

Department of Housing and Public Works

Open Data Strategy 2016-2021

Introduction

The Department of the Housing and Public Works (HPW) Open Data Strategy details the department's plan to deliver the Queensland Government's open data initiative. This strategy also applies to HPW's statutory bodies which includes: the Board of Architects of Queensland and the Board of Professional Engineers of Queensland. The Residential Tenancies Authority and the Queensland Building and Construction Commission publish their own open data strategies.

The policy principles that underpin the strategy are that government data will be available for open use, will be free, will be in accessible formats and easy to find and will be released within set standards and accountabilities.

The strategy is a rolling five year program updated yearly, detailing how HPW will support the Open Data initiative. HPW will target, but not limit, its approach to prioritising datasets that will provide value to the public, such as those that have one or more of the following characteristics:

- already available in the public domain in another format such as an online register or as data tables in publications
- promotes open discussion of public affairs and enhances government transparency and accountability
- contributes to positive and informed debate on important issues or matters of serious interest
- informs the community of the government's operations and processes
- assists in ensuring the effective oversight of the expenditure of public funds
- contributes to innovation and the facilitation of research
- supports ongoing services, so as to give a reasonable assurance of data continuity

The strategy is supported by a data release schedule that sets out our commitments.

Datasets

HPW holds a number of unique datasets relating to housing, building, facilities and asset management and procurement services. The datasets include but not limited to:

- data relating to government-owned and managed social housing, and grant funding to registered providers of community and local government-managed social housing
- data relating to residential services, manufactured homes and retirement villages registered with the department

- data relating to whole-of-government procurement including contracts awarded and standing offer arrangements
- data on building projects, building maintenance, facility management and leasing, and vehicle fleet leasing
- registration data for architects and engineers in Queensland.

Implementation

The HPW data release schedule will be updated regularly and published as a dataset on the Open Data Portal. All datasets are published with descriptive metadata information and are published under the Queensland Government's publishing data release standards.

HPW will ensure the data it releases will:

- be made available in open formats such as CSV and XML
- follow metadata standards and have clear usage licences
- not compromise privacy legislation, public safety, security or commercial confidentiality.

Risks in achieving this strategy include:

- cultural change required to embed Open Data agenda into work practises
- HPW internal capability to produce and make available datasets
- effort to manipulate data into open formats
- effort to de-identify personal data, or aggregate confidential data
- HPW's existing business systems may not lend themselves to open data formats.

To embed open data as a business-as-usual activity, HPW will:

- raise awareness of the benefits publishing open data will bring to HPW
- engage with HPW business units and identify contacts to be coordinators for open data
- regularly update the data release schedule and publish as a dataset on the Open Data Portal.

To increase the amount of datasets being published, HPW will:

- ensure dataset availability is included as an in-scope item for any new business system development
- embed open data standards and formats in existing work practices
- consult with our business units to gain their business intelligence about future releases
- look for ways to automate the publishing of datasets to minimise effort and costs
- network with colleagues working on open data, to discuss new opportunities for release
- look at what has been released in other jurisdictions, by agencies similar to us
- review our reporting requirements to determine if these administrative obligations could be fulfilled by an open data approach.

Quality measures

To ensure the quality of HPW's data is continuously improved, HPW will:

- improve the descriptive quality of our data and metadata

- have regular dialogue with dataset custodians and owners to continually improve quality and timeliness of data releases.

Performance indicators include:

- datasets are released within the timeframes indicated on the published data release schedule
- datasets are released in appropriate, open and machine-readable formats.

HPW will collect and use customer feedback through:

- comments received about individual datasets
- inviting feedback via opendata@hpw.qld.gov.au
- providing a mechanism where data users suggests other data they would like us to make available
- reviewing statistical reports on the use of the datasets
- reviewing requests for information and user feedback, including legislative applications under Right to Information.