

Policy

Title: Online Information and Data Release

Category: Corporate Governance

Date Last Adopted: 7 March 2016

1. Objectives

The policy sets out the Hobart City Council's approach to managing the online release of non sensitive information and data to the public.

2. Background

The City of Hobart holds information and data of potential value to others outside of the Council. It is acknowledged that Council data can be used by third parties to develop knowledge and insights beyond the scope and intent of the original data.

Council supports 'open government' and the intent of the Australian Information Commissioner's 'Principles on Open Public Sector Information' that promotes the online release of non sensitive information and data.

3. Policy

Purpose:

This policy sets out the Council's approach to the open government principles supporting the release of information and data. Released data will be generic in form to comply with mandated privacy principles and confidentiality requirements.

Principles:

- 1 Information held by the Council is a valuable community resource. Where there is no legal need to protect the information it can be open to public access. Where appropriate and demand can be demonstrated Council information may be proactively published. The default position is the Council supports openness and transparency in the release of information.
- 2 The Council will consider the releases via online publishing or in other media of routinely sought information where it is reasonable and practical to do so.

- 3 The Council's marketing, media and community engagement sections will engage with our community, set strategy and manage publishing ensuring all information releases meet corporate and legislative requirements for data security, the protection of personal information, intellectual property rights and business confidentiality.
- 4 The Council will support the mutual exchange of digital information and data across government sectors through publishing of geographical information and other viable data sets to information portals such as data.gov.au or similar.
- 5 Information and data published online will utilise industry based standards for presentation and format.

Licensing:

- 6 Wherever appropriate information published for community benefit will be issued under the Creative Commons 'BY' licensing standard, as recommended in the Intellectual Property Principles for Australian Government Agencies to minimise risk associated with errors or omissions.

Fees:

- 7 Information and data of wide community benefit would generally be free. The Council reserves the right however to charge fees and charges for the provision of information or data that is individually requested, specific in nature or requires Council resources to provide.

4. Legislation, Terminology and References

Acknowledgements/References:

The following resources are acknowledged in the compilation of this policy:

- The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC)
- Ombudsman's Right to Information Act Manual
- *Right to Information Act 2009*
- Open Government Declaration, Commonwealth of Australia.
- G8 Open Data Charter, June 2013
- NSW Open Data Policy
- Glenorchy City Council; Open Data Policy
- Web Content Accessibility Guidelines

Responsible Officer:	Director Corporate Services
Policy first adopted by the Council:	23/3/2015
History	
Amended by Council	7/3/2016
Next Review Date:	March 2017