

Title:	Open Data
Policy No:	086
Adopted By:	Council
Next Review Date:	27/06/2021
Responsibility:	General Manager City Futures
Document Number:	3575712

Version	Decision Number	Adoption Date	History
1	ELT Review	08/05/2017	Draft Policy
2	21\5531	27/06/2017	Adopted by Council.

1 Policy Summary

This policy provides guidelines to the community and Council on the provision of data in City of Darwin's open data portal. This policy covers all datasets and databases owned and held by the Council and stored in formats including hardcopy, electronic (digital), audio, video, image, graphical, cartographic, physical sample, textual, geospatial or numerical form. Data does not include software. Council data will be made available under flexible licences, allowing for unrestricted reuse by the public. Council data released under this policy will be published via an open data platform and syndicated to the Australian Government open data portal www.data.gov.au. Where possible, automatic publishing tools will be used to keep published data current.

2 Policy Objectives

By the introduction of an open data policy, City of Darwin seeks to;

- Recognise the data Councils collect is public data and should therefore be readily available for use (whilst also protecting private information);
- Provide data that is usable, meaningful, relevant and fosters innovative use of the information provided;
- Improve transparency and accountability in Council activities;
- Improve efficiency and effectiveness of Council services, as well as responsiveness to constituents;
- Provide better information in real time as opposed to producing paper-based reports that are likely to be out of date very quickly;
- Encourage innovation;
- Measure the impact of Council policies in community;

- Provide data that will improve social and economic value and improve research outcomes;
- Save time, money and human resources at Council by allowing stakeholders to be able to easily access data themselves;
- Reduce duplication of services and streamline processes; and
- Make Council data easily available to individuals and businesses to utilise in the pursuit of new private services or products that will benefit the local community.

3 Background

City of Darwin currently publishes a range of spatial data on the council website

This data is currently able to be viewed and queried, but is not yet available for download and re-use.

The data is housed in web based content management system that incorporates an open data platform and is able to host various spatial and non-spatial data types. The intention is to configure and utilise this system to publish and manage councils open data.

The release and provision of open data by City of Darwin will increase as more data becomes available for publishing.

4 Policy Statement

The City of Darwin recognises the value of open data to foster innovation and provide value to the community. This recognition underpins Council's Open Data Policy.

Council will make available Council-held public data (that does not have confidentiality requirements) in order for the community to utilise open data in innovative ways to deliver services and develop new applications that will benefit the community. Furthermore:

- 4.1 Council aims to ensure public data is freely available, in digital machine readable and standard format to ensure fair and equitable access;
- 4.2 By publishing open data, Council aims to provide new and innovative technology services to enhance the efficiency and responsiveness of Council;
- 4.3 Council aims to self-publish data as available and ensure its accessibility across Government where possible by provision of data to other portals;
- 4.4 Council assures that no citizen or organisation will be disadvantaged by the introduction of the technology or the data;
- 4.5 Council will partner with other government agencies and the private sector as required to ensure technology is optimal, information is efficient and to reduce red tape; and
- 4.6 The open data is available for use under licensing and is made available after acceptance of the terms and conditions of its use.

5 Legislation, terminology and references

Terminology

Open Data, for the purposes of this policy, open data is computer-based information that has been collected and published by City of Darwin and made available for reference or analysis of the community.

Data may be exempted from this policy if required for reasons of privacy, confidentiality, public safety, security and law enforcement, public health or compliance with the law. Only data owned by the Council or sufficiently licensed to the Council will be released under this policy.

References (needs to be updated and clarified)

Privacy Legislation

Confidentiality Legislation

Information Management Legislation

6 Implementation and delegation

All of council is responsible for creating, maintaining, ensuring data integrity and publishing open data via endorsed processes.

City Performance is responsible for managing implementation of this policy and Council's Open Data Portal.

7 Evaluation and review

The Open Data Policy will be reviewed at least every four years.

The data itself, as well as the public access of City of Darwin's open data, should be regularly evaluated to ensure the information that is provided both useful and is also being utilised.