

Spatial Data Custodianship



Data FAQ

Some of my data is sensitive. Can I still limit access once it is a published dataset?

Yes, the Custodian always decides the type of access, who has access, and the custodian can change that access at any time. You could have general access or only make certain layers or themes available e.g. gas pipelines but not gas citygates.

What is Metadata?

Metadata is the description of your data that enables a prospective user to find it and then establish whether it is appropriate for their needs, without actually having to examine the data itself. For more information see the "All about Data" Fact sheet.

We do use jargon and technical language that might confuse the regular user.

As spatial data becomes more widely used it is increasingly important for it to be described in terms a non expert will understand. It must also be 'discoverable' on the internet using the sort of words they would search on. The Custodianship Team will be happy to review your Metadata. The clearer your descriptions are, the fewer questions they will generate so your job will be easier.

Where is the Metadata stored?

They will be stored in the Victorian Spatial Data Directory which is an online database. A prospective user will interrogate the Directory, or alternatively DataSearch Victoria, for example typing in "hospitals". User friendly information about any relevant datasets will appear and they can then find out more about them.

How often do I need to update the Metadata and how do I do it?

At least annually. You specify the frequency of update in the Metadata itself. On line tools are being developed for updating Metadata.

What if nobody knows the answers to some of the questions in the Metadata template – such as who originally collected the data?

Then you can leave these fields blank.

I am not geared up to distribute the data to organisations who want to license it? Can someone else do that for me?

Yes, either SII or a number of data providers will take on that role. They will field questions about licensing and arrangements about delivering the data. They can also be the first line of support for the data itself, fielding technical questions. Only questions they cannot answer will be referred on to you.

But will I still find out who is using my datasets and what for?

We appreciate this will make your work as a custodian so much more worthwhile. We will be able to supply reports of who has licensed your data.



Metadata describes the data collection process

The Victorian Spatial Council (VSC) has directed the Spatial Information Infrastructure Division in the Department of Sustainability and Environment to manage the Custodianship Program on its behalf.

[Spatial Information Infrastructure](#)

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