

# Western Australian Land Information System Charter

October 2006

## Preamble

The Western Australian Land Information System (WALIS) is a dynamic partnership of government agencies working with business, education and community groups to manage and promote Western Australian spatial information for the betterment of the state. By acceptance of this charter, WALIS members are committed to making it easier for everyone to find and use quality information spatially referenced to any part of the state.

## Purpose

The purpose of WALIS is to give users easier access to increasing volumes of quality spatial information on Western Australia. It does this by working across government agencies to coordinate:

1. Development of policy relating to spatial information access and quality.
2. Deployment of systems to improve delivery of spatial information to users.
3. Promotion of the use of spatial information to foster sustainable development of Western Australia.

## Principles

The underlying principles for achievement of WALIS purpose are:

1. Fostering and strengthening cooperation and collaboration among WALIS member agencies and with community, industry and the private sector.
2. Providing single point of discovery and access to spatial information for everyone without compromising security, confidentiality or privacy and, where possible, providing this information free of charge.
3. Ensuring continuous improvement in delivery of spatial information through ongoing review of data quality requirements and coverage standards.

## WALIS Structure

The government of Western Australia established WALIS to coordinate access to spatial information held by government agencies and facilitate cross-sectoral consultation and liaison. WALIS achieves this through committees and the WALIS Office. The current governance structure of WALIS includes an Executive Policy Committee, Spatial Management Group, WALIS Council and WALIS Advisory Committee.

The EPC is the governing body of WALIS and comprises Chief Executive Officers/Directors General of key WALIS member agencies. The role of the EPC is to provide strategic direction and endorse overall policy and strategic plans, ensuring alignment with government policies for sharing spatial information.

The strategic business of WALIS is managed by the Spatial Management Group (SMG) of director-level representatives from agencies representing key focus areas, and representatives from local government, WALIS Advisory Committee and Office of e-Government.

WALIS Council, consisting of operational managers or representatives of WALIS partners, resolves operational issues between data providers and clients. All WALIS member agencies are represented on WALIS Council, in addition to a representative from WALIS Advisory Committee and local government.

The WALIS Advisory Committee (WAC), whose members represent business, education, local government and community groups, provides strategic advice to the EPC and SMG.

WALIS Office promotes WALIS business and manages its committees and working groups.

WALIS *partnership* is extended to all government agencies (federal, state and local), associations, corporate entities, academic institutions, community groups or to any entity who share a common interest in using spatial information. WALIS partners may nominate for election to WAC and/or may seek to influence WALIS policy through submissions to WAC or through partner-forums organised from time to time.

## Enabling Environment for WALIS

The Strategic Planning Framework for the Western Australian Public Sector, *Better Planning: Better Services*, and the state government's e-Government Strategy envisages "a more effective public sector that delivers integrated services and improved opportunities for community participation" (e-Government Strategy 2004). This is about shifting from a single-agency delivery of information towards a more collaborative, integrated and innovative delivery (enterprise architecture) and is in line with established government policy whereby state agencies "will improve access to their land information to improve the management and development of the State and discourage costly duplication of data collection, maintenance and system development" (Cabinet April 17 2000).

In the achievement of these strategies for improved access to spatial information, WALIS provides the enabling environment for policy development and business development, through partnerships with, and linkages between, information providers and clients. Members of WALIS support:

- EPC or government-endorsed WALIS policies, such as data pricing and access, custodianship and metadata management;
- Whole-of-government initiatives aimed at improving provision of and access to spatial data, such as the Shared Land Information Platform (SLIP) project;
- Open communication between WALIS member agencies to ensure collaboration and integrated approaches to spatial data management.

Schedule 1 (attached) highlights approved WALIS policies, strategies and plans.

**Endorsement**

By signing the charter, members of WALIS agree to actively contribute and support WALIS policies, procedures, strategic directions and principles and, where relevant, to incorporate them within the operation and culture of their organisation.

**Name**

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**Organisation**

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**Signature**

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**Date**

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## Schedule 1: Current policies, strategies and plans as approved by Cabinet or WALIS EPC

Approved by WA Information Policy Committee based on WALIS work September 1993:

- Models for data licensing agreements.

Approved by WALIS EPC in September 1994:

- Guidelines for Custodianship.

Approved by WALIS EPC Management Committee September 1997:

- WALIS Metadata Policy.

Approved by Cabinet April 2000:

- WALIS Pricing and Transfer Policy.

Approved by Minister of Land Information  
WALIS Strategic Directions 2004 – 2007.