

Mr Tom Duncan
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
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CANBERRA ACT 2601
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Dear Mr Duncan

I write to advise that I am claiming privilege on documents provided by the ACT Head of Service in accordance with the order made under Standing Order 213A to produce documents relating to climate change mitigation – documents and briefs to ministers.

Executive and public interest privilege has been claimed over certain documents identified in the return. As required under Standing Order 213A, the return has been prepared showing the reasons for each claim of privilege made in relation to each document included in this return and this statement is to be read in conjunction with the return.

Cabinet submission papers, including business cases

Privilege is claimed over these documents in full because they reveal the deliberations of Cabinet. Claims of privilege are made to maintain the confidentiality of those deliberations and to uphold the principle of collective ministerial responsibility.

Cabinet submission papers are the mechanism by which the sponsoring Minister's recommended or preferred position is presented for deliberation by Cabinet. While these papers may not reveal the complete deliberations, they nonetheless reveal at least one Minister's preferred position, as well as a range of matters on which Ministers were required to deliberate. For example, these documents often include normative information such as how to weigh, and deliberate on, the relative priorities of the Executive.

Harm to affairs of a business

Claims of privilege have been made where exposure of information may harm the affairs of a business.

If any claims of privilege in this return are disputed, please take this letter as notification of my intent to make a submission further substantiating the claims. I ask that any request for submissions be copied to the Head of Service in addition to the Chief Minister.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Barr', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister

31 October 2025