

An Open Data Index for Australian States

Hello, my name is Stephen Gates and I'm passionate about Open Data.
I'm writing to you to propose an idea, an Open Data Index for Australian States.

What is the Open Data Index?

The [Open Data Index](#) measures and benchmarks the openness of data in countries, regions, and cities around the world (see over). The Open Data Index is powered by the [Open Data Census](#) - a way to submit and review assessments of the openness of datasets.

Why Participate?

Australians are a competitive bunch. My vision is that Australian States will compete for the number one spot on the Index, thus improving the publishing of key datasets. There will be opportunities to learn from each other, demonstrate and compare progress over time, and of course earn bragging rights. To my knowledge, the Open Data Index has not been used to assess States, so you'll be part of a world first.

How does it work?

The [Open Data Census Documentation](#) explains the workflow of making and reviewing submissions. Don't worry about configuring the Census; I've done most of this already.

There is one key item that hasn't been configured – the key datasets to assess. I have reviewed the following sources to inform discussion on what 10 – 15 datasets should be assessed:

- [Open Knowledge Country Census](#)
- [Open Knowledge City Census](#)
- [G8 recommendations](#)
- [Open Data Barometer](#)

You can join the conversation about what datasets to assess, using this [Google Sheet](#).

What will happen next?

Assuming that two or more states are prepared to participate, the next steps would include:

- Working with [Open Knowledge](#) to create a [census page](#).
- Agreeing key datasets to assess.
- Each State publicising the census within their open data communities.
- Seeking nominations from experts in the open data community for submission reviewers.
- Submissions can be made by anyone. First submissions are automatically published without review. Subsequent submissions require review.

Interested?

If you are interested in some friendly competition to demonstrate progress and drive improvement in Australia's open government data, email me at Stephen.Gates@me.com.

What does the Open Data Index look like?

Here are some screen grabs from existing sites. Imagine this for Australia's States and Cities.

