



Department of Finance
Statutory Review of the *Data Availability and Transparency Act 2022*
Taylor Black, 1 Canberra Ave
Forrest ACT 2603



SENT BY EMAIL TO: DATActReview@finance.gov.au

28 May 2025



Dear Dr King,

RE: Geoscape Australia Submission to the Statutory Review of the *Data Availability and Transparency Act 2022*

Introduction

Geoscape Australia welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the statutory review of the *Data Availability and Transparency Act 2022* (**DAT Act**).

As a government-owned corporation delivering authoritative national location data, we support the DAT Act's objectives to promote safe, streamlined, and transparent data sharing for public benefit.

Recommendation:

Include Government-Owned Corporations in the DAT Scheme

We recommend that the DAT Act be amended to explicitly allow participation by government-owned corporations, such as Geoscape Australia. This change would enable entities with demonstrated capabilities in data management and public interest outcomes to contribute more effectively to national data initiatives.

Rationale for Key Recommendation

Public Purpose and Accountability: Government-owned corporations operate under public ownership and oversight, often with mandates aligned to national interest outcomes. Their inclusion would be consistent with the DAT Act's intent to enable data sharing for public benefit.

Trusted Data Stewardship: Government-owned corporations like Geoscape Australia are already trusted providers of authoritative data to government and industry (G-NAF - the Geocoded National Address File - being one valuable example). We maintain rigorous data governance, privacy, and security standards.



Reciprocal Value Creation: Enabling government-owned corporations to contribute data would enrich the national data ecosystem. For example, Geoscape location data can enhance the utility of government datasets by providing spatial context, improving interoperability, and supporting evidence-based decision-making.

Suggested Amendments

1. Amend the DAT Act to include government-owned corporations as eligible data scheme participants.
2. Clarify the eligibility criteria and accreditation pathway for government-owned entities, separately to private or not-for-profit organisations.
3. Ensure oversight mechanisms remain robust, including ongoing responsibility of the National Data Commissioner to provide guidance and assurance on safe data sharing.

Importance of Location Data

Finally, we would like to highlight that high-quality location data is a fundamental enabler of both effective data sharing and data alignment. By providing a consistent spatial reference, location data - such as geocoded addresses and buildings - ensures that disparate datasets and features can be accurately linked and interpreted in context. This alignment is critical to realising the full value of shared data. The addition of spatial context supports decision-making across sectors and significantly improves the utility of other datasets. We encourage the review to recognise the value of spatial enablement and the foundational role of geospatial data within the broader data sharing ecosystem.

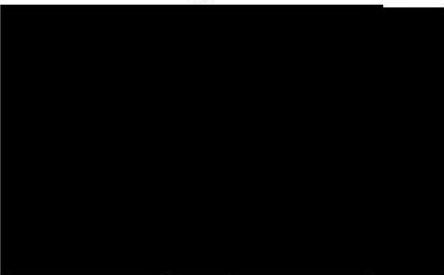
Conclusion

We commend the Department of Finance and the Office of the National Data Commissioner for progressing Australia's data sharing reforms.

Recognising government-owned corporations as trusted data sharing partners under the DAT Act would unlock public value and advance national innovation objectives. By leveraging the expertise and capabilities of organisations like ours, the government can enhance data-driven decision-making and service delivery across Australia.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss these matters further.

Your sincerely,



Dean Capobianco
CEO, Geoscape Australia



About Geoscape Australia

Geoscape Australia (PSMA Australia Ltd) is a self-funded public company owned by the nine governments of Australia. We deliver location data to enable economic, social and environmental outcomes across the economy. Our mission is to provide authoritative location data that supports decision-making across various sectors, including urban planning, emergency management, and infrastructure development.