

Open Data Strategy

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Department of Environment and Science

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**Queensland
Government**

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Our Principles

Principles

Department of Environment and Science (DES) 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:

1. Open by default
2. Timely and comprehensive
3. Accessible and usable
4. Comparable and interoperable
5. For improved governance and citizen engagement
6. For inclusive development and innovation

In continually improving the way we publish open data, DES follows these principles.



Why Open Data is Important

Benefits of Open Data

We recognise our important obligation to publish data about spending, operations and performance to...

- Foster transparent, accountable, efficient responsive and effective government.

We also recognise how the use of open data can benefit Queensland to...

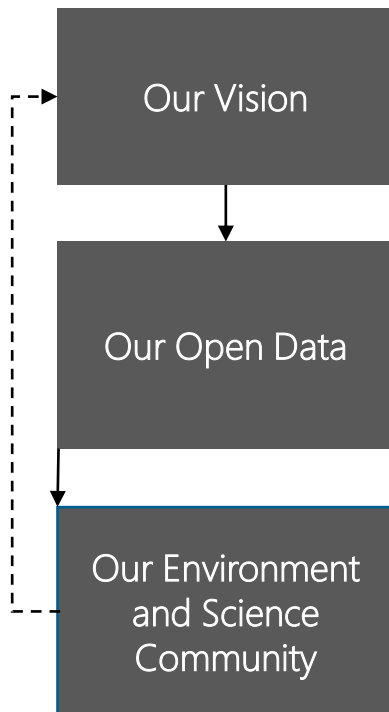
- Support the design, delivery and assessment of better services for citizens and businesses
- Improve the evidence-base for policy and programs
- Provide major opportunities for innovation and underpin growth of the digital economy.



Alignment to our Vision

Alignment to our Vision

Open Data supports our Department's strategic vision when we make our open data accessible to the environment and science community.



"One of the world's most diverse natural environments is maintained for the health and prosperity of current and future generations".

[In working towards our vision, we create important data assets...](#)

Air and water quality Waves and tides Climate Soil and landscape Environmental approvals
Vegetation and ecosystems Wildlife and habitats Land use and land cover Tracks and trails
Marine parks Protected species and areas Procurement contract disclosure Consultancies
Environmental codes and enforcement Grants expenditure Queensland language services policy
Heritage registers

[...By publishing as open data, these data assets can be used by our environment and science community...](#)

National park users Business and industry Landholders Environmental and conservation groups
International conservation organisations Tour operators General public Media Heritage practitioners
Local councils, state and federal government Community groups Permit holders Consultants
Research and education

[...To create products and services that contribute to a sustainably managed environment and promote engagement with science and heritage.](#)
[...And to make more informed decisions about how to safeguard the state's environmental values and reduce impacts from environmental harm.](#)

Case Study 1

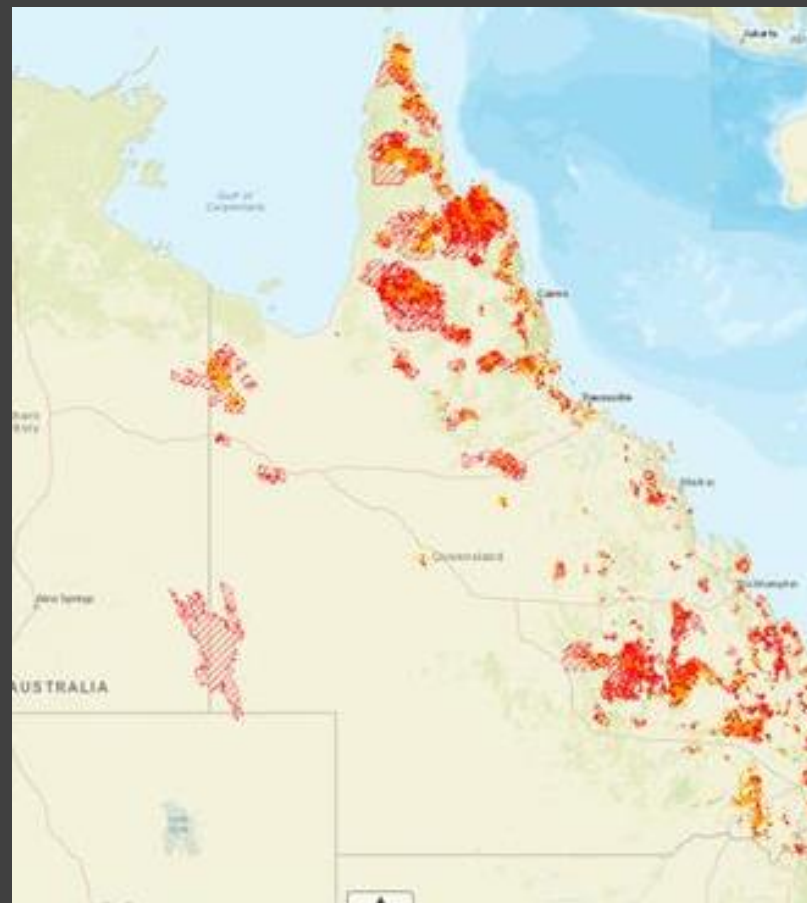
An example of open data supporting our Department's vision.

Queensland Parks burnt area mapping

Queensland Parks burnt area mapping has been available as Open Data through the Queensland Spatial Catalogue for some time. Interest in wildfire mapping dramatically increased during the severe fire season of 2019-2020. This interest came from members of the public, other government agencies both within Queensland and interstate and researchers interested in mapping impacts to threatened species and ecosystems.

Queensland burnt areas including historical and regularly updated fire mapping from the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service fire management system FLAME are published as publicly available GIS datasets updated daily. The data is also harvested by Geoscience Australia to augment the national bushfire boundary webservice.

The burnt area mapping has proven to be an incredibly valuable and well utilised Open Data product which Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships will continue to support and look to improve the quality through enhanced quality management.



Case Study 2

An example of open data supporting our Department's vision.

DES Contract Disclosure Reporting – publication to Open Data Portal

In 2019 changes were made under the Queensland Procurement Policy (QPP) requiring agency's to publish Contract Disclosure reporting to the Open Data Portal. DES has worked diligently to meet these new requirements; adapting to the new reporting format, building a new data collection method using Microsoft eForms, and seeing great collaboration between BCP Procurement (custodians of the data) and Web Services (Open Data Publishers) as the dataset requires monthly updating.



Case Study 3

An example of open data supporting our Department's vision.

Sharing Queensland wildlife data

The [Atlas of Living Australia](#), a major national partnership of Australian museums, herbaria, the CSIRO, a range of government agencies and other entities with biological collections, accesses Queensland's wildlife information using the wildlife data API.

Since making 103,000 WildNet fauna records available in the Atlas on 29 May 2014, there have been more than 199,000 downloads, delivering over 209 million records to researchers, policy makers and anyone interested in Australia's unique plants and animals.

The Queensland Government will make additional WildNet data available through the Queensland Government's [Open Data portal](#).



Case Study 4

An example of open data supporting our Department's vision.

Using multiple soil datasets to inform client decision-making

O2 Environment + Engineering, a specialist provider of soil and water consulting services to Queensland's mining, gas, infrastructure and development industries, accesses the soil and mapping datasets to complete environmental assessments on behalf of their clients.

O2 Environment + Engineering Senior Soil Scientist, Jon Walton, describes these datasets as being fundamental and critical to the assessments he makes for his firm's clients. His soil assessments support strategic investment and development decision-making.

The government's Open Data website fulfils his requirement for quick and reliable access to this information. As well as soil data, Jon uses the Open Data website to download the latest digital cadastral database (DCDB) information compiled by the government.





Our Strategy

Objective

The objective is to release non-sensitive data to encourage its reuse to support innovation, improve service delivery and inform policy across all sectors of the Queensland economy. In addition to the Open Data Strategy, the department maintains a public register of records related to the regulation of environmentally relevant activities [Public Register Portal](#). **To realise value, our specific focus will be to...**

1. Target policy priorities using open data

There are policy priorities relevant to our agency that we think open data can contribute to solving. We will work with the private and/or academic sector on an initiative to identify and contribute to solving one of these policy priority with open data.

2. Improve the quality of our open data

We recognise it is important to users that our open data is high quality and easy to understand. We will identify our most valuable open datasets and actively improve the quality, frequency and metadata of these datasets.

3. Improve the availability of spatial data

We undertake a number of activities for which spatial data exists. We will proactively identify and publish this data.

4. Proactively open more data

We have a number of datasets we have not yet opened to the public, which we think could provide value to Queensland. We will proactively identify and publish these datasets.

5. Stocktake datasets currently published

We have numerous datasets published, which may not be current or provide value to Queensland. We will proactively identify, cease or continue frequent publishing.

6. Improve the currency of our open data

We recognise it is important to users to have access to data that is as current as possible. We will identify our most valuable open datasets and actively move from static to real/near real time, using Automated Programming Interfaces (APIs).

Obligations

We also have specific obligations to publish open data.

Document	Summary of Relevance to Open Data
Queensland Government Open Data Policy Statement (2017)	The Cabinet endorsed Queensland Government commitment to open data, including various specific obligations for all agencies.
Information access and use policy (IS33)	The Policy mandates Departments to “provide government information to the public to the maximum extent possible”, free of charge and with consistent licensing.
Right to Information Act 2009	Queensland Government’s obligation to give access to information in the government’s possession or control unless it is in the public interest not to.
Information Privacy Act 2009	Various responsibilities to protect personal information, including not disclosing personal or identifying information as open data.
Queensland Procurement Policy 2021	Requirements for the disclosure of procurement contracts over \$10,000.
Annual Reporting Requirements	Various open data requirements to support annual reporting activities.
DIGITAL1ST: Advancing our digital future	Commitment to this Queensland Government strategy to provide access to information, foster innovation, collaboration and build trust in Government.
Various Acts specific to the activities and services of DES	Various Acts stipulate the open publishing of data.

Responsibilities

We also have a number of day-to-day responsibilities to...

- Publish open data as committed to in our open data publishing schedule
- Update/refresh our open data as specified for each dataset
- Monitor our open data email inbox
- Respond to data.qld.gov.au data requests and general enquiries
- Support and train new open data publishers
- Participate in Government open data forums – Senior Officers Working Group and Open Data Practitioners Community
- Contribute to and adopt Queensland Government Enterprise Architecture policies and other documentation
- Engage with industry and the open data community
- Review and re-publish open data strategy regularly
- Conduct open data maturity assessment annually
- Provide support and mentoring at open data events

Governance

To ensure we are meeting our commitment, we will report progress to the following committees.

Committee	Frequency	Reporting Requirements
Senior Officers' Open Data Working Group (for Whole of Government Open Data)	Bi-monthly	DES Open Data Community representative to provide general update on DES open data initiatives/progress.
DES Executive Leadership Team	Quarterly	Digital Strategy and Security Committee reports departmental progress against the objective of the Open Data Strategy.
DES Digital Strategy and Security Committee	Monthly	Information Management and Security Working Group (includes members of the DES Open Data Community) reports issues and progress against action plans supporting the Open Data Strategy, for their oversight.
DES Divisional Digital Investment Committees / Senior Leadership Teams / Governance Boards	Monthly	Divisional representatives of the DES Open Data Community reports issues and progress against action plans supporting Open Data Strategy, for resolution and direction.

This publication has been compiled by Department of Environment and Science.

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Appendix 1 – Published Data

At 30/06/2022 we have 686 datasets published to data.qld.gov.au.
For a updated list of all our datasets click [here](#).

Appendix 2 - Data publishing schedule

We plan to publish the following datasets to data.qld.gov.au over the next 12 months. This is not an exhaustive list. We will update this list as we identify more datasets to publish and when this strategy is next refreshed.

Dataset name	Description	Frequency of Update	Licence
The Queensland Heritage Register	The Queensland Heritage Register.	Annually	CCA 3.0
WWII historic places	WWII historic places.	Annually	CCA 3.0
Qld Heritage Register boundaries	Qld Heritage Register boundaries.	Non-regular	CCA 3.0
Qld Heritage Council Remuneration details	Qld Heritage Council Remuneration details.	Annually	CCA 3.0
Environmental Authorities Register	Register of Environmental Authorities (EAs) under Environmental Protection Act 1994.	Weekly	CCA 4.0
Contaminated Land Register	Contaminated land register.	Annually	CCA 3.0
Suitable Operator Register	Ongoing upkeep of the Registered Suitable Operators register.	Weekly	CCA 4.0
Enforcements	Enforcements which are releasable under the provisions of the Public Register (s540 and 540A of the Environmental Protection Act 1994).	Weekly	CCA 4.0
Temporary Emissions Licences (TELs)	TELs associated with the EAs or TEPs, as required under s540(1) of the Environmental Protection Act 1994.	Weekly	CCA 4.0

Appendix 2 - Data publishing schedule cont.

Dataset name	Description	Frequency of Update	Licence
Progressive Rehabilitation and Closure Plans	PRC Plans, PRCP Schedules, and associated audit reports and public interest evaluations, as required under s540(1) of the Environmental Protection Act 1994.	Weekly	CCA 4.0
Camping and vehicle permits	This tabular data contains details of the permits issued for camping and vehicle access to the Protected Areas, Recreation Areas and Great Walks managed by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.	Quarterly	CCA 4.0
Protected Areas of Queensland	Protected areas of Queensland represent those areas protected for the conservation of natural and cultural values and those areas managed for production of forest resources, including timber and quarry material. These areas are defined spatially using cadastral parcels.	Non-regularly	CCA 3.0
Fire Management	Fire management zones show the principal purpose(s), in terms of fire management, for any given part of a reserve and therefore the way in which the area will generally be managed for fire. They are a component of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service Fire Management System.	Non-regularly	CCA 3.0
State Marine Parks	Zonings within Queensland's marine parks.	Non-regularly	CCA 4.0
Fish Habitat Areas	The 72 Fish Habitat Areas in this dataset are declared under Section 120 - Fisheries Act-1994 and Schedule 3-Queensland Fisheries Regulations 2008, effective 17 March 2017. This is a composite of ALL Fish Habitat Area boundary areas gazetted/re-gazetted between 1998-2017.	Non-regularly	CCA 3.0

Appendix 2 - Data publishing schedule cont.

Dataset name	Description	Frequency of Update	Licence
Tracks and Trails	Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service estate access data including roads, tracks and trails, and associated data.	Non-regularly	CCA 3.0
Regional Boundaries	Boundaries delineating Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service regions.	Non-regularly	CCA 3.0
Conservation status of Queensland Wildlife	The authorities register lists approvals issued for prescribed activities issued under the Nature Conservation Act 1992.	Annually	CCA 4.0
Fire History – Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service	History of planned burns and wildfire on and around the Protected Areas and Forests of Queensland.	Daily	CCA 3.0
2020 State of the Environment Report	Data sets from the report.	Annually	CCA 3.0
Recycling and Waste in Queensland 2019	Data sets from the report.	Annually	CCA 3.0
Air Quality	Air Quality at Queensland monitoring stations.	API	CCA 4.0
Digital images of plant specimens	Queensland collection as digitised.	As digitised	CCA 4.0
Biodiversity datasets	Sightings and surveys.	API	CCA 4.0
3D models of skeletons	The 3D model of the dinosaur skeleton and Fish skeleton.	Annually	CCA 4.0

Appendix 2 - Data publishing schedule cont.

Dataset name	Description	Frequency of Update	Licence
Ambient estuarine water quality monitoring	Half hourly in-situ estuarine water quality readings by station updated daily.	Hourly	CCA 4.0
Board of Qld Museum Report	Queensland Museum Network Consultancies for the financial year 2019-2020.	Annually	CCA 4.0
Botanical Dictionary Qld	Botanical dictionary based on the Queensland Herbarium's Census of the Queensland Flora.	Annually	CCA 4.0
Coastal Data Systems	Datasets ranging from Waves to Storm Tidal Information.	Annually	CCA 4.0
Queensland Indigenous Youth Leadership Program	Number of participants in the Queensland Indigenous Youth Leadership Program.	Annually	CCA 4.0
YMCA Queensland Youth Parliament	Number of participants in the YMCA Queensland Youth Parliament.	Annually	CCA 4.0

Appendix 3 – Closed Data

Some data is not in the public interest to release publicly. 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.

Dataset Title	Reason for not publishing
Commercial-in-confidence information	Data that relates to any commercial-in-confidence documents.
Cabinet-in-confidence information	Data that relates to any cabinet-in-confidence documents.
Environmental Authority holders' personal details	Personal information of Environmental Authority holders including names and addresses are to be kept in confidence unless required by the Public Register to be released.
Financial Provisioning Schemes	Data relating to the financial provisioning schemes not releasable under Environmental Protection Act 1994.
Current court proceedings	Information relating to matters that are undergoing a court proceeding.
Current litigation proceedings	Information relating to matters that are undergoing a litigation process.
Documents that are not publicly available under the Environmental Protection Act 1994	Documents not available under s540 and s540A of the Environmental Protection Act 1994.
Procurement contracts kept on the non-disclosure register.	
Property owner details	Privacy Act 1988 requirements.
Heritage applications	The nature of the information associated with applications is complex and some of it is sensitive. Heritage makes certain details about applications available through the DES website, through a controlled program of release, for the purpose of inviting submissions. This data is associated with a statutory process.

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Dataset Title	Reason for not publishing
Development assessment information	This is information involved in a statutory process under the Queensland Heritage Act 1992 and other legislation. There is no legislative obligation to make open this data, and some sensitivities are involved. Some of the data does not belong to DES and is provided to enable to DES to provide advice.
Compliance information	State heritage place management information related to DES' regulatory role is private & confidential.