



## Rescuing FoI: Rescuing Democracy

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### ABSTRACT

This paper links the fortunes of Australian democracy to the fortunes of Freedom of Information (FoI). Both, in the author's view, are in deep trouble. To rescue FoI, one needs to understand historical and contemporary manifestations of the depth of official secrecy in Australia. Numerous vignettes, including data from a recent study of Queensland FoI are projected on to a new explanatory 'screen' — a dialectic consideration of the relationship between secrecy and openness. The paper concludes with some consideration of how FoI can be reformed to counter the rising levels of secrecy in Australia.

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