# Table of Contents

1. Introduction 3
2. Key Messages 4
3. Summary of Outcomes 5
4. Plenary Session (1) 6
   4.1 Executive Briefing and Keynote Addresses 6
   4.2 Opportunities for Open Data 7
5. Workshop Outcomes 8
   5.1 Workshop A: Implementing Open Data – Making Open Data Happen 8
   5.2 Workshop B: Innovating with Open Data – Data Linkage 12
6. Plenary Session (2) 14
   6.1 Workshop Reports 14
   6.2 Discussion Panel 14
   6.3 Closing Remarks 14
7. Recommendations for Next Steps 14
Appendix A: Overview of Attendees 15
Document Control 16

With the exception of the NSW Government logo and any images, this work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution (BY) 3.0 Australia Licence. To attribute this material, cite the NSW Department of Finance and Services.
The NSW Department of Finance and Services hosted the first NSW Open Data Forum (the Forum) on 11 November 2013 in Sydney. The aim of the Forum was to promote the open data initiative outlined in the NSW Government ICT Strategy.

The Hon. Andrew Constance MP, Minister for Finance and Services, opened the Forum. The Minister outlined the transformative power and potential benefits of the open data agenda as part of whole-of-government ICT reform in increasing government accountability and transparency, as well as affirming the government’s commitment to modernising the public sector. The Minister also announced the release of the NSW Government Open Data Policy, the NSW Globe, and a new apps4nsw competition.

Speakers addressed the Forum on topics covering:

- the strategic and policy environment for open data
- privacy and open data
- the opportunities for re-use of data
- real life case studies
- ways to access linked government data.

Themed workshops and a panel discussion provided an opportunity for participants to discover the tools available to implement open data within their organisations, and to provide feedback on the government’s reform program.

- Workshop A: Implementing Open Data - was hosted by the Department of Finance and Services and featured presentations from NSW and Australian Government agencies.
- Workshop B: Innovating with Open Data - was hosted in partnership with the Sax Institute and Intersect, the Australian eResearch support agency. Intersect works to identify, develop and deliver world-class ICT enabled platforms to drive the next generation of research and innovation by working closely with the research sector in NSW.


A list of attendees can be found in Appendix A.
2. Key Messages

The following messages emerged from the event:

**Open data is a key priority of the government**
- The Minister for Finance and Services strongly supports the transformation of the public sector through open data.
- Open data is an important initiative of the NSW ICT Strategy.

**Positioning Open Data as business-as-usual**
- Open data needs to be embedded into business-as-usual activities of agencies.
- Executive leadership on open data objectives is essential for driving change within organisations.

**Cultural resistance**
- Cultural resistance to releasing datasets by NSW Government agencies remains a critical barrier to the availability of information.

**Building practitioner and executive awareness of change**
- Events such as the Forum are valuable to assist agencies to understand the contemporary information policy framework.
- Government needs to better promote its ICT reform program both within and outside government.
- Poor understanding of open data opportunities impedes the availability of information.

**Technical considerations and enablers for providing and accessing government data**
- Technical solutions will support the release of government data and information.

**Understanding community needs and expectations**
- There is a need to better understand how government data is being used.
- Providing data, even when incomplete, is valuable for data users.
- Data users are aware of the limitation of data releases and are willing to take this into account in its use.

**The NSW Government has established an open data policy framework**
- The Information Management Framework supports how government administers and uses data and information.
- Policies have been developed in consultation with industry, government agencies and the research sector.
- Guidelines and standards have been developed to support the implementation of new policies.

**Opportunities for innovation with open data**
- Ability to save money through opening data.
- Ability to save time by proactively releasing data.
3. Summary of Outcomes

The NSW Open Data Forum achieved a number of positive outcomes, including:

1. expert feedback on the Open Data Program Implementation Plan
2. commitments from agencies to investigate the release of datasets
3. educating government agencies on the new policy and strategic framework
4. exploration of key issues relating to the release of government datasets
5. industry feedback on the government’s ICT Reform agenda
6. engagement of the research sector
7. enhanced understandings by both industry and government agencies of the data production and release process (see Figure 3.1 below).

Figure 3.1

Photo: Laurie Glanfield, Director General, Department of Finance and Services addresses the forum.
4. Plenary Session (1)

4.1 Executive Briefing and Keynote Addresses

The Hon. Andrew Constance MP, Minister for Finance and Services
• noted the position of open data in the government’s open government program and discussed the transformative power of open data for the way the public sector operates
• expressed the government’s desire to see the NSW public sector transformed to support its goals of greater openness, transparency and accountability
• launched the NSW Government Open Data Policy
• launched the next apps4nsw online competition.

Laurie Glanfield AM, Director General, Department of Finance and Services
• positioned open data in the context of the NSW ICT Strategy and NSW 2021
• explained how open data assists in achieving better value and improved service delivery
• announced a pilot program of federation with data.nsw.gov.au and other jurisdictions’ data portals as part of the site’s graduation from beta status
• announced the adoption of the AusGOAL Framework in NSW

Dr Ian Oppermann, Director, CSIRO
• explored how evolving technology has created a new environment for data sharing and re-use,
• explored how open data can support emergency response, and
• noted how crowdsourcing data from citizens has the potential to support and enhance government operations.

Prof John McMillan AO, Australian Information Commissioner, OAIC
• gave an overview of the Open Government Partnership
• described Australia’s place in the international open government context

Dr Elizabeth Coombs, NSW Privacy Commissioner, IPC
• explained that privacy legislation is not necessarily a barrier to data and information sharing
• discussed the need for better understanding of the Privacy Act by practitioners and data custodians, advocating a ‘Privacy by Design’ approach
• gave an overview of privacy legislation in NSW.

Photos clockwise from top: Laurie Glanfield, Dr Ian Oppermann and Dawn Routledge.
4.2 Opportunities for Open Data

Kate Harrington, Manager Information, Strategic Policy, Department of Finance and Services

- provided the policy context for open data in NSW, including NSW 2021 and the NSW Government ICT Strategy
- gave an overview of the Information Management Framework and components
- discussed the benefits of sharing NSW Government data
- outlined the objectives of the NSW Government Open Data Policy
- discussed open access licensing, including the creative commons
- gave an overview of new features of the Data. NSW portal and guidelines for agencies to publish data
- discussed the development of an implementation plan for open data in NSW
- provided an overview of Intersect activities and opportunities for working collaboratively with the research sector.

Orchid Dunne, Executive Project Officer, Strategic Policy, Department of Finance and Services

- provided a background to past apps4nsw competitions
- presented examples of apps built using NSW Government data
- discussed the benefits of working collaboratively with app developers
- called to action participants for the current round of the competition.

Baden Appleyard, National Programme Director, Australian Governments’ Open Access Licensing Framework (AusGOAL)

- discussed what could be achieved with open data in an innovative environment
- provided examples of apps which mash together multiple sources of data from both private and public sector sources
- discussed the power of data visualisation for data re-use and consumption
- provided a case study of commercial use of government data in Europe
- provided an overview of the Australian National Data Service (ANDS)
- provided an overview of Geoscience Australia
- discussed AusGOAL and the creative commons licences
- discussed next steps for implementing AusGOAL
- provided case studies of crowd-sourced data models based on a CC approach.
5. Workshop Outcomes

5.1 Workshop A: Implementing Open Data – Making Open Data Happen

Hosted by the NSW Department of Finance and Services with a focus on optimising tools to support open data and opportunities for next steps.

Session 1 – Tools in place for Open Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presenter</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Key Message</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Meredith Claremont – Executive Director Information and Privacy Commission NSW | How GiPAA enables open data | • Only restrict access where there is an overriding public interest against disclosure.  
• View government information as a public resource. |
| Cassie Findlay – Project Manager, Digital Archives State Records NSW | OpenGov – easy access to NSW Government publications online | • Government information available online, in context, forever  
• Publications are available as open data. |
| Matt Berger – Director, State Liaison Australian Bureau of Statistics | Tools ABS uses to support open data | • Legislated requirement to publish information, and to ensure that information is published in a manner that is unlikely to identify any person or organisation. |
| Steven Woodhouse – Director ICT, Land and Property Information Department of Finance & Services | NSW Globe – NSW Government’s new spatial data visualisation platform | • NSW Globe is a tool available for all agencies to visualise spatial data. |
Activity 1 - What we have / what we need (forward planning)

Teams were given a flip chart and asked to draw on the presentations (tools in place) to identify 3 priority actions which could be achieved within the next 3 months.

For each action teams were to record:
- Who (or which agency) should lead these actions?
- What existing tools will these actions utilise?
- What else is needed to make them happen? For example, approval from the Director General, funding, enhancement to tools etc.

From Activity 1, four themes emerged for potential actions to progress Open Data in NSW:

**Improved Access**
- Build capability for OpenGov website to search GIPAA releases across NSW Government,
- Increase ability to search across metadata and data directories
- Single point of access for all GIPAA reports
- Make clear what data is available
- Identify duplication of NSW Government services provided online
- Enhancement of agency systems to enable direct and automatic publishing
- Create a One-Stop-Shop for open government in NSW.

**Public Sector Reform**
- Establish a NSW Government policy lead to increase and improve use of data in government policy and decision making
- Establish tools to assist agencies release data (framework for decision making)
- Provide GIPAA training and education for all staff
- Create a community of practice around Open Data
- Establish grants for data improvement within agencies
- Establish grants for cross-agency collaboration to development / make available open data.

**Priority Data**
- Aboriginal zone planning – digitise static data to make it spatially enabled
- Better web archiving for government agencies
- Capture NSW Government websites that are being decommissioned
- Inter-agency linked data.

**Transparency**
- Create an inventory of what datasets agencies hold (not just what is publically available at this point)
- NSW Government agencies identify information that is not, but could be published
- Create a dashboard for NSW GIPAA compliance
- Create a chart for agency uploads to data.nsw.gov.au.
## 5. Workshop Outcomes (cont.)

### Session 2 – Projects Underway for Open Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presenter</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Key Message</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adam Cox – A/Director, Digital and Corporate</td>
<td>Digital Strategy – driving an integrated</td>
<td>• Leverage the Government’s digital assets to improve access to government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>communication approach</td>
<td>information and allow people to interact with government in a way that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Premier</td>
<td></td>
<td>best suits them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and Cabinet</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elliott Simmons – A/Director Community Safety</td>
<td>Access to NSW Historical Flood Data</td>
<td>• Data custodianship underpins open access.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW State Emergency Service</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Historical data can be used for evidence based policy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Krissie Auld – Open OEH Program Manager</td>
<td>Open OEH Program</td>
<td>• Open OEH provides the technical infrastructure and processes for OEH to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Office of Environment and Heritage</td>
<td></td>
<td>facilitate the release of OEH data to citizens, stakeholders and customers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frances Sims – Director Public Library and</td>
<td>Drug info, Find Legal Answers and MyLanguage</td>
<td>• Collaborative approach with a community / end user focus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Services</td>
<td>information services</td>
<td>• Online access to resources drawn from across agencies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Library of New South Wales</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baden Appleyard – National Programme Director</td>
<td>Practitioner Network Experience</td>
<td>• Need communication, cultural change and support to implement open data.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AusGOAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>• ‘Community’ driven approach.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Shared learning across jurisdictions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Activity 2 – I can make a difference (commitment for action)

Teams were asked to draw on the presentations (projects underway) to identify one priority action for each team member to be achieved within the next month.

For each action teams were to include:

- What is it?
- Who will do it?
- How will we let people know it’s done?

From Activity 2, the following actions were identified:

- Sign up to AusGOAL practitioner group
- Publicise OpenGov
- Promote Data.NSW to the research / academic sector
- Assist other NSW Government agencies turn their datasets into spatial assets
- Publish a list of LPI web services
- Point clients to open data and NSW Globe / SIX data sources
- Engage the use of open source data
- Transform the LPI map room into an ‘open data’ room for the public.
## 5. Workshop Outcomes (cont.)

### 5.2 Workshop B: Innovating with Open Data – Data Linkage

Workshop B was hosted by Intersect and the Sax Institute, focussing on data linkage use cases, legal issues, available mechanisms and future directions associated with accessing and linking government data.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presenter</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Key Message</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Prof Louisa Jorm  
University of Western Sydney | Data linkage: A valuable tool for research and policy | • Transforming routinely collected data into a powerful resource for research, evaluation and policy.  
• Providing evidence for policy development – better targeting services, breaking down barriers to using health services. |
| A/Prof Judith Allen  
Law Faculty University Western Australia  
Chair, Health Department of WA, Health Research Ethics Committee | Data Linkage: Privacy, Confidentiality and Ethics | • Authorised by law to exercise Duty of Care when information provided or collected in health care and extends to anyone who later receives the information – all for the purpose for which it was confided.  
• Privacy legislation: statutes support research; recognise the limits on privacy rights are justifiable in the public interest. |
| Katie Irvine – Manager, Centre for Health Record Linkage, NSW Ministry of Health | Data linkage: Infrastructure in NSW | • Benefits of data linkage (of Government data) to facilitate research.  
• Secure Remote Access: the SURE (Secure Unified Research Environment) – provides a secure remote-access computing environment for researchers to access and analyse linked data.  
• NSW Health SAPHaRI – a data warehouse supporting sophisticated analysis. |
| A/Prof Sarah Thackway – Director, Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence, NSW Ministry of Health | Critical success factors for operation of data linkage across Government agencies | • Good linkage: high quality, timely and relevant  
• Easy access and use  
• Governance  
• Scalability – preference of expansion of existing system to reinventing new systems for efficiency and competitive advantage. |
The workshop included a panel Q&A session which covered:

1. Equal access and acceptance of data linkage by consumers
   (a) key identifiers – name / date of birth etc used for matching records.

2. Discussions around various models of open data
   (a) data collection from the private sector.
      Requires strict conditions around data.

3. International comparisons of the legislative frameworks / structure regarding operation of data linkage
   (a) comparability achieved through contracts.

4. Ethics and concept of permission
   (a) appropriate levels of disclosure of data regarding spatial information
   (b) identifiable by whom? location of participants
   (c) should it be disclosed at address level?
   (d) Danger of re-identification balanced by question of whether it is ‘reasonable’ to expect this.

5. CHeReL data linkage
   (a) CHeReL only provides datasets for research purposes, but does not monitor activities to gauge levels of interest.

6. Data management plan
   (a) Should a data management plan be included in the research plan?
   (b) Some organisations have already amended procurement policies / guidelines, mandating data management plan as part of responses to request for tenders.

7. Other discussions centred on unique identifier and specialised software to facilitate better access to data. For example,
   (a) importance of metadata to describe datasets
   (b) portal to assist non-expert users to navigate processes
   (c) Return on Investment measure in economic return to nation through research.
6. Plenary Session (2)

6.1 Workshop Reports

The afternoon session began with a report back from the two workshops. Kate Harrington from the Department of Finance and Services provided feedback on Workshop A, noting:

- the need to build capacity in agencies to understand and be pro-active in releasing data
- tools (OpenGov and Data.NSW) need to be enhanced for wider capture and access to data
- need to work in partnership (between agencies and with industry and research)
- establish an Open Access Licensing practitioner network – sign up form,
- better web archiving is needed
- grants needed for cross-agency data linkage and availability.

Bob Wells, Policy Head of Research Assets from the Sax Institute reported from Workshop B, noting:

- the benefits of linking data for research and policy-making
- critical success factors in linking data
- the need to carefully manage privacy issues when linking data.

6.2 Discussion Panel

Workshop reports were followed by a question and answer session with an executive panel. Panellists were:

- Dawn Routledge, Director Information, Strategic Policy, DFS (Facilitator)
- Barbara Reed, Director, Recordkeeping Innovation, ICT Advisory Panel member
- Malcolm Freame, Chief Information Officer, DFS
- Dr Ian Gibson, CEO, Intersect
- Assoc Prof Sarah Thackway, Director Epidemiology and Evidence, Ministry of Health

The panel provided expertise on:

- the future trajectory of the Open Data movement
- the challenges and opportunities in government outsourcing data collection
- the Open Access Licensing practitioners network
- Government use of cloud services
- embedding open data into business-as-usual operations
- high value and demand dataset priority release
- new opportunities for creating two-way flows of information between government and NSW citizens.

6.3 Closing Remarks

William Murphy, Executive Director, Strategic Policy, DFS, provided closing remarks to the Forum. He affirmed the importance of public sector transformation to achieve the government’s agenda of greater openness, transparency and accountability.

The following actions are recommended following the Forum:

1. Establish the NSW Open Access Licensing Practitioner Group
2. Develop and publish an Implementation Plan for the Open Data Program
3. Host a joint Open Data / Location Data Thinktank in April 2014 to continue engagement between the NSW Government and industry and report on progress.
Appendix A: Overview of Attendees

Over 150 participants from a wide range of backgrounds attended the Forum, including:

- industry representatives
- application developers
- NSW Government agencies
- Australian Government agencies
- the academic and research sector.

Industry was represented by the following organisations:

- AC3
- Accenture
- Alcatel-Lucent
- Australian Computer Society
- C3 Business Solutions
- Commonwealth Bank of Australia
- Confluence
- Deloitte
- EMC
- ESRI
- Fujitsu
- Full Text
- Gartner
- Google
- HP
- IBM
- Immersive
- Intel
- Intermedium
- MushyPea
- NICTA
- NSW Business Chamber
- Open Earth
- Optus
- Oracle
- Permuto
- Price Waterhouse Coopers
- Recordkeeping Innovation
- SAP
- Telstra
- Tilt and Co
- Yahoo

Government was represented on the day by:

- Department of Attorney General and Justice
- Australian Bureau of Statistics
- Federal Department of Industry
- Fire and Rescue NSW
- NSW Health
- NSW Information and Privacy Commission
- Land and Property Information
- Office of Environment and Heritage
- Office of State Revenue
- NSW Department of Planning
- Powerhouse Museum
- NSW Department of Premier Cabinet
- Roads and Maritime Services
- Ryde Council
- State Emergency Services
- State Library
- State Records
- Sydney Water
- NSW Department of Trade and Investment
- Transport for NSW.
Document Control

Document History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Version No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Author</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02/2014</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>Final</td>
<td>Strategic Policy, DFS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Document Custodian

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Signature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Director, Information</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Policy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Finance and Services</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9372 7785</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>