



**Government
of South Australia**

Department for
Energy and Mining

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing in relation to your application made under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (FOI Act) in which you requested access to the following:

Copies of any reports into bird deaths at BHP's evaporation ponds at Olympic Dam. Copies of any photos and/or videos of dead birds at BHP's evaporation ponds at Olympic Dam.

In accordance with Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045, if you are given access to documents as a result of this FOI application, details of your application, and the documents to which access is given, may be published in the agency's disclosure log. A copy of PC045 can be found at <http://dpc.sa.gov.au/what-we-do/services-for-government/premier-and-cabinet-circulars>.

A search has been conducted and no documents were located that are within the scope of your application. There are however, a number of publicly available documents.

Some of the historic Annual Reports for the Olympic Dam Operations are available that are relevant to your request:

- http://www.energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mining/mines_and_quarries/olympic_dam
Our main Olympic Dam website, see at the bottom of the page the 'Historical documents and records are available via the [South Australian Resources Information Gateway \(SARIG\)](#)' which directs you directly to the Olympic Dam historic reports page.
- Note that BHP refers to the Tailings Retention System (TRS) which includes both Evaporation Ponds (EPs) and Tailings Storage Facilities (TSFs). Data is presented for the TRS not individual EPs or TSFs.
- Annual Environmental Protection and Management Program Reports are available on SARIG:
 - Olympic Dam - Annual Environmental Protection & Management Program 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014. Relevant pages are 154 to 159
(<https://sarigbasis.pir.sa.gov.au/WebtopEw/ws/samref/sarig1/image/DDD/MCRA2396320.pdf>)
 - Olympic Dam - Annual Environmental Protection and Management Program Report 1 July 2014 - 30 June 2015. Relevant pages are 121 to 126
(<https://sarigbasis.pir.sa.gov.au/WebtopEw/ws/samref/sarig1/image/DDD/PEPRA2769517.pdf>)

- Olympic Dam - Annual Environmental Protection and Management Program Report 1 July 2015 - 30 June 2016. Relevant pages are 111 to 114
(<https://sarigbasis.pir.sa.gov.au/WebtopEw/ws/samref/sarig1/image/DDD/MCR485313.pdf>)
- Olympic Dam - Annual Environmental Protection and Management Program Report - 1 July 2016 - 30 June 2017. Relevant pages are 97 to 100
(<https://sarigbasis.pir.sa.gov.au/WebtopEw/ws/samref/sarig1/image/DDD/MCR458313.pdf>)
- Olympic Dam - Annual Environmental Protection & Management Program 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018. Relevant pages are 108 to 110
(<https://sarigbasis.pir.sa.gov.au/WebtopEw/ws/samref/sarig1/image/DDD/MCR3980556.pdf>).
- Please note there is some information in the recent EPBC Referral for TSF 6 that refers to bird deaths in the TRS (Tailings and Evaporation Ponds), but this document is mainly focused on TSFs. This is in **Attachment B** of the referral (EPBC 2019/8465) - Olympic Dam Operations Tailings Storage Facility Six - <http://epbcnotices.environment.gov.au/referralslist/>.
- The Department holds no photos or videos of dead birds at Olympic Dam Evaporation Ponds on record.

Appeal Rights

If you are dissatisfied with this decision, you are entitled to exercise your rights of review and appeal as outlined in the attached documentation.

Should you have any enquiries in relation to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me via email DEM.FOI@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Julianne Cirson
Accredited FOI Officer

13 August 2019