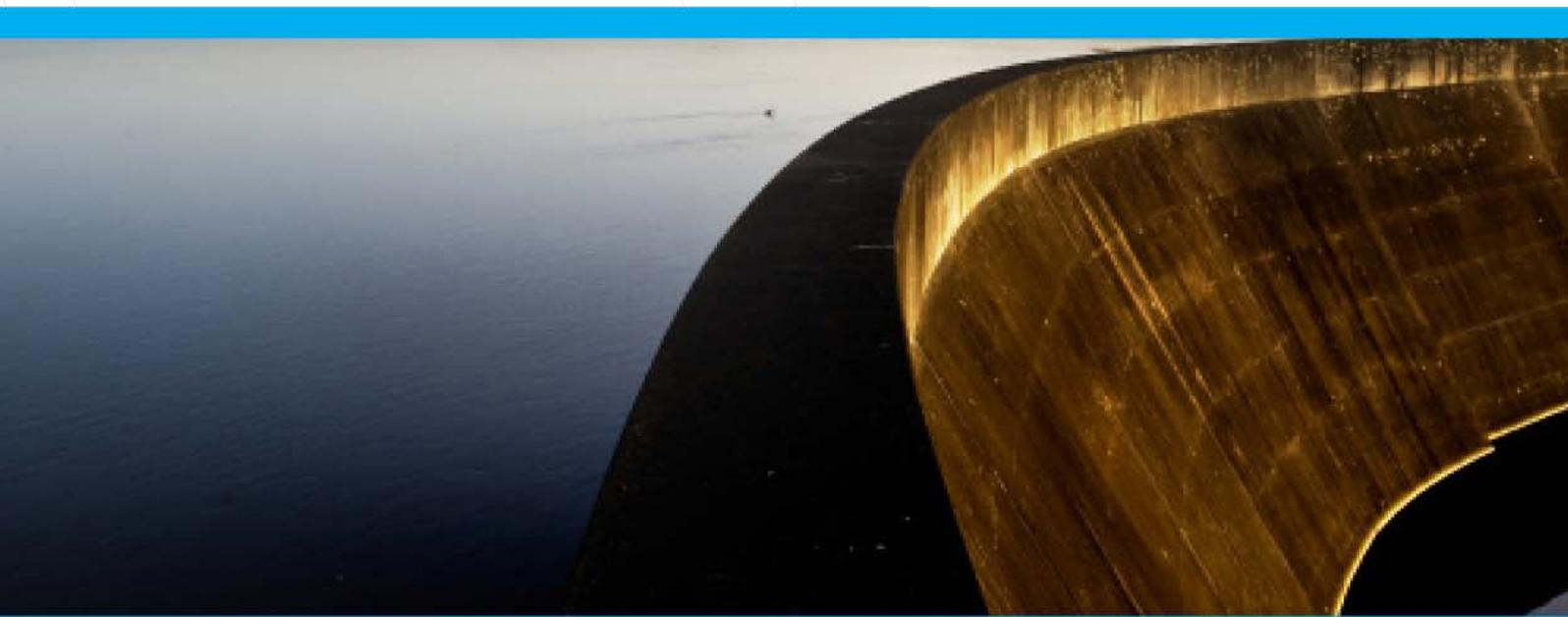


# Seqwater Open Data Strategy 2013-2017

8 January 2014



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## Executive summary

This strategy is Seqwater's response to the announcement by the Premier of Queensland of an 'open data revolution' for the Queensland Government, with the aim of releasing as much government data as possible to encourage other sectors to develop innovative new services and solutions.

The purpose of the strategy is to outline the steps Seqwater will take to achieve the Queensland Government's commitment to this open data revolution, based on the following principles:

- available for open use
- available for free
- available in accessible formats and easy to find
- released within set standards and accountabilities.

## Our commitment

Seqwater is committed to supporting the Queensland Government goals to:

- make data accessible and easy to find
- publish data in line with the Open Data Policy Principles
- inform our stakeholders and key service delivery areas of data for impending release
- ensure data are fit-for-the-purpose
- work with stakeholders to realise the benefits of open data.

Seqwater is also committed to achieving:

**Better services for Queenslanders** through innovation, research and development of new data-enabled services and products by researchers, business and industry using Seqwater data.

**Increased community participation in decision-making** through improved access to Seqwater data and greater levels of interaction between policy-makers and the wider community.

**A stronger knowledge economy** by unlocking the social and economic value of Seqwater data through sound data infrastructure.

**Evolving data sophistication and functionality** through ongoing engagement with data users and perpetual review.

## Principles

**Seqwater data will be available for open use:** open access to Seqwater data enables Seqwater to achieve its vision. Where appropriate, data will be made available under the least restrictive licence, allowing for its use and re-use in accordance with the Australian Government Open Licensing framework.

**Seqwater data will be available free:** Published data will be made available for free unless a fee for accessing data has been prescribed by legislation or benefits the Queensland community and is approved by Cabinet.

**Seqwater data will be in accessible formats and easy to find:** publishing data in accessible formats offers maximum flexibility of user experience and access.

Where practicable, we will publish data in machine readable formats that can be downloaded, indexed, and searched by commonly used web applications.

**Seqwater data will be released within set standards and accountabilities:** as a Statutory Authority, we hold a substantial amount of personal and other information that is not suitable for release. We also hold information which is commercial-in-confidence and unsuitable for release. We will make data available in de-identified and/or confidential forms.

We will reduce risks associated with the public release of data by establishing a robust publication process to identify and protect personal/confidential information and commercial-in-confidence information in accordance with relevant legal and administrative frameworks.

## Our strategic plan

Seqwater's strategic plan facilitates **better services for Queenslanders** and **increasing community participation in government decision making** by focusing on our outcome areas of:

### **Capable and innovative people**

Seqwater employees are motivated, empowered and supported in their work in delivering on our purpose.

### **Knowledgeable and engaged community**

The community understand and derive maximum value from the region's water and catchments.

### **Integrated whole-of-industry approach**

We are a sought after partner known for driving cross-regional collaboration to improve performance and drive new opportunities.

### **Water and catchment services**

Our customers value our services, recognising the benefits they derive from our water and catchment services.

### **Sustainable financial capacity**

Stakeholders have confidence in the business's efficiency and capacity for growth.

### **Trusted and respected brand**

Seqwater is synonymous with driving value, performance and innovation in water and catchment services.

## Our data

We collect, store and maintain a range of datasets to support the delivery of water supply services to the community. Datasets currently available on the Seqwater internet site include:

- Dam levels
- Dam release alerts

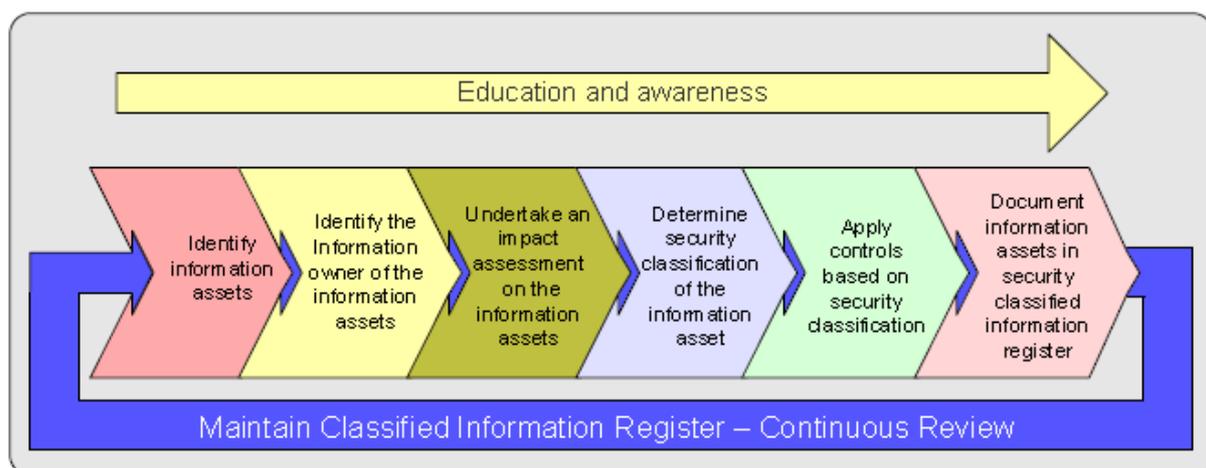
Datasets considered for release in the future include, but are not limited to:

- Water movement in linear network
- Water quality (subject to many considerations)
- List of gated/ungated dams
- Recreation zone data

## Our release strategy

Information assets must be specifically classified as PUBLIC before their release, but should not be assessed as PUBLIC unless they are to be made available. Such classification requires an Information Security Classification Framework (ISCF).

As a substantially new entity, Seqwater is progressing the development of an ISCF as a high priority. The release of open data is dependent on the classification process described below.



Specifically, our release strategy contains four main components:

**Identification:** We will proactively identify information assets by surveying Seqwater publications and business systems for underlying data sources, gathering information from business units about stand-alone data collections and engaging with stakeholders about their needs and interests.

**Assessment:** We will assess the suitability of data for release in accordance with relevant legislation, administrative instruments, policies and guidelines. The release of data will be prioritised according to its value to the public.

Not all data is suitable for release. The process of identifying and assessing data for publication acknowledges the need for it to be accessible to external audiences. Datasets subject to valid privacy, security or privilege limitations may be restricted or released in a modified form.

**Publication:** We will publish data in line with set standards and prioritised having regard to public interest, feedback from stakeholders, potential social or economic value.

**Management:** We will maintain datasets as fit-for-purpose, identify opportunities to improve data quality, seek feedback from data users and review our processes to ensure maximum efficiency.

## Governance and accountability

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the success of Seqwater's Open Data initiative by creating and sustaining an open data culture within the organisation.

Execution of our Open Data Strategy will be governed by Seqwater's Executive Leadership Team.

Progress against the success criteria of the initiative will be reported in the Queensland Government rolling six-month action plan to be prepared by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, and overseen by the whole of government Open Data Reform Group (CEO Leadership Team).

This strategy is a four-year forward plan to be reviewed annually. Seqwater will provide progress reports to the Open Data Reform Group.

## Legislative and administrative framework

Implementation of Seqwater's Open Data Strategy will be managed in accordance with information management and publication provisions contained in relevant State and Federal legislation and administrative instruments.

## The future

Our commitment to Open Data will focus on data release driven by user need, monitored through public interaction.

We will embed open data as a business-as-usual activity by:

- ensuring open data activities are incorporated into Seqwater business plans
- including information about open data in the staff induction program.

We will also place emphasis on opportunities to improve data quality in the future by:

- building capability through professional development and guidance
- continuing to support transparent decision-making processes to ensure as much data are being released as possible
- encouraging data users to provide feedback about usefulness, gaps and general satisfaction
- reviewing data-related processes and addressing issues relating to timeliness, reliability, relevance and accuracy.

## Appendix A – Open Data Roadmap

Data source	Description	Initial date for release
Dam levels	Seqwater will provide the latest available information about the region's dams, including actual dam levels, trends, capacities, and historical storage data.	30 June 2014
Dam release alerts	Seqwater will provide data about the likely flow rates and timing for flood water releases from dams.	30 June 2014
Water movement in linear network	Seqwater manages the water grid from Noosa to Tugun. We will provide details of the water flows into and out of water treatment plants and along the water grid.	See note below
Water quality (subject to many considerations)	We will provide data on the water quality of the different water reporting zones using parameters such as Health Microbial, Health Chemical, and Aesthetic quality.	See note below
List of gated/un-gated dams	<p>Dams are either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gated dams, for example Wivenhoe, Somerset and North Pine Dams, with gates that can be operated during flood events to provide flood mitigation capacity. Flood event operations may require Seqwater to release flood waters from its dams</li> <li>Un-gated dams, with a spillway over which flood waters will flow once the dam is full. The spillway of each dam is at a lower height than the dam embankment so that flood water can flow over the spillway and safely out of the dam. These structures are not designed to hold flood water, and cannot be operated for flood mitigation purposes.</li> </ul>	See note below
Recreation zone data	Seqwater will provide data for activities such as boating, camping and fishing, as well as providing facilities such as picnic areas, BBQs, toilets, walking trails and playgrounds.	See note below
Water production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Down to daily water production of a given water treatment / production facility such as water treatment plant (WTP), desalination and waste water treatment Plant</li> <li>Down to daily water production and/or consumption rate in litre/person/day (LPD) of the 10 ASGC2011 Local Government Area (LGA).</li> </ul>	See note below
Water Consumption	Weekly water consumption report for the five main water zones via Seqwater Media.	See note below
Water Levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level of a watercourse (m) – daily frequency</li> </ul>	See note below

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Level of water in a storage (m) – daily frequency</li><li>• Volume of water in a storage (ML) – daily frequency</li><li>• Accumulated precipitation depth (mm) – daily frequency</li></ul>	
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**Note:**

As Seqwater develops an ISCF, these data sets will be considered and prepared for release.