

FSDf SPATIAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT POLICIES - OVERVIEW

The purpose of this document is to describe the national-level management policies that apply to the Foundation Spatial Data Framework. The intended audience is government, industry, research and academic sectors as well as the interested public.

This document is presented by ANZLIC – the Spatial Information Council, representing the Australian and New Zealand Governments, and the governments of the States and Territories of Australia.

*The Australian and New Zealand Foundation Spatial Data Framework:
FSDF Spatial Information Management Policies - Overview.*

About this document

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Digital versions of this publication are also available on the ANZLIC website at www.anzlic.org.au/FSDF.

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Document History

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Oct 2012	0.8	Incorporate outcomes from Foundation Spatial Data Themes Project. Finalising draft for 15 Nov 2012 ANZLIC meeting.	OSP
31 Oct 2012	0.9	Changes made by OSP staff.	OSP
12 Nov 2012	1.1	Draft for ANZLIC review at 15 Nov 12 meeting.	OSP
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05 Jul 2013	1.3	Jurisdictional review/comments	C Palfreyman
20 Feb 2014	1.4	Update Policies titles	Spatial Policy Branch (SPB)

17 Mar 2014	1.5	Contact Officer Comment (VIC)	SPB
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FSDF Spatial Information Management Policies

Introduction

1. The Australian and New Zealand Governments and the State and Territory governments of Australia are committed to improving access to a national coverage of authoritative spatial information.
2. The One Australian and New Zealand Foundation Spatial Data Framework¹ (FSDF) is central to this commitment and provides a consistent approach to the definition and documentation of national-level spatial information.
3. The FSDF is supported by information management policies that explain the legislative, regulatory and policy environment in which the FSDF is to be implemented. Broadly, the policies facilitate access to the information contained within the FSDF.

Objective

4. The FSDF Spatial Information Management Policies (Policies) define a common approach to management of Australian and New Zealand national-level spatial information².

Intended audience

5. The government sector is the principal user of the Policies, however industry, research, academia and the public would also benefit from knowledge of the management processes that support the data they may consume.
6. The Policies are available to inform the supply chain from local to state level, however the focus is the national level information management environment.
7. ANZLIC has developed the Policies in line with broader Commonwealth government information reform³ and is responsible for the ongoing custodianship of the Policies.

Rationale

8. Foundation spatial information is a form of public infrastructure and underpins business and policy decisions⁴. Spatial information is a key enabler for most other types of information and provides context for advanced information search and analysis by

¹ One Australian and New Zealand Foundation Spatial Data Framework, Nov 2012.

² The Australian Government Location Information Strategic Framework Implementation Plan, August 2012.

³ For example, Declaration of Open Government AGIMO, dated 16 Jul 2010.

⁴ ANZLIC Economic Assessment of Spatial Data Pricing and Access Summary November 2010

location. The ubiquitous use of national spatial datasets in the everyday business of government and private sector entities alike will lead to national productivity gains and greater levels of innovation across all areas of government and industry. Additionally, the improvements for government include more consistent policy development, better targeted citizen centric services and numerous other untapped economic, social and environmental benefits.

9. The ubiquitous access to spatial information described above relies on high levels of technical interoperability across all participating stakeholders – from local government data creators to national-level information aggregators and end-users. This is underpinned at all levels by *policy interoperability*.
10. *Policy interoperability* may be defined as the implementation of clearly defined and understood policies that facilitate the exchange and transaction of information between domains, for example, between a data collector and an aggregator, or between a government agency and a member of the public.

Policies

11. The Policies described in this document have been developed with consideration of the broader national information management and policy environment, for example, the policy framework derived from Commonwealth Privacy legislation. *Appendix 1* lists the key legislation relevant to these Policies. The FSDF relies on international standards for technical elements and on participating jurisdictions for source data.
12. The Policies aspire to reflect best practice across the represented community of government organisations and deliver a complete set of policies to support the FSDF. *Appendix 2* outlines existing policies currently implemented in each jurisdiction.
13. The Policies must be compatible and consistent with the National Spatial Information Infrastructure, as depicted at *Figure 1*.
14. The Policies cover the following topics:
 - Governance
 - Custodianship
 - Standards
 - Foundation Spatial Data Framework
 - Access (including Pricing)
 - Privacy (refers to existing national policy)
 - Security (refers to existing national policy)
 - Intellectual Property (including Licensing -refers to existing national policy).

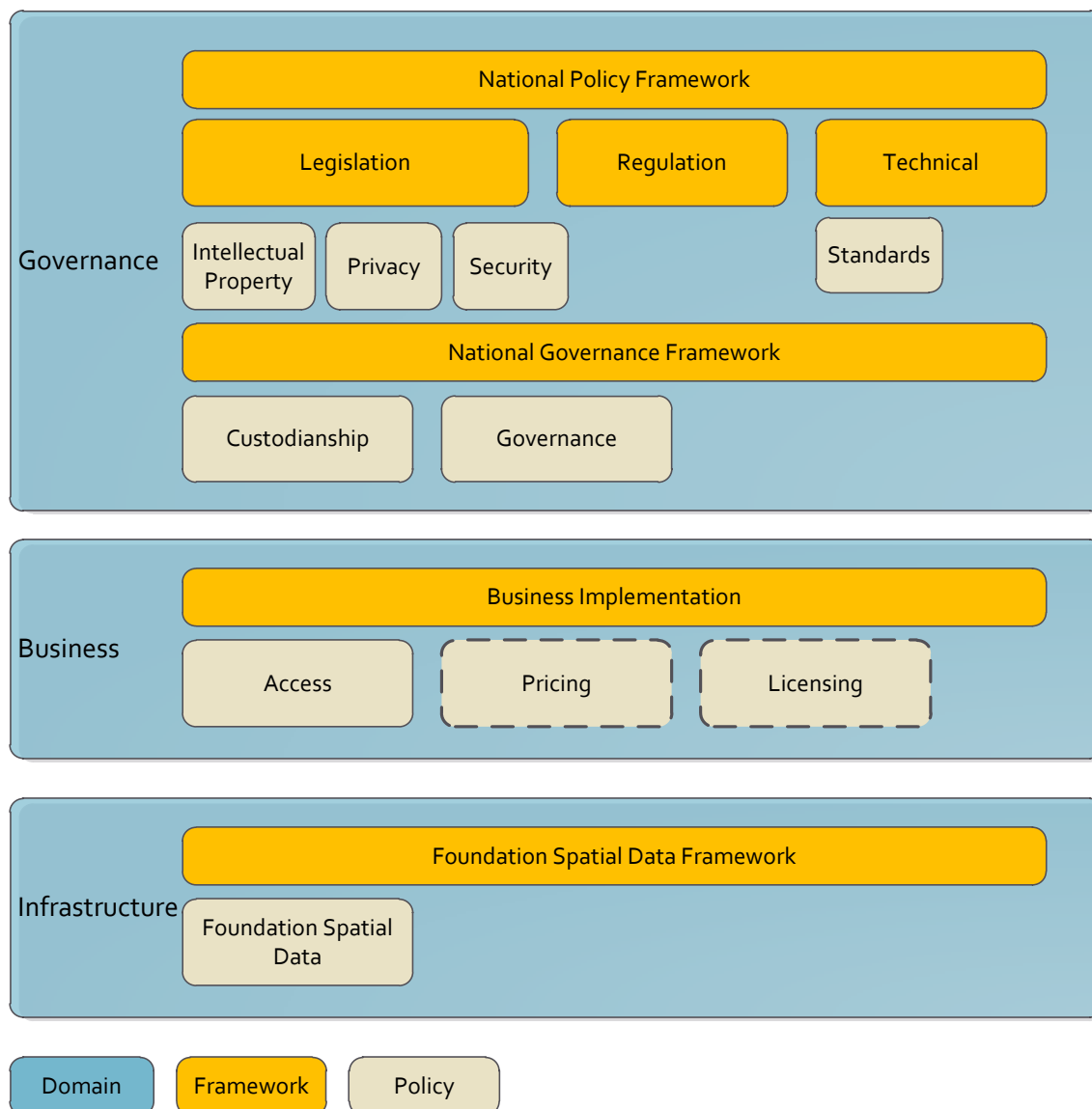


Figure 1. Spatial information management policies depicted as part of a National Spatial Information Infrastructure (courtesy Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping (ICSM))⁵

Policy development principles

15. At the ANZLIC meeting held in August 2011, Council agreed to “adopt the Victorian Spatial Strategy guidelines for governance / spatial information management as a starting point for the ANZLIC guidelines”. This decision is supported by the following best practice principles for the development and implementation of the Policies;

⁵ PCGIM Review of topographic information briefing note March 2013.
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- **Governance** Certain mandatory requirements must be understood and taken into account in order to develop and successfully implement any government information management policies. Prominent among those requirements are legislation and regulation, however, best practice and directed commercial outcomes must also be considered. Formal governance arrangements – at both organisational and data custodian levels – have a direct impact on information management processes.
- **Common approach** The application of standards to information management allows interoperability through the enablement of repeatable and predictable processes. Information standards and procedures are key elements of the Policies, increasing data useability, with use and re-use by the broadest range of users.
- **Access** The Policies are applicable to multiple spatial information management models across public and private sectors. Principles relating to information security and the protection of rights are as important as those relating to open access.

Appendices:

1. Relevant legislation
2. Comparison of the ANZLIC Jurisdictions' spatial policies

Appendix 1. Relevant legislation

Archives Act 1983

- Empowers the National Archives of Australia to preserve the archival resources of the Commonwealth - those records designated 'national archives'. Under this legislation, it is illegal to destroy Commonwealth records without permission of the Archives unless destruction is specified in another piece of legislation. The Act also establishes the right of public access to Commonwealth records that are more than 30 years old.
- <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Series/C2004A02796>

Copyright Act 1968

- Relevant to copyright and the protection of certain performances, and for other purposes.
- <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Series/C2004A07378>

Crimes Act 1914

- Relevant to offences against the Commonwealth.
- <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Series/C2004A07391>

Electronic Transactions Act 1999

- Facilitates electronic transactions, and for other purposes. The Act encourages online business by ensuring that electronic evidence of transactions is not invalidated because of its format.
- <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Series/C2004A00553>

Evidence Act 1995

- Relevant to the law of evidence, and for related purposes.
- <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Series/C2004A04858>

Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997

- Provides for the proper use and management of public money, public property and other Commonwealth resources, and for related purposes. The legislation states that an APS employee who misapplies, improperly disposes of, or improperly uses Commonwealth records may be in breach of the Act.
- <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Series/C2004A05251>

Freedom of Information Act 1982

- Provides for public access to documents less than 30 years old, kept by Australian Government departments.
- <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Series/C2004A02562>

Privacy Act 1988

- Provisions to protect the privacy of individuals, and for related purposes.
- <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Series/C2004A03712>

<http://australia.gov.au/people/public-servants/managing-information/key-legislation-for-managing-information>.

Appendix 2. Comparison of the ANZLIC Jurisdictions' spatial policies

(incomplete, correct to 17 Mar 2014)

	ACT	AUS	NSW	NT	NZL	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	ANZLIC
Governance			Y		Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	
Custodianship			Y	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y	Y
Standards									Y		
Metadata				Y					Y	Y	
Access (inc. pricing)		Y		Y					Y		
Licensing									Y		
Responsibilities of Data Users											
Privacy									Y		
Security									Y		
Intellectual Property				Y					WoG		
Data Quality					Y				Y		Y
Business Information									Y		
Information Management Principles									WoG		
Information Sharing Principles											
Framework Information					Y				Y		
Awareness									Y		
Open Source Standards/Software											

Policy Status Source:

NT - spatial information policies <http://www.nt.gov.au/ntlis/policies/commercial.shtml>

VIC - SIMP <http://victorianspatialcouncil.org/page/resources/spatial-information-management-framework>