested an additional \$3 million in funding, on top of around \$800,000 they received earlier this year, to deliver approximately 210 truck loads of hay to farmers in need.

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
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OFFICIAL

The Government has been carefully assessing this request, working closely with industry and is conducting due diligence to ensure that donated hay can get to farmers that need it most in the most efficient and targeted way.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clare Scriver". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Hon Clare Scriver MLC
MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
MINISTER FOR FOREST INDUSTRIES

1 / 1 4 / 2025