



Open Data Strategy 2020-2021



Our vision

The Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs is committed to openness, transparency, accountability and active engagement with the community.

The department's Open Data Strategy 2020-2021 sets a plan for releasing departmental information that is freely available to the public through the Queensland Government Open Data Portal (the open data portal), so it can be reused and redistributed to anyone, anytime, and anywhere.

Our commitment

The department shares the Queensland Government's commitment to open data as outlined in the Queensland Government Open Data Policy Statement ¹ and its intent is to release information that does not have valid privacy concerns or an information security classification that would prevent its release.

As a department, our key commitments are to:

- release data as it is identified as being suitable to release on the open data portal
- make data accessible and easy to find
- publish data in line with the open data principles
- inform our stakeholders and key service delivery areas of data for impending release
- maintain data as fit-for-the-purpose for which it was collected
- work with statutory authorities to realise the benefits of open data
- maintain a list of restricted data which is not suitable for publication due to legislative restrictions usually designed to protect the privacy of individuals.

Our goals

The department contributes directly to the Queensland Government's priorities for the community by pursuing our objectives through the delivery of initiatives and strategies to create jobs in a strong economy, keep Queenslanders healthy and be a responsive government.

The department collects and manages information related to state-wide:

- cultural diversity
- racing bodies remuneration information
- local government waste services
- local government water and sewer charges.

The department acknowledges the potential of open data to provide Queenslanders with economic and social benefits, including the opportunity to identify pathways to work with government, and provide feedback to improve government service delivery.

By releasing data, the department is fostering transparent, accountable, efficient and effective government, and will enable creative re-use and repurposing of data to provide new and exciting resources for the community.

¹ https://www.data.qld.gov.au/_resources/documents/qld-data-policy-statement.pdf



Open data principles

The department shares the vision of the of the Queensland Government, recognising the importance of effectively managing the release of government data to optimise the use and reuse of open data for the benefit of the community. The department is committed to the International Open Data Charter.² The department is accountable for the release of data in accordance with set open data standards and open data principles that underpin the strategy **which mandate** that published data will be:

- available for open use under flexible licences wherever appropriate, allowing for reuse by the public including by business, researchers and individuals
- available free, except if the charge is statutory or if cost recovery has a clear net benefit to the Queensland community
- in accessible formats and easy to find and easily discoverable through the open data portal in accessible formats that promote their reuse
- released within set standards and accountabilities and made available in a timely and relevant manner unless restricted for reasons of privacy, public safety, security, commercial confidentiality or compliance with the law.

Responsibilities

The department has day-to-day operating responsibilities as follows:

- publish open data as committed in our open data publication schedule
- update/refresh our open data as specified for each dataset
- monitor our open data email inbox
- respond to the open data portal requests
- respond to the open data portal general enquiries
- participate in Queensland 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 every two years
- conduct open data maturity assessment periodically.

Action plan

The aim of the action plan is to encourage the release of new datasets, ensure the accuracy and currency of published information and build the department's employees' knowledge of open data principles and governance processes.

Open data delivery	Activities	During 2020		During 2021	
		Jan to Jun	Jul to Dec	Jan to Jun	Jul to Dec
Objectives	1. Proactively opening more data – identify additional datasets that can be approved for release.				

² International Open Data Charter, Principles, available at <https://opendatacharter.net/>



Open data delivery	Activities	During 2020		During 2021	
		Jan to Jun	Jul to Dec	Jan to Jun	Jul to Dec
	2. Improve the quality of our open data – ensure currently released and new datasets identified for release are in a format that is machine readable.				
	3. Incorporate open data in business planning – ensure business processes and business cases for new and upgraded systems consider open data requirements as part of the build.				
Maturity improvement	4. Strategic oversight – integrate oversight for implementation of the open data strategy into the governance arrangements.				
	5. Knowledge and skills – develop and implement a training and awareness program for data and asset owners, data managers and data publishers.				
	6. Data management processes – continually develop the open data resources that support data owners, managers and custodians assess and obtain approval to release data.				
	7. Customer support and engagement – promote new data releases on the department's website.				
Data publication responsibilities	8. Maintain currency – update and review existing datasets and resources according to set schedules.				
	9. Refresh data publication schedule – work with data owners, managers and custodians to identify new datasets for release.				
Open data maturity assessment	10. Review open data governance – annually review internal business and approval processes.				
	11. Improve business process – plan to include open data activities.				
	12. Assess employees' knowledge – periodically assess employee's knowledge and adherence to open data principles through online training module tests.				

Human rights obligations

The department is committed to respecting, protecting and promoting human rights. Under the *Human Rights Act 2019*, the department has an obligation to act and make decisions in a way that is compatible with human rights and, when making a decision, to give proper consideration to human rights. When making a decision about open data releases to the Queensland open data portal, decision-makers will comply with that obligation.

For further information on the *Human Rights Act 2019* see <https://www.forgov.qld.gov.au/humanrights>

Release schedule

The department's approved release schedule will be reviewed annually and incorporates details of all approved active and inactive datasets as well as a list of datasets that are not suitable to be published on the open data portal due to privacy, confidentiality or other reasons.

The departments datasets are available [here](#).