

Department of Housing and Public Works

Open Data Strategy 2018-2021

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Introduction

The Department of Housing and Public Works (DHPW) Open Data Strategy refers to the department's plan to deliver the Queensland Government's Open Data Initiative, which DHPW is responsible for leading. The DHPW Open Data Strategy focuses on our obligation to publish our own open data, rather than on our whole-of-government responsibilities.

This strategy also applies to the statutory bodies that are the responsibility of the Minister which includes: the Board of Architects of Queensland, the Board of Professional Engineers of Queensland and Stadiums Queensland. The Residential Tenancies Authority and the Queensland Building and Construction Commission publish their own open data strategies.

The strategy is a rolling three-year program updated yearly, detailing how DHPW will support the Queensland Government's commitment to open data.

Our principles

DHPW shares the Queensland Government's commitment to open data as outlined in the Queensland Government Open Data Policy Statement¹.

The Policy Statement commits to the six principles from the International Open Data Charter. These principles are:

- Open by default
- Timely and comprehensive
- Accessible and usable
- Comparable and interoperable
- For improved governance and citizen engagement
- For inclusive development and innovation.

In continually improving the way we publish open data, DHPW will follow these principles.

Benefits of open data

We recognise our obligation to publish data about the department's spending, operations and performance to foster transparent, accountable, efficient, responsive and effective government.

We also recognise how open data can be used to benefit Queensland to:

- Support the design, delivery and assessment of better services for citizens and businesses
- Improve the evidence-base for policy and programs
- Provide major opportunities for innovation and underpin growth of the digital economy.

¹Queensland Government, Open Data Policy Statement, available at <https://www.qld.gov.au/data/qld-data-policy-statement.pdf>, accessed 12 September 2018.

Alignment to our vision

Our vision – Working together with respect and compassion to influence change and deliver responsive services that build a healthy and connected Queensland.

To deliver our vision we create data assets in:

- Government-owned and managed social housing
- Grant funding to registered providers of community and local government managed social housing
- Residential services, manufactured homes and retirement villages registered with the department
- Whole of Government procurement including contracts awarded and standing offer arrangements
- Building projects, building maintenance, facility management and leasing, vehicle fleet leasing
- Registration data for architects and engineers in Queensland
- Sporting and recreational community grant funding and survey results
- Whole of Government ICT and website metrics
- Queensland archival collection including indexes.

Publishing these data assets provide people and businesses the opportunity to create products and services to support our vision to build a healthy and connected Queensland. It also demonstrates our commitment to transparency and to continuously improve the accountability of the Queensland Government.

These examples demonstrate how open data is being used to support Queenslanders:

- Ancestry.com uses data from Queensland State Archives to help Queenslanders understand their family history.
- The Queensland Government Digital Projects Dashboard leverages open data published by all Queensland Government departments. The dashboard provides the public with an overview of the products and services the Queensland Government is developing to service the needs of Queenslanders. Users can view projects being worked on across the sector as the government evolves into a truly digital and responsive organisation. As an agency delivering services to both the public and the rest of government, we publish open data about our significant digital projects. This directly supports the dashboard, and helps improve transparency of how DHPW will use digital technology to improve the lives of Queenslanders.

Our obligations

We have specific obligations to publish open data.

Documents	Open Data relationship
Queensland Government Open Data Policy Statement	Queensland Government's commitment to open data.
Queensland Government Enterprise Architecture Information Access and Use Policy	Queensland Government's commitment to provide government information to the public to the maximum extent possible free of charge with consistent licencing.
Queensland Procurement Policy 2018	Queensland Government's commitment to provide transparent accountability with basic details published of awarded contracts at or over \$10,000.
Right to Information Act 2009	Queensland Government's commitment to provide access to government information unless it is in the public interest not to.
Information Privacy Act 2009	Queensland Government's commitment to the privacy of individuals and the controls for the protection of personal information.
Annual reporting requirements for Queensland Government agencies	Various open data requirements to support annual reporting activities.

Open data actions

We have initiatives planned to improve maturity and meet our obligations.

To improve open data maturity, DHPW will:

- Develop an Open Data catalogue/register [planned completion 2019/2020]
- Conduct an open data maturity assessment annually [completed annually]
- Adopt whole-of-government publishing standards [ongoing - as updated by Queensland Government]
- Support DHPW business areas to improve the quality of data released [ongoing]
- Achieve [Open Data Institute \(ODI\) certificates](#) for our datasets [ongoing].

To support the Queensland Government's commitment to open data, DHPW will:

- Participate in government open data forums – Senior Officers' Working Group
- Contribute to and adopt Queensland Government Enterprise Architecture policies and other documentation
- Engage with industry and the open data community
- Provide support and mentoring at GovHack events.

To increase the number and quality of datasets being published, DHPW will:

- Anonymise sensitive data to enable data release, whilst upholding the highest standards of security and privacy for individuals;
- Make non-sensitive data open by default to encourage its reuse;
- Ensure all new business systems support data discovery, access and interoperability;
- Consult with our business units to gain their business intelligence about future releases;
- Embed open data standards and formats in existing work practices;
- Review our reporting requirements to determine if these administrative obligations could be fulfilled by an open data approach;
- Look for ways to automate the publishing of datasets to minimise effort and costs.

To meet our open data responsibilities, DHPW will:

- Publish open data as committed in our data publishing schedule.
- Update/refresh our open data as specified for each dataset.
- Monitor our open data email inbox and respond to requests for information.
- Regularly update the data release schedule and publish as a dataset on the Open Data Portal.
- Review and re-publish our Open Data Strategy annually.

To build our staff's capability in open data, DHPW will:

- Support and train new open data publishers.
- Engage with DHPW business units and identify contacts to be coordinators for open data.
- Raise awareness of the benefits publishing open data will bring to DHPW.

Data not suitable for release

Some data is not in the public interest to release publicly, and may be restricted for reasons of privacy, public safety, security, commercial confidentiality or compliance with the law. We will manage this confidential information appropriately and lawfully, in accordance with the *Right to Information Act 2009*, the *Information Privacy Act 2009*, and other legislation.

The following datasets are closed, and we will not release them as open data. This is not an exhaustive list. We will update the list as more closed datasets are identified when this strategy is next refreshed:

- Housing data that would the infringe the privacy of social housing tenants cannot be released as open data.
- Housing data, including registration data and property addresses, that would infringe the privacy of tenants housed under the National Rental Affordability Scheme and the private owners of these properties cannot be released as open data.
- Data held in the hazardous material database includes data about secure buildings. The release of this data could breach the security of the building and its occupants and cannot be released as open data.
- Data that has been generated through the collection of payment card transactions (e.g. personal credit cards) cannot be released as open data.
- Personnel data that would infringe the privacy of individual employees cannot be released as open data.

Appendix 1 – Data publishing schedule

Our [Data publishing schedule](#) lists new and existing datasets we plan to publish to data.qld.gov.au over the next 24 months. This is not an exhaustive list and we will endeavour to publish our datasets with the least restrictive licence allowing for its use and re-use.

We will update this list as we identify more datasets to publish and when this strategy is next refreshed.