



Submission to the Statutory Review of the *Data Availability and Transparency Act 2022*

30 May 2025

Background

Geoscience Australia welcomes the opportunity to respond to the statutory review of the *Data Availability and Transparency Act 2022* (the Act).

Activities to date

Geoscience Australia meets the recommendations of the Office of the National Data Commissioner under the DATA Scheme to manage an inventory of its datasets. This is done through the Enterprise Catalogue (eCat).

Since January 2024, Geoscience Australia has participated in the DATA Scheme as a Data Custodian.

The Australian Government Data Catalogue (AGDC), developed out of the DATA Scheme, harvests dataset records from eCat. All metadata records harvested by AGDC are for data that has been released and is open.

Geoscience Australia has not been requested to engage with mechanisms under the DATA Scheme that facilitate sensitive data sharing or establishing new sharing between entities participating in the scheme. This is due to the nature of open data shared by Geoscience Australia.

Comments on the Act

Geoscience Australia supports the Act and the goals of increasing the availability and use of Australian Government data.

Geoscience Australia supports the development of data inventories across Australian Government entities and the establishment of the AGDC to provide a centralised platform for the discovery Australian Government data.

Geoscience Australia has not shared sensitive data through the DATA Scheme and will assess the mechanism as usage changes.

Geoscience Australia notes that the DATA Scheme sharing template is complex. Future implementation could be the streamlined with the inclusion of additional templates that cover simpler common data sharing scenarios.

Geoscience Australia would welcome considerations regarding the interoperability of spatial and science data, and standards within the Act.