

Name:	Open Data		
Type:	Council Policy		
Owner:	Chief Executive Officer		
Responsible Officer:	Director Corporate Services		
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1 PURPOSE

Council is committed to open government and transparency. This policy outlines how Council will manage the release of data.

2 PRINCIPLES

The Open Data principles that Council supports are:

- Council recognises that all data is “public” and made available for release, unless it has the potential to identify individuals or is otherwise restricted under legislation, including the *Information Act*.
- Wherever possible, Council will provide information at no cost using www.data.gov.au as the preferred platform for online release.
- Council will not pre-define the value of data and withhold data that it does not believe would be of use to others. The public, industry and businesses may value Council’s data differently, so Council will provide as much data as possible.
- Council will share information with other government or open data agencies unless otherwise restricted under legislation.
- Council commits to maintaining accurate and reliable datasets and repairing errors when identified, however notes that some information may have been provided by third parties and therefore Council cannot not guarantee its accuracy.
- Council will seek Open Data partnerships that have a direct benefit for the community of Palmerston

3 DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Policy, the following definitions apply:

Term	Definition
Open Data	Open data is data which is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ freely available to anyone to be used, reused and redistributed; ▪ available in a machine readable format, such as a CSV or an API; and ▪ available under an open licence, such as Creative Commons.

4 POLICY STATEMENT

4.1 Rationale

As part of Council’s *Digital Strategy 2018-2021*, Council commits to making available datasets to provide residents, developers, the ICT industry, government bodies and business associations with an easy way to find; access and reuse Council’s public data. Embracing the use of, and a policy around, open data is an essential element to building transparency and providing opportunities for the use of Council held data to make the Palmerston community

more self-sufficient by creating local jobs. Open data can also support Council in the cost-effective delivery of services, its ability to be responsive to the needs of the community and to build awareness and engagement with industry.

Council will identify ways to publicly share and promote opportunities for the use of Council data. This will be done in a way that respects the privacy of individuals. Council values the privacy of individuals and will honour its legislative obligations under the *Information Act* by removing identifiable categories, appropriately aggregating data and ensuring that data is approved and checked before release. Council will also draft an Open Data Procedure in conjunction with the Office of the Northern Territory Information Commissioner.

4.2 Identification of Data

Council will identify ways to publicly share data and promote opportunities for the use of Council data. All staff are committed to actively seeking and recommending opportunities for releasing data. Data sets will be made available externally, however as recommended in the *Digital Strategy 2018-2021*, Council will also maintain and update a central internal data repository as the source of datasets.

Potential datasets could cover areas such as:

- Park management
- Stormwater Network
- Community facilities
- Road network
- Library management
- Carparking
- Public wi-fi analytics; and
- Administrative

This is not a restrictive list and Council invites potential users of data to make a request for datasets not yet available.

4.3 Engagement with Dataset Users

Council will make data available through its preferred platform www.data.gov.au and geospatial datasets will also be available through the National Maps Service at www.nationalmap.gov.au. Each dataset release will contain details on licensing, publication date, update frequency and provide a contact point within Council for further enquiries. Council commits to updating all data at least annually, however will consider updating datasets more regularly upon request.

Council invites residents, developers, the ICT industry, government bodies and business associations to make requests for dataset release and update. These requests should be made to Council's Chief Executive Officer in writing or by email, detailing the information requested, relevant time periods, update frequency and any other information that Council may need to fully respond.

5 ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- 5.1 City of Palmerston Digital Strategy 2018-2021

6 REFERENCES AND RELATED LEGISLATION

- 6.1 *Information Act*