

Right to Know Week NSW 2024

*Mainstreaming Access to Information and
Participation in the Public Sector in NSW*

23 - 29 September 2024

Presentation to Sydney Water
15 October 2024

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IPC CEO, Information Commissioner

 www.ipc.nsw.gov.au/RTK2024



Right to Know Week NSW 2024



- Right to Know (RTK) Week NSW 2024 was held on 23 – 29 September 2024
- **About Right to Know Week:** 28 September marks International Day for Universal Access to Information. The right to seek and receive information encapsulated by Article 19 of the United Nations' Declaration of Human Rights
- The IPC celebrates an annual, week-long celebration around this international day.
- RTK focuses on educating NSW agencies and the public about the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (GIPA Act) and raising awareness about rights and obligations for accessing NSW government-held information.
- Right to Know Week in particular supports NSW public sector agencies explore opportunities to provide access to more government information as well as to better understand their obligations.

The Information and Privacy Commission NSW

Who we are

- IPC is an independent agency that supports the Information Commissioner and the Privacy Commissioner to oversight the NSW public sector in relation to privacy and information access. The Information Commissioner is the CEO.
- Some of the key IPC/Commissioner functions are:
 - Promote and protect privacy and information access rights in NSW
 - Provide information, advice, assistance and training for agencies and individuals
 - Review and audit the performance and decisions of agencies
 - Investigate complaints and manage PIDs about privacy and information access
 - Provide advice to the NSW Government about legislation and technology

Role of the Information Commissioner

- Promote public awareness & understanding of the GIPA Act
- Provide information, advice, assistance & training to agencies and the public
- Assist agencies in the exercise of their functions under the GIPA Act
- Issue guidelines & publications to assist both agencies & the public
- Review GIPA decisions made by agencies
- Monitor, audit and report on agencies & their use of and compliance with the GIPA Act
- Make reports and provide recommendations to the Ministers about proposals for legislative and administrative changes
- Investigate complaints under the Government Information (Information Commissioner) Act 2009 (GIIC Act)

Theme

Mainstreaming Access to Information and Participation in the Public Sector in NSW

- Transparency is a core pillar for supporting public participation in the public sector.
- Rights to access government information can make public participation both possible and meaningful. Successful public participation can help create more responsive and effective policies and increase trust between communities and public institutions.
- It is important to keep reminding ourselves about the critical link between public participation and access to government information.
- For more information, visit the RTK webpage on the IPC website:
www.ipc.nsw.gov.au/RTK2024

Proactive release

- Authorised proactive release of government information by NSW public sector agencies supports a system of democratic government that is open, accountable, fair and effective.
- Proactive release supports effective public participation in government processes and decision-making by making information about the design and delivery of government services accessible, and by promoting government accountability.
- It creates a better-informed community through raising public awareness of governments' strategic intentions and initiatives.

Tools to support transparency



Agency Information Guides

- The GIPA Act requires NSW agencies to publish an Agency Information Guide (AIG) that provides information about their structure, functions, and the types of information they hold.

Annual reviews of proactive information release programs

- Under the GIPA Act, agencies are required to review their proactive release programs each year, with the outcomes of that review reported publicly and to the IPC.

Digital Technologies

- IPC encourages agencies and SOCs to get even more proactive about transparency to ensure new technologies, such as AI or automated decision-making (ADM), help not hinder public participation.
- When adopting new technologies, public institutions also need to give careful thought to their **record-keeping** and to the **preservation** of information access rights.
- IPC encourages NSW agencies and SOCs to:
 - ensure technology contracts preserve their ability to explain their decision-making
 - adopt a transparency by design approach to technology projects
 - include descriptions of the use of ADM in their AIGs to support explainability around how decisions are made.

Sydney Water – Report on the operation of the GIPA Act 2022/23

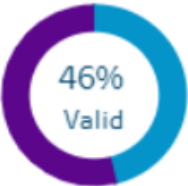
1. How many applications were lodged?

121

5. Did applicants get what they asked for?



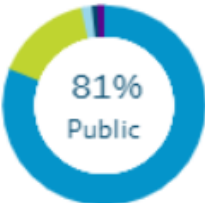
2. Were applications invalid?



6. How quickly were decisions made?



3. Who applied?



7. How were decisions reviewed?



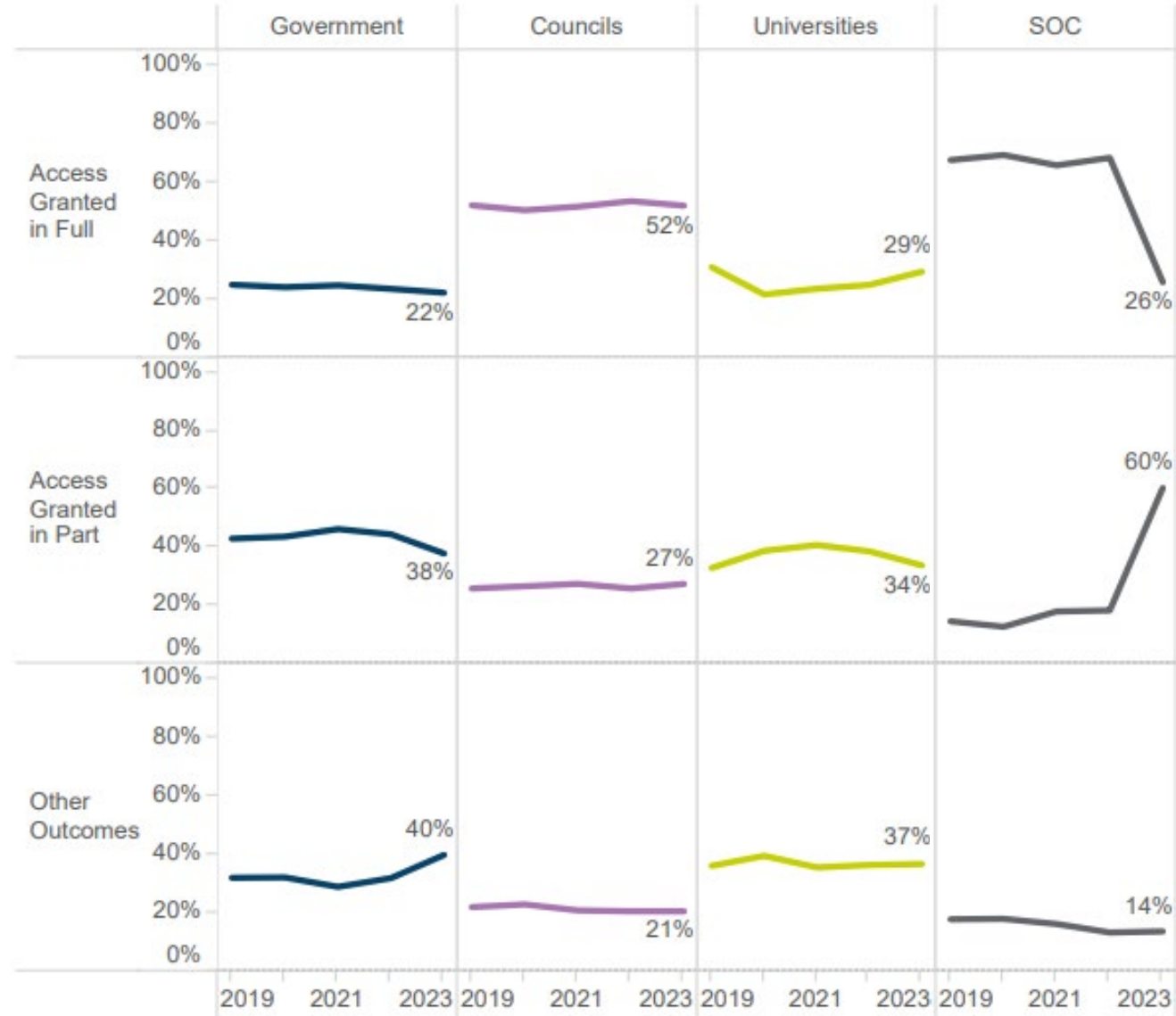
4. What information was asked for?



8. What were the main review outcomes?



SOCs – Release outcomes



RTK Week Re-cap



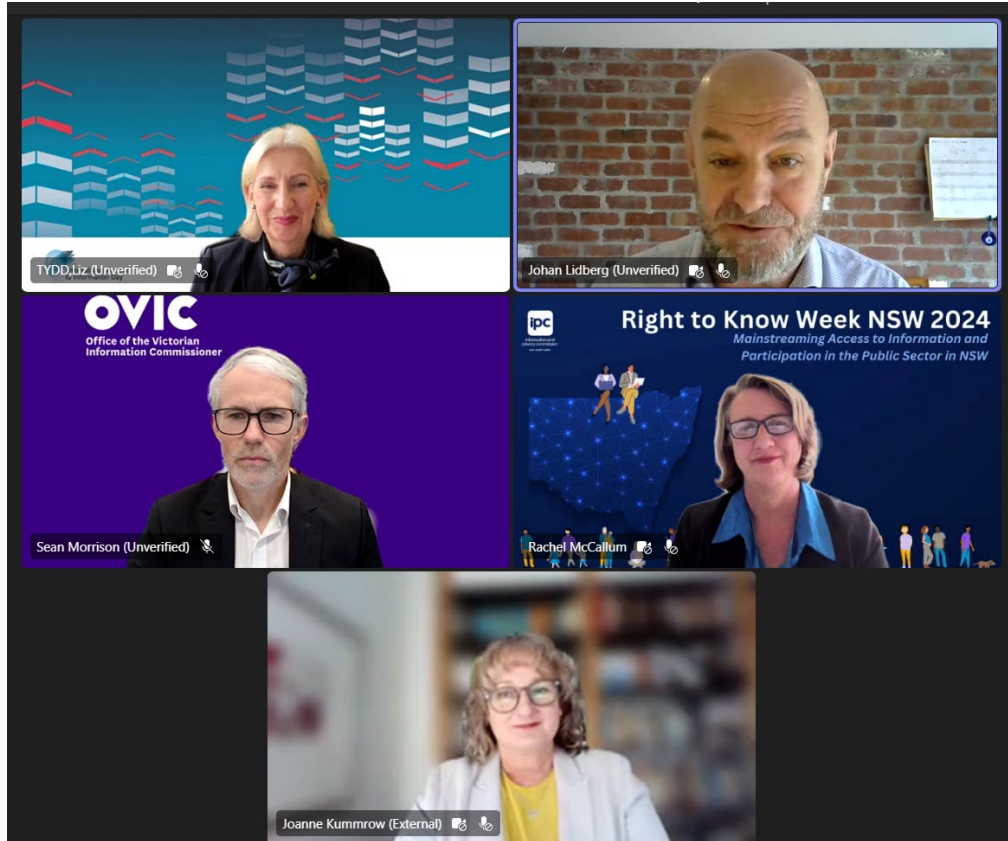
- IPC RTK Panel Discussion: *Transparency and Empowering Public Participation* – available on IPC YouTube channel.
- Information Commissioner participated in the Office of Victorian Information Commissioner (OVIC) panel discussion: *Mainstreaming access to information and participation in the public sector*.
- Released the Community Attitudes Survey results into Information Access and Data Sharing – available on IPC website.
- New translated resources and webpages in over 10 languages live on the IPC website.
- Released IPC Explainer video: *A Quick Guide to Information Access Reviews for NSW Agencies* – available on IPC YouTube channel.
- Association of Information Access Commissioners (AIAC) joint statement published on IPC website.

IPC RTK Week Panel Discussion

Transparency and Empowering Public Participation



OVIC Panel



IAID panel discussion: Mainstreaming access to information and participation in the public sector

Tuesday 24 September 2024
1pm - 2pm AEST
ovic.vic.gov.au/iaid



#RTKW2024

New Resources

Grid of 8 video thumbnails for 'Keeping Secure Online' in various languages. Each thumbnail includes a 1:55 duration and a view count (e.g., 15 views - 6 days ago).

- Animation - Keeping Secure Online (Spanish) | Information and Privacy... 15 views - 6 days ago
- Animation - Keeping Secure Online (Korean) | Information and Privacy... 3 views - 6 days ago
- Animation - Keeping Secure Online (Italian) | Information and Privacy... 14 views - 6 days ago
- Animation - Keeping Secure Online (Greek) | Information and Privacy... 14 views - 6 days ago
- Animation - Keeping Secure Online (Chinese Traditional) | Information... 1:55
- Animation - Keeping Secure Online (Chinese Simplified) | Information... 1:55
- Animation - Keeping Secure Online (Arabic) | Information and Privacy... 1:55
- Animation - Ways to Access Government Information... 1:57

A Quick Guide to Information Access Reviews for NSW Agencies

YouTube logo

ipc information and privacy commission new south wales

Illustration of a person at a computer with an information icon.

ipc information and privacy commission new south wales

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 - Arabic - العربية
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 - Chinese Simplified - 简体中文
 - Chinese Traditional - 繁體中文
 - Greek - Ελληνικά
 - Italian - Italiano
 - Korean - 한국어
 - Spanish - Español
 - Thai - ไทย
 - Vietnamese - Tiếng Việt

Champion Support

- Every year a number of NSW public sector agencies support the IPC's Right to Know Week (RTK) NSW campaign as a RTK Champion.
- The role of a RTK Champion is to help promote the RTK campaign and is an opportunity to highlight an agency's commitment to citizens' right to access information.
- This year, there were 106 individuals from 78 agencies who registered to be a RTK 2024 Champion.

Thank you to Sydney Water for supporting the Right to Know Week NSW 2024 campaign as a RTK Champion

Connect with us



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