

# Open Data Strategy 2018-2020 Queensland Fire and Emergency Services



# Our open data in action



Open data to help build community resilience

*"By providing access to this data, it is hoped that products will be developed to improve community resilience and preparedness."*

*Response, Queensland's official Fire and Emergency Services magazine, edition 6, 2016*

Sharing Queensland weather data, resulting in development of the Severe Weather Alert Level (SWAL) system

*"The Severe Weather Alert Level (SWAL) system allows Regions to apply local knowledge to local conditions and review appropriate resource levels to determine activation activities"*

Severe Weather Alert Levels, 2018, South Western Region



*"Overlay air pollution, crime stats, and fuse the data together, and you can see the likelihood of the most dangerous things. From this you can work out where to position your ambulances, or fire stations. Data helps you to find the epicentre."*

*Emma Thwaites, a spokesperson for the Open Data Institute, United Kingdom*



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# Principles

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services shares the Queensland Government's commitment to open data as outlined in the Queensland Government Open Data Policy Statement<sup>1</sup>.

The Policy Statement commits to the six principles from the International Open Data Charter. These principles are:

1. Open by default
2. Timely and comprehensive
3. Accessible and usable
4. Comparable and interoperable
5. For improved governance and citizen engagement
6. For inclusive development and innovation

In continually improving the way we publish open data, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services follows these principles.

# Why Open Data is important



# Benefits of Open Data

We recognise our important obligation to publish data about Queensland Fire and Emergency Services spending, operations and performance:

- Foster transparent, accountable, efficient responsive and effective government

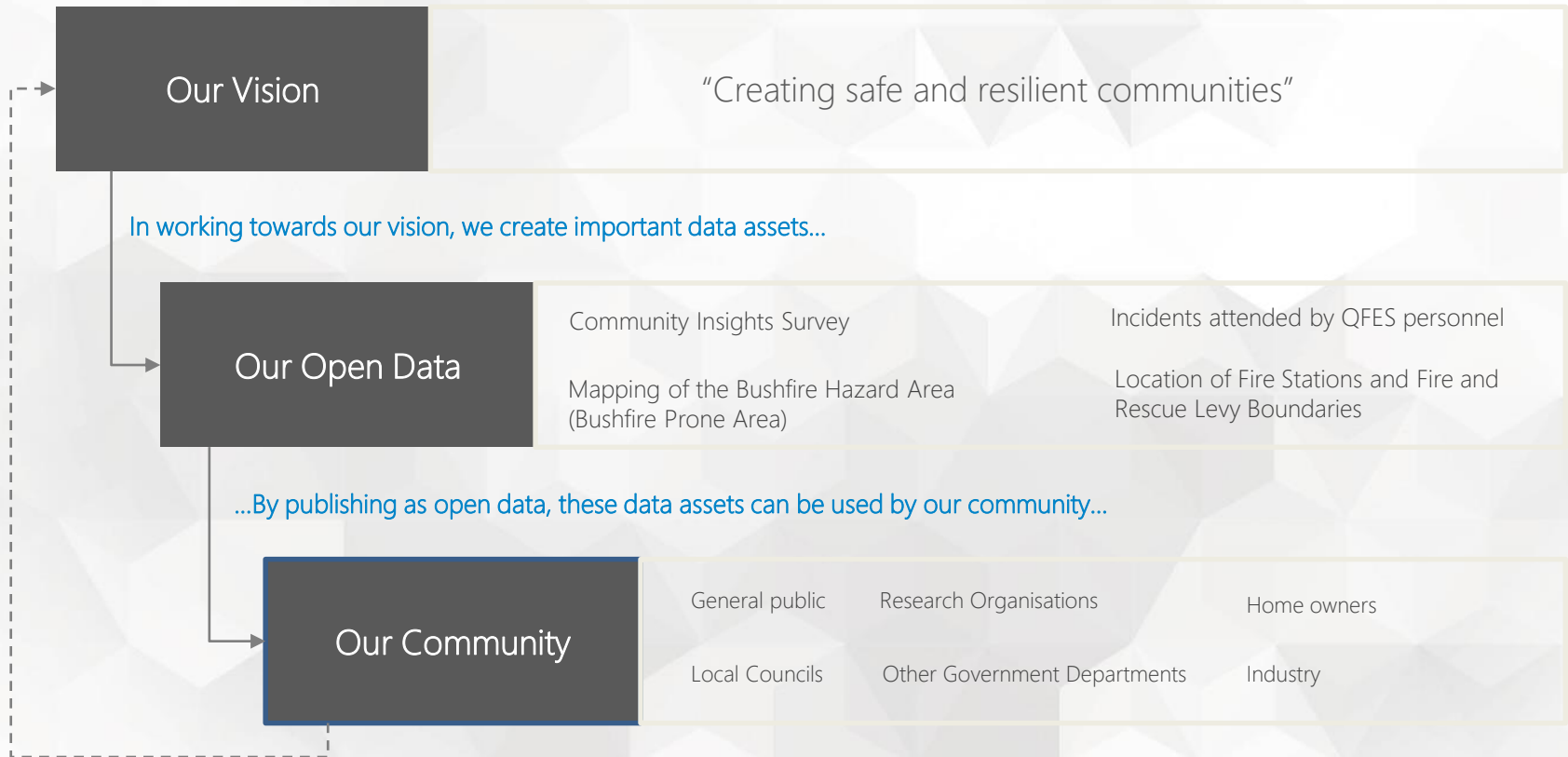
We also recognise how open data can be used to benefit Queensland:

- Support the design, delivery and assessment of better services for citizens and businesses
- Improve the evidence-base for policy and programs
- Provide major opportunities for innovation and underpin growth of the digital economy



# Alignment to our Vision

The QFES Open Data Strategy supports the Department's strategic vision



# Alignment to our Vision - Case Study

An example of open data supporting our Department's Vision.

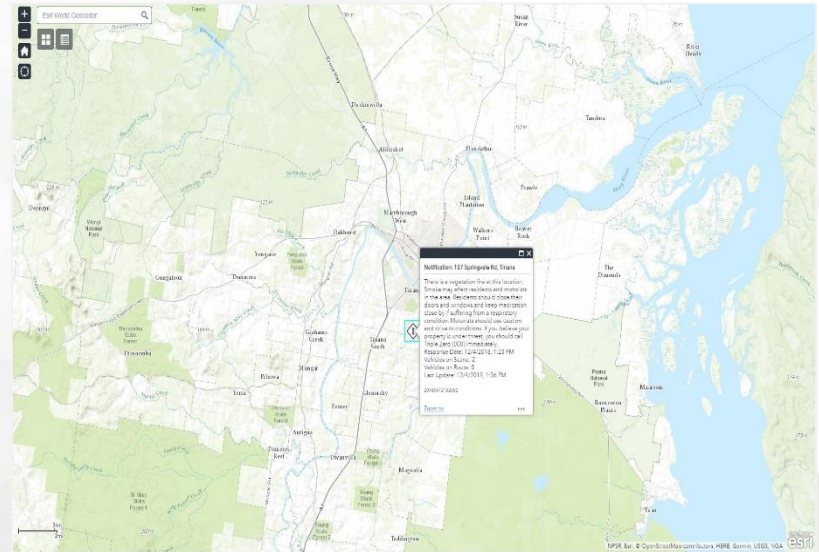
## *Ensuring community safety*





Queensland Fire and Emergency Services shares information on current bushfires.

This information is extracted from the Queensland Emergency Services Computer Aided Dispatch (ESCAD) database. It is not 'real time' information, but is provided as a general indication of current activity. Incident information is updated every five minutes.

The information is particularly valuable in times of hazards such as heatwaves.

The website provides not only the information on the current bushfires, but also allows to find out if there is a current fire ban or to locate Neighbourhood Safer Places in the area.



LEGEND	
 <b>Emergency Warning:</b> You are in danger and need to take immediate action recommended by the fire service.	 <b>Information:</b> A fire or other emergency has started in the area however it has not reached the level required for an official warning.
 <b>Watch and Act:</b> There is a heightened level of threat, you need to be aware of your situation and take action to be prepared and protect yourself and your family.	<b>Note:</b> The data displayed on the map can have up to a 5 minute delay.
 <b>Advice:</b> A fire or other emergency has started in the area however there is no immediate threat.	
<b>GOING:</b> Firefighting resources are deployed.	
<b>CONTAINED:</b> No additional firefighting resources are currently required at the incident.	
<b>PATROLLED:</b> Fire is at a stage where firefighting resources are only required for patrol purposes to ensure the fire is safe.	

# Obligations

We also have specific obligations to publish open data.

Document	Summary of Relevance to Open Data	Citation
Queensland Government Open Data Policy Statement (2017)	The cabinet endorsed Queensland Government commitment to open data, including various specific obligations for all agencies	Queensland Government, Open Data Policy Statement, available at <a href="https://www.qld.gov.au/data/qld-data-policy-statement.pdf">https://www.qld.gov.au/data/qld-data-policy-statement.pdf</a> accessed 21 March 2018
QAO Strategic Audit Plan	A QAO audit in 2019-20 will assess whether open data strategies have reached their full potential to add value to the Queensland public sector.	Queensland Audit Office, Strategic Audit Plan, available at <a href="https://www.qao.qld.gov.au/audits/program">https://www.qao.qld.gov.au/audits/program</a> accessed 21 March 2018
Right to Information Act 2009	Queensland Government's obligation to give access to information in the government's possession or control unless it is in the public interest not to.	Queensland Government, Right to Information Act 2009, available at <a href="https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/pdf/2015-06-11/act-2009-009">https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/pdf/2015-06-11/act-2009-009</a> , accessed 21 March 2018
Information Privacy Act 2009	Various responsibilities to protect personal information, including not disclosing personal or identifying information as open data.	Queensland Government, Information Privacy Act 2009, available at <a href="https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/pdf/inforce/current/act-2009-014">https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/pdf/inforce/current/act-2009-014</a> , accessed 22 March 2018
Queensland Procurement Policy 2017	Requirements for the disclosure of procurement contracts over \$10,000	Department of Housing and Public Works, Queensland Procurement Policy, available at <a href="http://www.hpw.qld.gov.au/SiteCollectionDocuments/QLDProcurementPolicy.pdf">http://www.hpw.qld.gov.au/SiteCollectionDocuments/QLDProcurementPolicy.pdf</a> accessed 21 March 2018
Annual Reporting Requirements	Various open data requirements to support annual reporting activities	Queensland Government, Annual Reporting Requirements, available at <a href="https://www.forgov.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/annual-report-requirements.pdf">https://www.forgov.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/annual-report-requirements.pdf</a> accessed 21 March 2018



# Objectives

To realise value, our specific focus will be to:

## Target policy priorities using open data

*There are policy priorities relevant to our agency that we think open data can contribute to solving. We will work with the private and/or academic sector on an initiative to identify and contribute to solving one of these policy priority with open data.*

## Proactively opening more data

*We have a number of datasets we have not yet opened to the public, which we think could provide value to Queensland. We will proactively identify and publish these datasets.*

**Success Metric:**

- Number of relevant datasets on [data.qld.gov.au](http://data.qld.gov.au)

## Improve the quality of our open data

*We recognise it is important to users that our open data is high quality and easy to understand. We will identify our most valuable open datasets and actively improve the quality, frequency and metadata of these datasets.*

**Success Metrics:**

- % of datasets with bronze-gold ODI certificates

# Responsibilities

We also have a number of day-to-day responsibilities.

- Publish open data as committed in our open data publication schedule
- Ensure new datasets for publication have appropriate delegate level endorsement based on classification level
- Update/refresh our open data as specified for each dataset
- Monitor our open data email inbox
- Respond to data.qld.gov.au data requests
- Respond to data.qld.gov.au data and general enquiries
- Support and train new open data publishers
- Participate in Government open data forums – Senior Officers Working Group and Open Data Practitioners Community
- Contribute to and adopt Queensland Government Enterprise Architecture policies and other documentation
- Engage with industry and the open data community
- Review and re-publish open data strategy annually
- Conduct open data maturity assessment annually
- Provide support and mentoring at GovHack events



# Governance

To ensure we are meeting our commitment, we will report progress to the following committees.

Committee	Frequency	Reporting Requirements
<b>Communication and information Committee</b>	Every 6 Months	Status update and review of action plan and data publishing schedule against committed timelines
<b>Open Data Senior Officers Working Group</b> (Whole of government open data committee)	Every 2 Months	General update on open data in the Department



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## Appendix 1 – Published Data

As at 31/08/2018 QFES has 27 datasets published to data.qld.gov.au. For an updated list of all our datasets click [here](#).

## Appendix 2 - Data publishing schedule

We plan to publish the following datasets to [data.qld.gov.au](http://data.qld.gov.au) over the next 24 months. This is not an exhaustive list. We will update this list as we identify more datasets to publish and when this strategy is next refreshed.

Dataset name	Description	Target Publishing Date	Frequency of Update	Licence
Community Insights Survey	Results from the Community insights survey to better understand household preparedness for emergencies and disaster events.	30 September 2018	Annually	Creative commons attribution 4.0
State Emergency Service historical tasking data	Tasks/activities attended by SES volunteers down to postcode level	31 December 2018	Annually	Creative commons attribution 4.0
QFES bushfire incident data	Location of current bushfire incidents. Already active on our website but will provide link through Open Data	31 December 2018	30 minutes	Creative commons attribution 4.0
Community education data	Where possible the type and location of QFES community education programs.	30 June 2019	Annually	Creative commons attribution 4.0