

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR SPATIAL DATA ACCESS AND PRICING POLICY**

### **Purpose**

ANZLIC has prepared a set of guiding principles to assist the preparation of a model spatial data access and pricing policy. The policy is aimed at providing easy, efficient and equitable access to fundamental spatial data.

### **Background**

Each jurisdiction is responsible for determining its own access conditions and arrangements. All jurisdictions have worked towards developing data pricing and access policies.

Several significant events occurred in September 2001 that provide an opportunity to move forward on development of a more consistent approach to access arrangements.

ANZLIC, on behalf of jurisdictions, signed off a Data Access and Management Agreement with the National Land and Water Resources Audit (NLWRA) that established recognition of the rights and responsibilities of all parties for ongoing access to:

- Natural resources data and information products developed by the Audit; and
- Data that are required to update natural resources information products and undertake natural resource assessments.

The agreement specifies access, ownership, custodian, archiving and updating arrangements in accordance with ANZLIC data access principles.

The Spatial Information Industry Action Agenda was also launched in Australia in September. The Action Agenda sets out a strategy to influence all Australian governments to adopt data policies that increase the creation and use of public spatial information.

The Action Agenda recommends joint development by government and industry of a common approach to spatial data access, pricing and application of copyright policy. The Action Agenda also sets out the expectation of the business sector that reform of government pricing and access policies for provision of spatial information will be given priority.

ANZLIC is seeking to broker acceptance of a common set of principles agreed by all jurisdictions. ANZLIC is committed to developing a model spatial data access and pricing policy using these principles. Jurisdictions will then be able to test their policies against the model.

In order to inform negotiation of a model spatial data access and pricing policy arising from adoption of guiding principles, ANZLIC has prepared a comparison of current access and pricing policies in all Australian jurisdictions and New Zealand [attached].

## **Scope**

Recognising that the management and use of intra-government spatial data is the responsibility of the relevant jurisdiction, this policy applies to:

- All forms of fundamental spatial data;
- The use of fundamental spatial data in the national interest, whether application is at national, regional or local levels; and
- The use of fundamental spatial data by governments, industry and the community

## **Draft Principles**

- 1. All sectors of the community should have easy, efficient and equitable access to fundamental spatial data where technology, data formats, institutional arrangements, location, costs and conditions do not inhibit its use.**
- 2. The fundamental spatial data needed by all sectors of the community should be available to support economic, environmental and social needs.**
- 3. Governments should seek to maximise the net benefits to the community when developing their spatial data access policies and pricing regimes.**
- 4. Fundamental spatial data should be made available online through customer-focussed portals, as one of a number of ways to meet community needs for equity of access.**
- 5. Access arrangements should be geared to maximise the use of spatial data resources in both public and private sectors and to encourage the development of an innovative and competitive value-adding industry.**
- 6. Access arrangements should recognise confidentiality, privacy, security and intellectual property rights.**

## **Implementation**

1. The access principles will be made available on the ANZLIC website and comments sought.
2. ANZLIC will place a summary of current access arrangements within each jurisdiction on the website.
3. ANZLIC will develop a model spatial data access and pricing policy.
4. Jurisdictions will assess performance of their existing or draft policies against the model.
5. The policy will be used within the context of negotiations between government and the private sector under the Action Agenda.