

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

(Incorporating related entities)

Open Data Strategy

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Interpreter



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Feedback

The Department of the Agriculture and Fisheries welcomes feedback on its Open Data Strategy at OpenData@daf.qld.gov.au

An electronic version of the DAF Open Data Strategy is available on the Queensland Government Publications Portal at <https://www.publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/open-data-strategy-agriculture-fisheries-and-forestry>

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Table of contents

1	Introduction.....	1
1.1	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.....	1
1.2	Statutory Bodies	2
2	Strategic overview.....	3
2.1	Our commitment.....	3
3	Data.....	3
3.1	Data management and release	4
4	Governance.....	5
5	Forward work program	5
5.1	Improving capability.....	5
5.2	Targeting data	6
5.3	Improving public awareness.....	6
	Appendixes	8

1 Introduction

The department published its initial Open Data Strategy in May 2013 with updates occurring each year.

Since the last update of the Agriculture and Fisheries portfolio's open data strategy, the portfolio continued to improve the data it makes available through the Queensland's Government's Open Data Portal (www.data.qld.gov.au) and QSpatial (Queensland Spatial Catalogue).

As at the end of January 2017, the department and its portfolio bodies had released 140 agriculture, fisheries and forestry datasets and their supporting resource files on the OpenData Portal.

Following a change of government in March 2015, the government recommitted to the importance of opening government data. Lead responsibility for open data policy sits with the Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation (DSITI) to ensure better integration with the GoDigitalQLD - Queensland Digital Economy Strategy and the future direction for government's information technology.

DSITI is developing the next stage of the Queensland Government Open Data Framework which will form the basis of an implementation roadmap for all agencies. In line with the government's strategic direction we will:

- assess the portfolio's open data maturity and develop an improvement plan
- improve the quality and timeliness of released data
- catalogue all known datasets, including those not suitable for publication
- educate staff in identifying and assessing datasets and encouraging proactive data release.

This strategy covers the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) and its statutory bodies within the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries portfolio – referred to here as the “DAF portfolio”.

1.1 Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

DAF promotes a sustainable and innovative agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector and rural businesses which add value to the economy and the community. The department advocates and represents industry needs across government to ensure they are reflected in policy, infrastructure and regional planning and investment decisions. The services aligned to this effort are based on information gathered in order to better:

- translate priorities into agreed strategies, regulatory reforms and actions
- develop and deliver industry and region specific action plans
- maximise the return from sales of logs from native forests and quarries on state-owned land
- balance fisheries resource use and sustainability needs
- deliver research, development and extension that lifts productivity
- improve biosecurity
- manage animal welfare and the use of ag-vet chemicals.

1.2 Statutory Bodies

The portfolio currently has four statutory bodies.

- Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges (QATC)
- Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority (QRAA)
- Darling Downs-Moreton Rabbit Board (DDMRB)
- Safe Food Production Queensland (SFPQ)

The first three bodies have adopted the general principles of the department's strategy and are coordinating their activities and release schedules through the DAF Open Data program.

QATC manages the brands of Longreach Pastoral College, Emerald Agricultural College and Rural Training Queensland (the industry training arm). QATC's purpose remains to provide high quality training and assessment services to the agricultural industries in Queensland.

QRAA is a specialist administrator of government financial assistance programs including loans, grants, rebates and subsidies. Its objectives include supporting the State's economy by providing assistance to primary producers, small businesses and other elements of the State's economy and fostering the development of more productive and sustainable rural and regional areas.

DDMRB maintains the 555 km of Rabbit-proof fence, which runs from Mt Gipps (near Rathdowney) to Goombi (between Chinchilla and Miles), where it joins up with the Wild Dog Barrier Fence, in rabbit-proof condition and monitors compliance with the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*. DDMRB also provides technical and other advice to landholders in its operational areas to assist with rabbit eradication.

Safe Food Production Queensland (**SFPQ**) has developed its own Open Data Strategy and release schedule. SFPQ works closely with the department to ensure the success of its strategy.

Feedback on this strategy is encouraged. Please contact the department via email:

OpenData@daf.qld.gov.au

2 Strategic overview

The portfolio holds a variety of data about agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries and related regulatory activities in Queensland. Data is collected continuously to support service delivery and contributing to productive and prosperous agriculture, fishing and forestry sectors.

2.1 Our commitment

The department and each of the statutory bodies has committed to embedding the principles of the Queensland Government Open Data initiative within their ongoing business activities. Our maturity is expected to grow and expand as portfolio agencies continue to pursue these open data goals and work to become 'share first' organisations.

We understand the potential benefits to government, industry and the community available through the public release of government data. Each agency will actively monitor and engage with data users to better understand what they need. We will work with other parties to build a culture of opening data where collection is co-funded or also collected by others to improve the quantum and value of data available.

The information managed by the portfolio is already used by the public, industry, researchers and other government agencies in various formats such as reports, tables, online applications and maps. The raw data that supports these publications may be of value to new customers currently unknown to the department or existing customers seeking to develop new products or solutions to problems broader than the department's focus.

Our open data goals are:

- increase the value from our data
- 100% of published data conforms to quality and protection standards
- availability and promotion of open data supports the active discovery of new business solutions and ideas; and
- greater transparency of the department's operations/performance.

3 Data

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

The department gathers industry intelligence to inform policy direction and regulatory reform, scientific data through Research, Development and Extension (RD&E) partnerships that lead to innovation and monitoring data that informs management practices and service delivery. The type of data held by DAF includes:

- agricultural production in Queensland
- regulatory approvals e.g. licensing, permits, brands
- drought and disaster relief
- timber and quarry production in Queensland
- commercial and recreational fishing catch and effort for some stocks
- aquaculture production
- the shark control program
- plant and animal pests
- animal ethics
- laboratories and vaccines
- research undertaken by the department
- customer and stakeholder engagement

- organisational performance and administrative data.

Statutory Bodies

QTAC gathers information and intelligence that informs its management and educational practices including compliance and regulations. Data held includes:

- training courses and outcomes
- customer and employer satisfaction
- facilities
- livestock and crop production operations
- animal ethics
- corporate and administrative data.

QRAA gathers information and intelligence that informs its management practices and service delivery including data related to administration of:

- Primary Industry Productivity Enhancement Scheme (PIPES) loans,
- other government financial assistance programs and grants and
- additional programs and services delivered to local, state and territory governments.
- customer surveys
- corporate and administrative data.

DDMRB collects data that informs its rabbit compliance activities and management practices. DDMRB proposes to continually update data related to:

- rabbit compliance activities including activities associated with both known infestations and new sightings.

The portfolio contributes geospatial data relevant to land use, pest management and other regulated activities to the QSpatial. QSpatial is available through a link at the Open Data portal.

3.1 Data management and release

Portfolio information assets are assigned to data custodians who are executive leaders within the business. Large information assets also have assigned data managers. Collectively their responsibilities are to ensure:

- the quality and integrity of the data to appropriate standards
- ongoing capacity to manage and make accessible the data
- provide discovery and access arrangements.

In line with our goal to release data that conforms 100% to data quality and protection standards, the department considers a number of factors before nominating datasets suitable for publishing through the Open Data portal.

In relation to personal privacy, the department is guided by the privacy principles in Queensland's *Information Privacy Act 2009* which supports the delivery of government services while preventing the misuse of personal information. Some of the datasets have been cleansed of identifiable information while some very small datasets were deemed not suitable for publishing. We will aim to avoid publishing data that allows inadvertent or indirect disclosure of personal information in breach of the legislation.

Ownership of the data has also been considered in determining the data that can be released. Some data is generated through commercial-in-confidence contracts with external partners, while in other

cases, the portfolio agencies purchases access to data from other providers. These datasets will only be released with the permission of the other parties.

We recognise that while free and open data is our preferred approach it is not always possible for a range of reasons. Each known dataset has been assessed prior to making a decision on whether to apply a Creative Commons licence to ensure there is no infringement of intellectual property rights. In some instances a limited licence (non-commercial or no derivatives) has been applied to allow public access while protecting the rights of third parties.

The priority for the release of data via Open Data is:

- publicly available data that is already published in other formats such as reports, online and through web interfaces
- externally reported data
- data not currently published but potentially suitable for release after full assessment against protection standards or with the permission of joint owners.

The portfolio maintains a catalogue of all released on the Open Data Portal. Please see [Appendix A](#)

All material currently published to the internet sites is in accordance with the internal approval processes established by each portfolio agency.

4 Governance

To ensure the embedding of the Open Data Strategy, the Open Data coordination team will be refreshed, with oversight by the Board of Management.

Each of the statutory bodies under this strategy has appropriate governance in place to provide oversight of the Open Data strategy and associated implementation. This includes ensuring timely release of datasets, undertaking industry and community engagement in relation to available datasets and continuing to drive the future program of Open Data in their organisation.

This approach will see the portfolio continue to proactively release data captured and collected to reach the widest audience possible. Open access to this information will assist in achieving the department's goals and improve its services by encouraging collaboration to generate new ideas, technologies and practices.

5 Forward work program

The agriculture and fisheries portfolio agencies are committed to releasing more data for the benefit of our clients and the community. Further opportunities to highlight and build demand, such as the promotion with the Open Data Institute, Queensland (ODIQ) are under investigation. The portfolio will continue to improve the quality of the data and expand its maturity as a 'share first' network of organisations as resources permit.

5.1 Improving capability

In accordance the proposed Queensland Government Open Data Policy, the portfolio will implement activities to improve quality and maturity, commencing with an open data maturity assessment. The maturity assessment is based on the [Open Data Maturity Model](#).

This model will be used across the portfolio to assess our maturity as both publishers and users of open data in several areas:

- data management processes
- knowledge and skills
- customer support and engagement
- investment and financial performance
- strategy and governance.

Assessment against this model will help to identify areas for improvement; progress made and to prioritise areas of development in our open data strategy.

Processes introduced as part of the Open Data Strategy will continue to be transitioned into existing business processes to ensure Open Data is embedded into the business of the portfolio. The portfolio will strengthen processes which support the future development of Open Data including:

- the usability of open data consistent with user requirements
- the integration of open data into future business solutions; and
- agreed whole-of-government data standards.

5.2 Targeting data

A key priority for the department remains to widen access to our science and research data.

The release of research data to date has been slower than anticipated due to complex R&D co-funding arrangements and sensitivities around market security and ability to identify individual contributors if data were to be released. Work is ongoing with stakeholders to manage possible and perceived unintended consequences of data release and to build a shared commitment to open data to more fully exploit its potential.

Currently published reports are available through our research archive eRA. Research reports and publications do not generally include the full datasets on which the work is based. We aim to extend open access to a much wider range of our research and development (R&D) datasets. While some non R&D science related surveillance and monitoring activities data is currently available through open data, there also may be further potential in this space. We will pay particular attention to testing for sensitivities, to ensure we comply with the protection standard and avoid releasing data that would undermine market security. In some cases open access may not be possible.

Regular audits of our information assets are assisting staff to better understand and assess the range of data that is held within an individual asset. The next stocktake of departmental information assets and systems is planned for late 2017. Profiling of open data during this period should help to identify datasets that should be reconsidered or released. Statutory bodies generally have a more narrowly defined purpose and as such have identified the bulk of their holdings. In addition to improving data quality, describing datasets not for release will form a key focus for these agencies.

5.3 Improving public awareness

To provide a fuller picture of the portfolio's datasets, we have established catalogues of released and identified but not yet assessed, datasets. These catalogues will be updated on a regular basis (see Appendices A and B).

The catalogues will serve as a central point to request further information or provide feedback about our data. Datasets will be added as they are identified with the goal of assessing and publishing known datasets in the future.

A catalogue of datasets not suitable for release will be established. Reasons for non-publication, will be detailed.

Moving forward, attention across the portfolio is committed to embedding systems and work processes to ensure existing open datasets are updated and improved as needed. To enable quick access, data resources have been released as soon as they have been made available. This has resulted in a large number of single datasets and resources. As agreed government data standards are refined and user feedback is received it is possible that the current grouping of datasets and resources may change.

Where possible, the portfolio will incorporate into public access web enabled systems, the capability to access and download data in open format, providing access to the most current data available. Upgrades to existing and development of new data management systems will be targeted to better understand the data that is being stored and if and how it can best be opened.

Further opportunities to highlight and build demand, such as the promotion with the Open Data Institute, Queensland (ODIQ) and more active participation in events such as GovHack are under investigation.

Appendixes

Appendix A: Catalogue of identified datasets

This catalogue contains the names of and links to released datasets that are already available on www.data.qld.gov.au or [QSpatial](#). These datasets are updated according to the frequency specified for the individual dataset/resource. The data may be held in various formats including CSV, Shp, Tab, Excel, txt or in data bases with web interfaces.

In time, it will also contain the names of datasets that have been assessed as not appropriate for public release. A description of the dataset and reason for not releasing the data will be available on www.data.qld.gov.au. Reasons for not releasing the data may include protection of confidential information about individuals or businesses, data quality issues, cost benefit of extraction.

Appendix B: Possible future release datasets – datasets under assessment

This catalogue contains names of individual datasets and groups of datasets that have been identified but not yet assessed.

Appendix C: Open Data priority action list - In 2016 the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) completed a maturity assessment of its open data using the [maturity model from the Open Data Institute](#). The formation of an action plan occurred following this assessment, with the intention of detailing specific tasks the department could complete in order to improve its maturity rating.

The Queensland Government is currently in the late stages of developing an [Open Data Policy](#) which will significantly change the requirements for departments around open data. In light of these significant changes, DAF has elected to release this excerpt of our open data action plan which details priority actions for the department around open data for the next 12 months. These actions have been drawn from the action plan and will contribute towards improving the department's maturity.

	Action	Description	How we will implement
1.	Ensure documentation accompanies future data releases	Produce a guide that specifies the documentation that is to be provided with each data release. Future releases should be accompanied by descriptive documentation e.g. that describes the context for the data collection, and code lists used in the data as well as their meaning	Communicate to and progressively work through with individual data managers
2.	Announce new data releases and significant updates via social media	The data release process should be updated to include announcing significant data releases and updates via social media	As data managers identify significant datasets
3.	Enrich tabular data with	In cases where tabular datasets contain references to location, updates should be made to make this data mappable by including or	New and refreshed files not through QSpatial will

	spatial data	referencing spatial data that provides the coordinates of that location	endeavor to include spatial references
4.	Provide spatial extent metadata for future data releases	Refined the data release process to enable describing of the geographic extent of data to allow locational searches to be done on the portal	Whole of Government action being led by DSITI
5.	Identify and adopt standards to apply to datasets	Define a plan to identify and adopt standards for similar/and or related data. Initial phase to include adoption of standards for common fields such as the ISO8601 standard ⁵ for dates	Standards will endeavor to be built into new and upgraded information assets
6.	Establish open data forums within DAF	Consider opportunities to educate staff about publishing and re-using open data. Engage with other internal audiences through internal webinars	Already commenced and ongoing
7.	Respond to customer survey feedback; and Monitor the duration to fulfil a support request	Analyse and respond to feedback received either through direct action in publishing or improving data releases or indirectly communicating with customers through social media, as well as establish a process to measure the time to complete a support request.	Process commenced and looking to establish customer service standards
8.	Apply Tags consistently in the Open Data Portal	Review tags that have been applied inconsistently to datasets published on data.qld.gov.au. The full set of 1496 tags can be viewed at https://data.qld.gov.au/tag	Rationalise and correct the tags as necessary, and apply the corrected tags when datasets are refreshed
9.	Analyse total demand	Utilise usage information from the portal to inform demand	Whole of Government action being led by DSITI
10.	Develop standard contract clauses for open data	Develop standard contract clauses to include in tenders that will introduce a new data asset so that open data compliance is taken into account prior to asset build	Educate data managers in identifying correct security classifications for particular subsets of data