



AUDIENCE QUESTIONS

Q1. What do you mean by incentivising Open Data? What would that mean for agencies thinking about putting up Open Data?

By incentivising Open Data I mean being a catalyst and enabler of Open Data. There are some ideas about how government can be a catalyst of Open Data in the following article: HOW GOVERNMENT CAN PROMOTE OPEN DATA AND HELP UNLEASH OVER \$3 TRILLION IN ECONOMIC VALUE found at the following link <here>. – Catherine Fletcher, Information Commissioner

Q2. There are approximately 138 LGAs across the State, what data do people want from LGAs?

A handful of local governments currently share data on data.wa.gov.au. The Data WA team have received requests for infrastructure and utility data, also granular / detailed data which is more useful to start-ups, and developers. At present 58% of the data on data.wa.gov.au are spatial, it would be useful to have raw and text-based data. A comment was made in the data champions network survey that local government data should be merged into one state-wide data set.

- Jenny Smith, Manager Data Collaboration, Landgate

As per my answer in the webinar, I am not able to answer this question

– Catherine Fletcher, Information Commissioner

Q3. Asking the various govt agencies to embrace the open data policies is commendable but should there be a greater expectation on our political leaders to be seen also embracing the concept of open data? When ministers are seen not sharing publicly available (or responding to question on notice regarding soon to be available open data) is the wrong message being sent to the heads of the various govt agencies?

My answer in the webinar stands – good data management needs good data leadership from the top of government down – Catherine Fletcher, Information Commissioner

Q4. What is your opinion on the potential legislation of govt data sharing? Other states in Australia have legislation in place to set framework/guidelines on sharing data before between govt agencies and the general public.

My answer in the webinar stands – we need data sharing legislation and privacy legislation to provide the appropriate authorising environment for data-sharing to take place so that the risks involved can be appropriately managed – Catherine Fletcher

Q5. Should there be guidelines/standards when govt agencies share data? There is a huge difference between sharing a structured data table in an open data format versus sharing a scanned pdf of a printed data table. One is effective and user friendly, the other is a big negative experience for an end user

There is value in having standards and guidelines – from a technical perspective it makes the data interoperable and support automation. It creates a common operating picture where all speak the same language for their particular subject. The challenge is that we deal with diverse data applications and a range of subjects, each have their own requirements.

The Data WA team have knowledge and expertise for spatial data which is guided by ANZLIC and the ICSM metadata working group. The Data WA team can advise, assist and in some cases implement processes on Data WA. Adoption and implementation can be challenging. The best we can do is educate, guide, and provide the tools to implement where we can. Creating a clearer landscape of types of data sectors, helps to connect expertise across the sectors where each share and guide where they are most knowledgeable. – Jenny Smith, Manager Data Collaboration, Landgate

Short answer is yes, there should be guidelines and standards. There should also be legislation governing data sharing. – Catherine Fletcher, Information Commissioner

Q6. Majority of LGA's do not have access to an Esri platform. IntraMaps prefers to work off of Shapefiles. Some of us have raised business cases to make the move, but have not been able to due the price. Would you be willing to advocate using Esri as a standardised platform for the Open Data framework, which would assist us in building a business case to make the change?

Open Data is diverse, 58% of the data on Data WA are spatial. The function of Data WA is to support multiple data formats and software, including open source solutions and commercial applications. – Jenny Smith, Manager Data Collaboration, Landgate

I am unable to comment on this. – Catherine Fletcher, Information Commissioner

Q7. Just wondering if/how often the WA Open Data Portal is audited and beside Health and Emergency Services, which agencies are demonstrating the greatest commitment to open data principles and what can be done to encourage other agencies to publish quality up-to-date data?

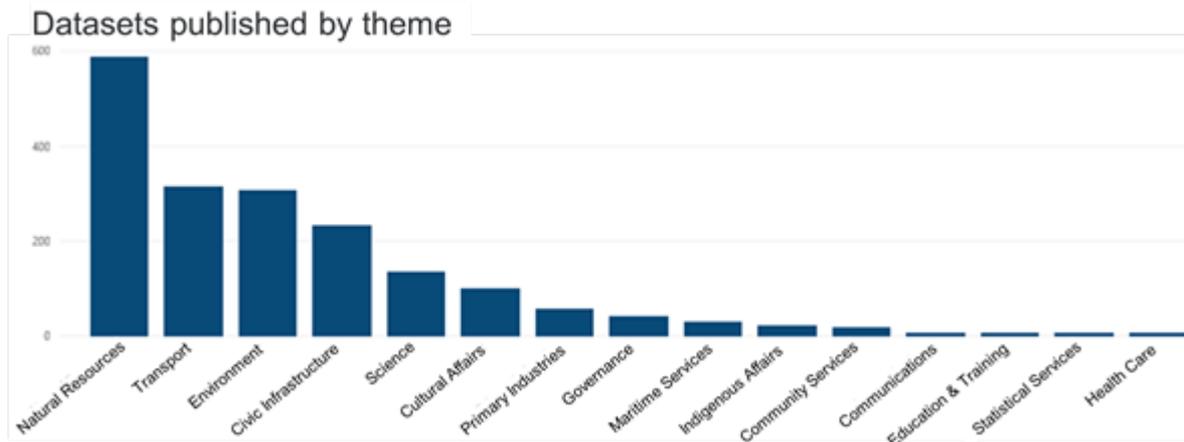
The Data WA portal monitors data usefulness based on supporting resources and if it is machine readable. Currently 91% of the datasets have core metadata and 82% of the data is in at least one machine readable format. API's and webservices account for 48% of the data. Only 6% are tabular data. 81% have open creative commons licensing.

The data.wa.gov.au / progress dashboard shows leading data themes from Natural Resources, Transport and Environment sectors. Automated data harvesting processes have been implemented for these datasets which reflect the higher quantity of datasets and not necessarily the greatest commitment from agencies. Health, Community, Education and Statistical sectors, are typically sensitive information and not discoverable as raw open data to the wider public.

A comment was made in the data champions network survey to encourage WA to develop systems to enable health data to be available, stating that: ' the issue of confidentiality is important but should not unnecessarily

prohibit data sharing since there are datasets that won't compromise confidentiality. Health services are vital and of keen interest to the WA public. It also represents that largest single budget item.'

Principles of open data sharing goes hand in hand with privacy principles and responsible data sharing, which is further supported by the quality and usefulness of the data. Each have a part in the underpinning processes to identify and source useful data and the tools that enable agencies to publish quality up to date data, hence we rely on close working relationships across the responsible areas in the public sector.- **Jenny Smith, Manager Data Collaboration, Landgate**



Q8. Is there a case for having a data governance oversight committee for data that is made available through the data.wa.gov.au site? Having a degree of governance oversight should help to ensure that any data that is made available is useful, accurate and accessible to end users, essentially ensuring that the data portal is seen of high value and not a dumping ground of little/no value reports.

There are various ways to help ensure that the Data WA portal provides access to useful and accurate data. It is an evolving process that requires dedicated effort and commitment from all involved. A Governance oversight committee would assist but not the only piece of the puzzle. The data 'format usefulness' is measured, but it is challenging to identify and source priority / high value data. A regular round table or governance committee could certainly be considered. We noticed with the open data day presentations that the 'why' conversation is important to change the data sharing culture. A comment in the data champions network [survey](#) stated: 'We need to shift the conversation to what are the problems we need to solve are and what information is needed that can help us solve those problems. The why conversations will then drive open data much faster.' – **Jenny Smith, Manager Data Collaboration, Landgate**

Q9. Majority of LGA's do not have access to an Esri platform. IntraMaps prefers to work off of Shapefiles. Some of us have raised business cases to make the move, but have not been able to due the price. Would you be willing to advocate using Esri as a standardised platform for the Open Data framework, which would assist us in building a business case to make the change?

I am unable to comment on this. – **Catherine Fletcher, Information Commissioner**

Q10. Will the policy/frameworks take into account Indigenous Data Sovereignty?

This matter is being addressed by work to develop a privacy and responsible data sharing legislation for the WA public sector. The work is still under way. The WA Government has consulted with various stakeholders, including aboriginal people and organisations. Due to the significant impacts of COVID-19 the process has been delayed. For more information on this work please see <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/privacy-and-responsible-information-sharing>

- **Jonas Petersen, A/Government Chief Information Officer**

Q11. What role should the gov play in developing data literacy across the general community? Are the benefits of open data isolated to only a select skilled group? Uplifting data literacy within the broader community would add a compounding benefit to any data that is made available

I think there are two parts to consider:

- *understanding the data formats, how the data can be used, in which application, and*
- *secondly the data itself, the metadata, and data dictionaries to get the full value of the data attributes, understand the quality and trust the data source.*

Part of our role implementing the open data policy for WA, includes education and promotion of data sharing and data use. Although data.wa.gov.au provides [helpful articles](#) on how to use data, we have a diverse and broad range of users, ranging from geospatial practitioners and mapping, to data analysts working with tabular data, to developers and innovators, businesses and general public.

We have supported various hackathons, mapping workshops and open source events, to share our expertise on geospatial data and use of the Data WA portal, however I think there is value in partnering with other professionals and across government to have a more proactive approach to improving data literacy overall. The challenge is that the competencies involved in working with data is diverse and would need subject matter experts to present on their expertise, rather than broad stroke approach.

*The aim of the Data WA Champions survey is to identify experts in the field, and their willingness to help with initiatives like these. Thanks for this great question, certainly worth pursuing. – **Jenny Smith, Manager Data Collaboration, Landgate***

Q12. Can you speak at all to the relationship between Landgate and Open Street Map? Particularly the data movement maturation between infrastructure agencies (Main Roads etc) to LandGate and ultimately OSM?

*The Data WA team assists government agencies to make their data discoverable using the most suitable process and does not favour any particular application or system. We do however like to support open source applications, but again, it depends on the situation and sometimes a range of software or commercial applications are more appropriate. I cannot speak to the relationship between Landgate and Open Street Map as I am not aware of this. – **Jenny Smith, Manager Data Collaboration, Landgate***