Department of **Treasury and Finance**

DataVic access policy

Intent and principles

August 2012

State Government Victoria

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Inquiries

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DataVic Access Policy Overview

The Victorian government recognises the benefits associated with mandating a whole of government approach to the availability of Victorian government data for the public good.

The DataVic Access Policy provides direction on the release, licensing and management of Victorian Government data so that it can be used and reused by the community and businesses.

The Victorian government holds, creates and collects a vast amount of data, ranging from demographic and economic to geospatial data.

> **Victorian government data** refers to datasets and databases owned and held by the Victorian government and stored in formats including hardcopy, electronic (digital), audio, video, image, graphical, cartographic, physical sample, textual, geospatial or numerical form.

Not all Victorian government data is suitable for release under the policy. Access to some data will need to be restricted for reasons of privacy, public safety, security and law enforcement, public health and compliance with the law. Only data owned by the State of Victoria or sufficiently licenced to the State of Victoria will be released under this policy.

Expected benefits of the policy

The policy is expected to achieve the following benefits:

- stimulate economic activity and drive innovation and new services to the community and business;
- increase productivity and improve personal and business decision making based on improved access to data;
- improve research outcomes by enabling access to primary data to researchers in a range of disciplines; and
- improve the efficiency and effectiveness of government by encouraging better management practices and use of the data.

Relationship to other policies

This policy operates in conjunction with the whole of Victorian government Intellectual Property Policy, and, like the Intellectual Property Policy, applies to all departments and public bodies (agencies).

DataVic access policy intent

To enable public access to government data to support research and education, promote innovation, support improvements in productivity and stimulate growth in the Victorian economy.

To enhance sharing of, and access to, information-rich resources to support evidence-based decision making in the public sector.

DataVic access policy principles

Principle 1

Government data will be made available unless access is restricted for reasons of privacy, public safety, security and law enforcement, public health, and compliance with the law.

Principle 2

Government data will be made available under flexible licences.

Principle 3

With limited exceptions, government data will be made available at no or minimal cost.[1]

Principle 4

Government data will be easy to find (discoverable) and accessible in formats that promote its reuse.

Principle 5

Government will follow standards and guidelines relating to release of data and agency accountability for that release.

[1] An agency may commercialise, or apply the Cost Recovery Guidelines to, government data if:

a) it has an explicit statutory function to do so; or

b) it has been explicitly authorised to do so by the relevant Minister after consulting with the Treasurer, because of a clear net benefit to the Victorian community.

Governing framework for this policy

The DataVic Access Policy is administered through the Department of Treasury and Finance. The Department of Business and Innovation maintains the primary gateway to government data – www.data.vic.gov.au.

The DataVic Access Policy Intent and Principles will be supported by mandatory standards and guidelines approved by the Assistant Treasurer. Standards and guidelines will cover a range of topics including:

- metadata standards
- copyright licence tools (in conjunction with the Intellectual Property Policy)
- the assessment of data quality and appropriate data quality statements for datasets
- other terms and conditions of use, including disclaimers and limitation on use of data
- data governance and roles and responsibilities

Departmental Secretaries and agency heads are responsible for authorising the release of datasets maintained by their agency, subject to this policy.

Timeline for initial implementation

Note: This page, detailing the timeline for initial implementation, will cease to be part of the policy document from 1 January 2014.

Following Government endorsement, the DataVic Access Policy will be implemented in the following stages.

- Development of mandatory standards and guidelines to support the DataVic Access principles (November 2012)
- Dataset availability through data.vic.gov.au (quantity and schedule to be determined by the Assistant Treasurer)
- Interim reports by the Department of Treasury and Finance on the progress of the implementation of the policy will be provided to the Assistant Treasurer (March 2013 and December 2013)
- A full review by the Department of Treasury and Finance of the effectiveness of the policy to be submitted to the Assistant Treasurer (June 2014)

Targeting datasets across a range of topics

From 2012, the Victorian government will make datasets available in the areas of the environment, society and the economy in a format that is easy to find and easy to reuse.

Department	Environment	Economy	Society
Business and Innovation		✓	
Education and Early Childhood			✓
Health			✓
Human Services		✓	✓
Justice			✓
Planning and Community		✓	✓
Premier and Cabinet			✓
Primary Industries	✓	✓	
Sustainability and Environment	✓		
Transport			✓
Treasury and Finance		✓	

This table is intended as a guide only and does not limit the datasets that may be appropriate for release.

For datasets that are already published, departments should make the datasets available in a usable format as soon as practicable, with a view to releasing initial datasets by December 2012.

www.dtf.vic.gov.au