

Policy

Title: Open Data

Category: Corporate Governance

Date Last Adopted: 15 February 2022

1. Objectives

The policy sets out the Hobart City Council's approach to managing the online release of non-sensitive information and data to the public.

2. Background

The City of Hobart holds information and data of potential value to others outside of the Council. It is acknowledged that Council data can be used by third parties to develop knowledge and insights beyond the scope and intent of the original data.

Council supports 'open government' and 'open data' which is the core vision for government information management in Australia. It is recognised that public sector information is a national resource that should be published for community access and use.

3. Policy

Purpose:

This policy sets out the Council's approach to the open government principles supporting the release of information and data. Released data will be generic in form to comply with mandated privacy principles and confidentiality requirements.

Principles:

- 1 Information held by the Council is a valuable community resource. Where there is no legal need to protect the information it can be open to public access. Where appropriate and demand can be demonstrated Council information may be proactively published. The default position is the Council supports openness and transparency in the release of information.
- 2 The Council will release as resources reasonably and practically permit, data through electronic means.

- 3 The Council's Information Management Teams will set strategy and manage the publication of data ensuring all releases meet corporate and legislative requirements for data security, the protection of personal information, intellectual property rights and business confidentiality with the sought guidance of City Governance teams and Council's information and data security resources.
- 4 The Council will support the mutual exchange of digital information and data with other entities through publishing of viable data holdings to information portals such as data.gov.au or the Hobart City ArcGIS Open Data Portal.
- 5 Information and data published online will utilise industry based standards for presentation and format.

Licensing:

- 6 Wherever appropriate information published for community benefit will be issued under the Creative Commons 'BY' licensing standard, as recommended in the Intellectual Property Principles for Australian Government Agencies to minimise risk associated with errors or omissions.

Fees:

- 7 Information and data of wide community benefit would generally be free. The Council reserves the right however to charge fees and charges for the provision of information or data that is individually requested, specific in nature or requires Council resources to provide.

4. Legislation, Terminology and References

Acknowledgements/References:

The following resources are acknowledged in the compilation of this policy:

- The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC)
- Ombudsman's Right to Information Act Manual
- *Right to Information Act 2009*
- Open Government Declaration, Commonwealth of Australia.
- G8 Open Data Charter, June 2013
- NSW Open Data Policy
- Glenorchy City Council; Open Data Policy
- Web Content Accessibility Guidelines

Responsible Officer:	Director City Innovation
Policy first adopted by the Council:	23/3/2015
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Amended by Council	23/9/2019
Biannual Policy Review	26/04/2021
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