

## Open Data

### Head of Power

*Local Government Act 2009*

### Related Legislation

Local Government Regulation 2012

### Objective

Moreton Bay Regional Council is the custodian of many publicly funded data sets related to all aspects of local government activities including strategic planning, environmental, asset management, financial, community services and libraries.

Whilst this data is produced as a direct result of Council operations, it could potentially be used by others in the provision of new and innovative services.

In order to realise this potential, this Policy defines the scope and approach for the publishing of non-sensitive Council data using Open Data principles.

### Definitions

**Application Programming Interface (API)** means an interface which allows computer systems to interact automatically with data and functions of other systems.

**Machine readable** means a data format used by computer systems to communicate with other computer systems.

**Non-sensitive data** means anonymised data that does not identify an individual, or breach privacy or security requirements.

**Open Data** means initiatives by governments to make publicly funded, non-sensitive data available without restriction via the internet.

**Open Data Portal** means a website used for hosting data sets and APIs.

### Application

This Policy applies to open data provided by Moreton Bay Regional Council.

### Policy Statement

Council recognises that the data it holds is a public asset and that public access to Council's non-sensitive data could potentially improve services, encourage economic growth, increase Council's transparency, and increase community participation in policy making.

Council recognises the benefits in making all non-sensitive data available for effective public access. Furthermore, Council commits to collaborating with the public, business and academia to leverage the value of non-sensitive data.

Council commits to:

- Ensuring that all non-sensitive data is open by default;
- Ensuring that where possible, non-sensitive data is available with free, easy to use, high quality and reliable APIs;
- Making high-value data available for use by the public, business and academia, in a manner that is enduring and frequently updated using recognised standards;
- Only charging for specialised data services or if required by law and, where possible, making the resulting data publicly available at no cost;
- Building partnerships with the public, private and research sectors to build collective expertise and to find new ways to leverage public data for social and economic benefit;
- Securely sharing data between other government entities to improve efficiencies;
- Upholding the highest standards of security and privacy for personal information and commercial confidentiality; and
- Ensuring all new systems support discoverability, interoperability, data and information accessibility, and cost-effective access to facilitate access to data.

Council commits to publishing appropriately anonymised non-sensitive data by default:

- On or linked through an Open Data Portal for discoverability and availability;
- In a machine-readable, spatially-enabled format;
- With high-quality, easy-to-use and freely available API access;
- With descriptive metadata;
- Using agreed open standards;
- That is kept up to date in an automated way; and
- Under a "Creative Commons By Attribution" licence unless an acceptable case is made for another licence type.

#### **Related Documents**

Nil.

#### **Review and Evaluation**

This policy will be reviewed for applicability, effectiveness, and consistency with relevant legislation, Council resolutions, and other Council documents. Reviews of this policy will occur as required, or at least once every four years.

#### **Responsibility**

This Policy is to be:

- (1) implemented by the Information & Communications Technology Manager; and
- (2) reviewed and amended in accordance with the "Review Triggers" by Director Finance & Corporate Services.

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