



NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA

Our reference: 2026/137

Notice of Disposal Freeze

Records related to antisemitism and social cohesion

To the named Commonwealth departments and agencies:

- Attorney-General's Department, and relevant agencies:
 - Australian Human Rights Commission
 - Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman
 - Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (Cth) (CDPP)
 - Office of the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security
 - Office of the Special Investigator
- Department of Defence, Australian Defence Force, and relevant agencies:
 - Australian Geospatial-Intelligence Organisation
 - Australian Signals Directorate
 - Defence Intelligence Organisation
- Department of Education, and relevant agencies:
 - Australian National University
 - Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
 - Australian Secret Intelligence Service
- Department of Home Affairs, including Office for Social Cohesion, and relevant agencies:
 - Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission
 - Australian Federal Police
 - Australian Security Intelligence Organisation
 - Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre
 - Special Envoy to Combat Antisemitism
 - Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia
- Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
 - Office of National Intelligence
- Department of Social Services
- Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts and relevant agencies:
 - Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC)
 - Australian Communications and Media Authority
 - eSafety Commissioner (eSafety)
 - Special Broadcasting Service (SBS)

As well as:

- all other Australian Government agencies, and any other persons or entities in possession of Commonwealth records, including the current and former ministers.

This document notifies all relevant entities, agents or people (see above) that I have issued a disposal freeze for Commonwealth records (includes data) relevant to the remit of the Royal Commission on Antisemitism and Social Cohesion and any subsequent actions by the Government.

The National Archives of Australia (National Archives) has determined that a disposal freeze is necessary to ensure that these records are protected and available when required.

Background

On Thursday 8 January 2026, the Prime Minister, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, announced the establishment of the Royal Commission on Antisemitism and Social Cohesion (the Royal Commission), in the wake of the Bondi terrorist attack on 14 December 2025. [Letters Patent](#) were issued the following day by the Governor-General, Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC to the Hon Virginia Bell AC.

The Independent Review into Australia's federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies by Mr Dennis Richardson AC, established on 29 December 2025 in response to the Bondi terrorist attack, has become a part of this Royal Commission. A final report by Commissioner Bell is due not later than 14 December 2026.

Purpose

This disposal freeze suspends the National Archives of Australia's permissions to destroy any Commonwealth records related to antisemitism and social cohesion. These records must be retained for the purposes of informing the Royal Commission in its inquiries and considerations, as detailed in its [Letters Patent](#), as well as any subsequent actions by the Government.

Relevant records cannot be destroyed using any records authorities issued by the National Archives. This also applies to records that have already been authorised for destruction. Destruction of relevant material under normal administrative practices (NAP) is also suspended.

The only exception to this is [General Records Authority 31 - Destruction of source or original records after digitisation, conversion or migration](#) (GRA 31), which can be used to destroy source records that have been digitised, as long as its conditions and exclusions are complied with.

It is a legal requirement that you apply this disposal freeze by protecting any relevant records and informing the appropriate people in your organisation as a matter of urgency. Penalties for the unauthorised destruction of records are specified in various Commonwealth laws, including the Archives Act 1983.

Records covered

This disposal freeze covers Commonwealth records related to:

- social cohesion in Australia
- antisemitism and religious and ideologically motivated extremism and radicalisation in Australia
- the capabilities and powers of law enforcement, border control, immigration and security agencies to respond to antisemitic conduct

- the circumstances surrounding the Bondi terrorist attack on 14 December 2025, such as relevant agencies':
 - knowledge prior to the attack
 - judgements, decisions and actions made in relation to the attack; and
 - interactions and information sharing between agencies, other jurisdictions, partners, and community groups.

This disposal freeze applies to records in any digital or physical format, including, but not limited to, documents, emails, text and instant messages, social media posts and messages, audiovisual recordings, photographs, data and datasets, and models, algorithms and records of automated processes (including the use of artificial intelligence), and any associated inputs and outputs.

This disposal freeze applies to records regardless of where they were created or whether they have been captured into formal business systems. This includes records:

- in designated document and records management systems
- in active and inactive databases and digital business systems and platforms, including data stores for structured, semi-structured and unstructured data (such as agency data repositories, data lakes, and data warehouses), managed on premise or by third-party service providers, e.g. through cloud services
- in collaboration platforms and shared work group spaces, e.g. Microsoft Teams or GovTeams
- in individual and shared email accounts
- on shared, local or personal drives, e.g. network drives, OneDrive accounts, and portable drives, laptops and other personal or work devices; and
- in social media and other applications (apps) on personal and work devices.

All records must be maintained with the metadata necessary to provide context and support the discoverability of and access to information.

Please note: the Royal Commission is of [national significance](#) and, therefore, so are records relevant to it and subsequent Government actions. Some records in agencies will need to be considered for resentencing, as they may now meet the significance criteria of a records authority class requiring longer retention, including 'retain as national archives' (RNA) classes.

Authority

This action is taken pursuant to paragraphs 24(2)(b) and 24(2)(c) of the *Archives Act 1983*.

Duration

This disposal freeze will take effect immediately **and will be in force until further notice by the National Archives**.

Action required

The named Commonwealth departments and agencies, all other Australian Government agencies, and any other persons or entities in possession of Commonwealth records should:

1. Ensure that all relevant workers are informed of this disposal freeze.
2. Conduct a risk assessment to:
 - a. determine if workers, contractors or records service providers have any records due for destruction that come within the scope of the disposal freeze; and
 - b. identify and retain relevant existing and future records subject to this disposal freeze.
3. Check any records already proposed for destruction that may come within the scope of the disposal freeze to ensure they are not covered by the disposal freeze.
4. Retain existing and future records subject to the disposal freeze until further notice.

Impact

The processing, reviewing and storage costs arising from the implementation of this disposal freeze will be borne by the agencies or other agents or people concerned.

Inquiries

For inquiries about this disposal freeze, please contact the National Archives' Agency Service Centre via information.management@naa.gov.au.

Issued by

Simon Froude

Director-General

National Archives of Australia

2 February 2026

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