Open Data Program
Implementation Plan

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Contact:

datansw@finance.nsw.gov.au
Department of Finance & Services
McKell Building
2-24 Rawson Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

DOCUMENT CONTROL

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OVERVIEW

About this Document

This document provides the context, progress measures and goals for the Open Data Program in NSW.

About the Open Data Program

The Open Data Program is a whole of government set of activities to make appropriate NSW Government data publicly available. Implementing the Program will provide better managed, licensed, accessible, and reusable NSW Government data.

To assist agencies across the NSW Government to embed open data principles in their operations and prioritise the release of high-value datasets the *NSW Government Open Data Policy* was developed in consultation with agencies, industry and the community. The Policy was released by the Minister for Finance and Services on 11 November 2013.

Open data supports the open government principles of *transparency*, *participation*, *collaboration* and *innovation* that are identified as priorities in the *NSW Government ICT Strategy* and Memorandum *M2012-10 Open Government*.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The *NSW Government ICT Strategy* sets out a plan to:

- Help the public sector to deliver better, more customer-focused services
- Make better value investments in information and communications technology.

NSW 2021 is the NSW Government's 10-year plan to make NSW number one. It sets measurable goals and targets, and outlines actions to achieve them. The Program delivers on the *NSW 2021* commitment to improve proactive release of information, make it easier to access information online and make real-time information available when it is needed.

OUTCOMES

Open data can lead to smarter government and better service delivery. It promotes open, transparent and accountable government and contributes to the digital economy in NSW.

The implementation outlines a phased approach which is designed to align with the *NSW Government Open Data Policy*. Actions are listed against each phase on pages 9 and 10*.*

Phase 1 (Q1 2014)

In this phase:

- Appropriate core value datasets are identified for access through Data.NSW.

- Agencies nominate points of contact for handling requests for data

- Use of NSW data is made easier through increasing use of open access licensing.

Phase 2 (Q2 – Q3 2014)

In this phase:

- Data re-use is increased through the publication of data and use of open access licensing across a greater range of agencies and datasets.

- Leading agencies are embedding open data into business as usual.

Phase 3 (Q4 2014 – Q3 2015)

In this phase:

- Agencies participate in open data events such as development days and forums to encourage innovative re-use of government data and co-design of services.

- Open data is broadly embedded as a business as usual activity.

KEY INITIATIVES

NSW Government Open Data Policy

The *NSW Government Open Data Policy* provides clear direction for NSW Government agencies to implement the Government's commitment to open data. It provides ways to support agencies prioritise the release of data and a framework for defining data quality.

The objectives of the open data policy are to:

- Streamline and assist NSW Government agencies' release of data.

- Make explicit the NSW Government's commitment to open data and open government.

- Create a practical policy framework that enables high-value datasets to be released to the public.

- Help agencies understand community and industry priorities for open data.

- Promote simple and efficient compliance with the requirements set out in the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (NSW)*.

Data.NSW

The Data.NSW website (data.nsw.gov.au) is the central catalogue of published NSW public sector data. The catalogue is growing as NSW Government agencies make

more data available. The site can be used to build new apps or mashups, create new ideas or to find out more about NSW.

The catalogue provides links to datasets, web services, and contextual information.

Open Access Licensing Framework

The Framework is a copyright licensing model which facilitates the use and re-use of datasets. The NSW Government has adopted Creative Commons and the AusGOAL (Australian Government Open Access Licencing) Framework.

The Open Access Licensing Framework provides a consistent approach to the release of government information, while providing clear guidance to the community and industry on how information may be re-used.

apps4nsw

The success of the apps4nsw program demonstrates the value of making government data more accessible. Open data is the fuel of the digital economy and apps4nsw events play a key role in driving innovation and industry development in NSW.

OPEN DATA POLICY OBJECTIVES

Streamline and facilitate NSW Government agencies' release of data

The NSW Government is committed to increasing the number of datasets available from NSW Government agencies. By releasing datasets, government increases operational transparency, while providing the opportunity for engagement with the digital economy in the creation of apps and services developed on public sector information and datasets.

Data.NSW is the central online catalogue for datasets that have been publicly released by NSW Government agencies. The Program will facilitate NSW Government's ability to release datasets on Data.NSW and individual agency websites by providing training, support and the technical platform for dataset discoverability.

The Program will also support agency capability development to embed the culture of open data, including transparency and accountability within NSW public sector agency business-as-usual operations.

Other Australian jurisdictions are also committed to making more public sector data available. The NSW Government will collaborate with other jurisdictions to improve interoperability, ensure common standards are established and met, and data can be shared and used across Australia.

There are significant benefits in agencies working collaboratively. To provide opportunities for cross-agency partnerships and data sharing activities, guidelines will be developed to support agencies to de-identify key datasets for data linkage and public release.

Implementation – Increase existing competencies within agencies to provide the foundation in skills and capabilities to further develop open data in NSW.

Open Data Policy Objective	Actions	Implementation Target		
		Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Streamline and help NSW Government agencies' release of data	Agencies to nominate (through Data.NSW) a point of contact for the release of open data.			
	Collaborate across jurisdictions to federate access to open data.			
	Develop guidelines to support agencies to de-identify data for linkage and public release.			

Make explicit the NSW Government's commitment to open data and open government

The NSW Government is committed to open data through legislation, policies and standards such the Premier's Memorandum M2012-10 Open Government, the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (NSW)* (GIPAA) and the *NSW Government Open Data Policy*.

Providing certainty to data users about what they can and cannot do with datasets and information is essential to the use of NSW Government data by agencies and the public. The NSW Government is committed to increasingly make public, where appropriate, government datasets under open access, which allows the free re-use of data and information.

The Australian Governments Open Access and Licensing Framework (AusGOAL) is a framework by which information providers can make appropriate licensing decisions that enable the re-use of information by the wider community. AusGOAL incorporates the Creative Commons licences, and AusGOAL is driven by a commitment to open access.

Engagement with industry, the non-government sector and the developer community provides vital feedback to the NSW Government on its open data activities. Engagement also provides the opportunity for the NSW Government to prioritise service delivery based on customer needs.

Implementation

Open Data Policy Objective	Actions	Implementation Target		
		Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Make explicit the NSW Government's commitment to open data and open government	License key websites under Creative Commons.	■		
	Incorporate Open Data requirements in the *NSW Government Digital Strategy.*	■		
	Participate in an Open Data Forum for agencies and data users.	■		
	Establish a Practitioner Network to support consistent use of CC licensing.	■		
	Develop an 'Open Data' Dashboard to showcase NSW Government's commitment and progress.	■		
	Increase number of agency websites licensed under Creative Commons.		■	
	License Foundation Spatial Data Framework datasets with Creative Commons.		■	
	License majority of datasets on Data.NSW with Creative Commons.			■

Support the prioritisation and release of high-value datasets

The provision of high-value datasets provides the opportunity for innovative service delivery solutions both within and outside government. For example, the release of public transport timetable and real-time information has spurred the development of apps to assist the use of public transport options.

The NSW Government will work to prioritise the public release of high value datasets such as spatial and real-time datasets under an appropriate open access licence through the AusGOAL framework. High value operational datasets will also be identified for release, as appropriate.

Data.NSW is the discoverability platform for publicly released NSW Government agency datasets. Ongoing development of the website's functionality will facilitate the provision of an increasing number of datasets and the ability to view and use them.

To support a standardised approach to open data within Australia, the NSW Government will work with other jurisdictions in the context of broader international trends. This will provide the opportunity to share resources and develop Australia-wide service delivery solutions.

Implementation

Open Data Policy Objective	Actions	Implementation Target		
		Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Support the prioritisation and release of high-value datasets	Prioritise high-value data for release (spatial, real-time, service delivery).	■		
	Enhance Data.NSW as the central portal for access to NSW Government data.	■	■	■
	Collaborate with other jurisdictions to ensure a consistent approach to open data.	■	■	■
	Identify high value operational datasets for release.		■	

Reduce the cost of delivering government services and create efficiencies

Making more NSW Government data available can help reduce the cost of delivering government services and create efficiencies through data re-use and sharing.

apps4nsw was the first State Government apps competition in Australia. The objective of the apps4nsw competition is to capture creative ideas using public sector information and data that are useful to the people of NSW.

The *apps4nsw* program is an avenue to engage with the public, industry, non-profits and government employees to build innovative service delivery solutions. The program supports the release of government-held data and the NSW Government will continue to facilitate developer-government interactions through 'unlocked' challenges and by working with agencies on the creative use of data.

A key initiative of the [NSW Government ICT Strategy](#) is the development of an Information Management Framework to support the way government administers and uses data and information.

The Framework is a set of standards, policies, guidelines and procedures which are implemented either manually or, where possible, automated through technology. This Framework will enable data and information to be managed in a secure, structured and consistent manner. The NSW Government will work to increase awareness and use of the Framework across the NSW Public Sector.

Implementation

Open Data Policy Objective	Actions	Implementation Target		
		Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Reduce the cost of delivering government services and create efficiencies	Continue apps4nsw program of 'unlocked' challenges.	■		
	Hold apps4nsw challenge with NSW government data.	■		
	Increase awareness of the Information Management Framework and streamline processes.	■		
	Engage with the developer community and facilitate the use of Australian public sector data.		■	
	Release data to enable private sector and non-profit organisations to innovate and design services for citizens.			■

Understand community and industry priorities for open data

The *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (NSW)* provides a proactive release framework for NSW Government data, information and publications. The NSW Government is committed to ensuring public sector employees are proficient in appropriately providing for the release of datasets.

Internal government communication is crucial to develop practitioner capability in open data principles and practice. To this end the NSW Government will encourage the proactive release of high-quality datasets and associated metadata and licensing by developing practical guidance and training for agencies on Data.NSW, OpenGov, and GIPAA.

The OpenGov website is the site for NSW Government agencies to publish information, including annual reports and open access information released under the GIPA Act. The expansions and enhancement of the OpenGov website functionality will allow users to more easily discover publications and information relevant to them.

Engagement with industry provides the opportunity to understand industry priorities and tailor services to ensure industry participation in Government's open data program. Engagement provides valuable feedback on industry expectations and needs. The NSW Government plans to continue the Government + Industry Thinktank series to ensure the continued collaborative relationship with industry.

Implementation

Open Data Policy Objective	Actions	Implementation Target		
		Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Understand community and industry priorities for open data	Lead seminar program to raise awareness of the Open Access Licensing Framework for government practitioners.	■		
	Promote NSW Open Data initiatives to industry and to agencies.	■	■	
	Continue Government + Industry Thinktank series.		■	
	Develop practical guidance for agencies to assist with trouble shooting, FAQs and case studies.		■	
	Publish clear, high quality metadata for datasets on Data.NSW.	■	■	
	Enhance and promote OpenGov website as central point for long term access to NSW Government publications.	■	■	■
	Provide GIPAA guidance and training for all NSW Government employees.	■	■	■

Implementation Plan

The following actions support the phased implementation of the Open Data Policy in NSW:

Open Data Policy Objective	Actions	Implementation Target		
		Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Streamline and help NSW Government agencies' release of data	Agencies to nominate (through Data.NSW) a point of contact for the release of open data.	☑		
	Collaborate across jurisdictions to federate access to open data.	☑		
	Develop guidelines to support agencies to de-identify data for linkage and public release.	☑		
Make explicit the NSW Government's commitment to open data and open government	License key websites under Creative Commons.	☑		
	Incorporate Open Data requirements in the *NSW Government Digital Strategy.*	☑		
	Participate in an Open Data Forum for agencies and data users.	☑		
	Establish a Practitioner Network to support consistent use of CC licensing.	☑		
	Develop an 'Open Data' Dashboard to showcase NSW Government's commitment and progress.	☑		
	Increase number of agency websites licensed under Creative Commons.		☑	
	License Foundation Spatial Data Framework datasets with Creative Commons.		☑	
	License majority of datasets on Data.NSW with Creative Commons.			☑
Support the prioritisation and release of high-value datasets	Prioritise high-value data for release (spatial, real time, service delivery).	☑		
	Enhance Data.NSW as the central portal for access to NSW Government data.	☑		
	Collaborate with other jurisdictions to ensure a consistent approach to open data.	☑		
	Identify operational datasets for release.		☑	
Reduce the cost of delivering government services and create efficiencies	Continue apps4nsw program of 'unlocked' challenges.	☑		
	Hold apps4nsw challenge with transport data.	☑		
	Increase awareness of the Information Management Framework and streamline processes.	☑		
	Engage with the developer community and facilitate the use of Australian public sector data.		☑	
	Release data to enable private sector and non-profit organisations to innovate and design services for citizens.			☑

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Understand community and industry priorities for open data	Lead seminar program to raise awareness of the Open Access Licensing Framework for government practitioners.	☑		
	Promote NSW Open Data initiatives to industry and to agencies.	☑	☑	☑
	Continue Government + Industry Thinktank series.		☑	
	Develop practical guidance for agencies to assist with trouble shooting, FAQs and case studies.		☑	
	Publish clear, high quality metadata for datasets on Data.NSW.	☑	☑	
	Enhance and promote OpenGov website as central point for long term access to NSW Government publications.	☑	☑	☑
	Provide GIPAA guidance and training for all NSW Government employees.	☑	☑	☑