

PURPOSE

The policy's purpose is to:

- Facilitate the release of high-value datasets by Council departments to the public in a safe and consistent manner
- Make explicit Council's Commitment to open data
- Support the strategies contained in the Glenorchy City Council Strategic Plan 2016-25 around accessible information, accountability, transparency, and efficiency (as detailed below) and
- Comply with our obligations under the *Right to Information Act* 2009 which mandates the routine and proactive release of information.

SCOPE

This policy is restricted to data Council holds copyright over.

Target audiences include Council and other government jurisdictions, academia, industry (including software developers) and members of the public who are interested in, or have a specific use for, Council data.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Making Lives Better

Objective 1.1 Know our communities and what they value

Strategy 1.1.1 Guide decision making through continued community engagement based on our community plan

Leading Our Community

Objective 4.1 Govern in the best interests of our community

Strategy 4.1.1 Manage Council for maximum efficiency, accountability, and transparency

Strategy 4.1.3 Maximise regulatory compliance in Council and the community through our systems and processes

Objective 4.2 Prioritise our resources to achieve our community's goals

Strategy 4.2.1 Deploy the Council's resources effectively to deliver value

RELATED DOCUMENTS

This policy should be read in conjunction with the relevant guidance provided in:

Right to Information Act 2009

The Tasmanian Government Information Licensing Framework 2010

Government 2.0 (Australian Government)
 Tasmanian Government Open Data Policy 2016
Personal Information Protection Act 2004

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

Acts	<i>Personal Information Protection Act 2004</i> <i>Right to Information Act 2009</i>
Regulations	
Australian/International Standards	The Tasmanian Government Information Management Framework 2020 Government 2.0 (Australian Government) Tasmanian Government Open Data Policy 2016

DEFINITIONS

Data is defined as facts or figures, or information that's stored in or used by a computer.

Metadata is defined as a set of data that describes and gives information about other data.

POLICY STATEMENT

1. Open by default

Data will be open by default unless there is a specific, overriding reason for the data not to be released.

2. Protected where required

Data will not be released, or not released in full, where any of the following conditions cannot be avoided:

- Privacy Risk: where personal information is involved and an individual's right to privacy is threatened
- Security Risk: where the nature of the data may expose citizens to increased risk in some form, at any level of jurisdiction
- Confidentiality Risk: because of the nature of the data, or because contractual promise has been made in relation to the data
- Legal Privilege exists: attaches to certain legal advice, or
- Public Interest exists: where public interest considerations against disclosure outweigh public interest considerations in favor of disclosure.

3. Prioritised

High-value datasets will be prioritised for release in line with public and industry demand. This does not preclude perceived low-value datasets from eventually being released, as hidden potential may be revealed by innovative users.

4. Discoverable

Data will be easily discoverable and searchable through data.gov.au, or the Tasmanian Government equivalent [The List](#).

5. Usable

Data will be in standard formats for maximum usability. Characteristics that support usability include:

- Machine-readable formats
- Non-proprietary formats
- Provision in its rawest possible form where possible, prior to any aggregation or modification
- Structured to support inter-agency data sharing where practical
- Completeness
- Good metadata (metadata explains what the data is about and its quality).

Examples of open formats can be viewed at [Ausgoal](#).

6. Data Quality

Data will be collected and maintained at sufficient quality to support publishing as open data and ensuring efficacy for users. Where there are limitations in quality or completeness, users will be alerted to the limitations via metadata as described in point 5 above.

7. Free where appropriate

Data is free where appropriate, to encourage widespread use. Where this is not possible, it shall be supplied at a reasonable price based on the public interest rather than income generation or financial gain.

8. Timely

Data will be current, and if practicable, live with real time feeds to enhance the utility of the data. Updates of static data will be provided in a timely manner wherever possible.

9. Licensed

Data will be published under the Creative Commons licensing framework using the Attribution 3.0 Australia Licence (CC BY). This licence is recommended to all tiers of the public sector as the licence of choice for open data by the Australian Government. Where

required an alternative form of open licence may also be applied to enable data to be used more widely such as the Open Data Commons Open Database License (ODbL).

10. Approved

All data proposed for publishing under these principles will be submitted to the Information Communications and Technology Department for final approval. This ensures expert appraisal and consistent publishing methods are applied under the standard procedures used by the Information Communications and Technology Department. These are guided by best practice and relevant legislation. This encourages the release of data rather than placing onerous compliance responsibilities back onto staff.

All data to be released will require authorisation from Director Corporate Services before registering, licensing, and publishing occurs.

BACKGROUND

Open data is the practice of proactively publishing data of high value to the public, in its rawest possible form, via easily accessible channels under non-restrictive licensing.

There has been a rapid acceleration in the adoption of open data practices and technologies across both national and state governments during the last decade. Council has also successfully piloted the open publishing of some spatial datasets during this period. As a significant collector and manager of data, Local Government has an increasingly important role to play to ensure our data is able to be re-used by the public sector, community and industry to obtain the benefits described within this Policy.

Benefits

Benefits arising from this policy include:

- Promotion of open, transparent, and accountable local government
- Contribution to the development of new businesses and industries that make use of government data
- Promotion of citizen engagement with local government
- Enabling data sharing between departments, local governments and across jurisdictions
- Support for evidence-based policy and research

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Version:	2.0	Adopted	DD Month YYYY	Commencement Date	DD Month YYYY
Minutes Reference	#####			Review Period	4 Years from adoption
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Responsible Directorate	Corporate Services	Controller:	Manager ICT		
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