



National Principles for Environmental Information



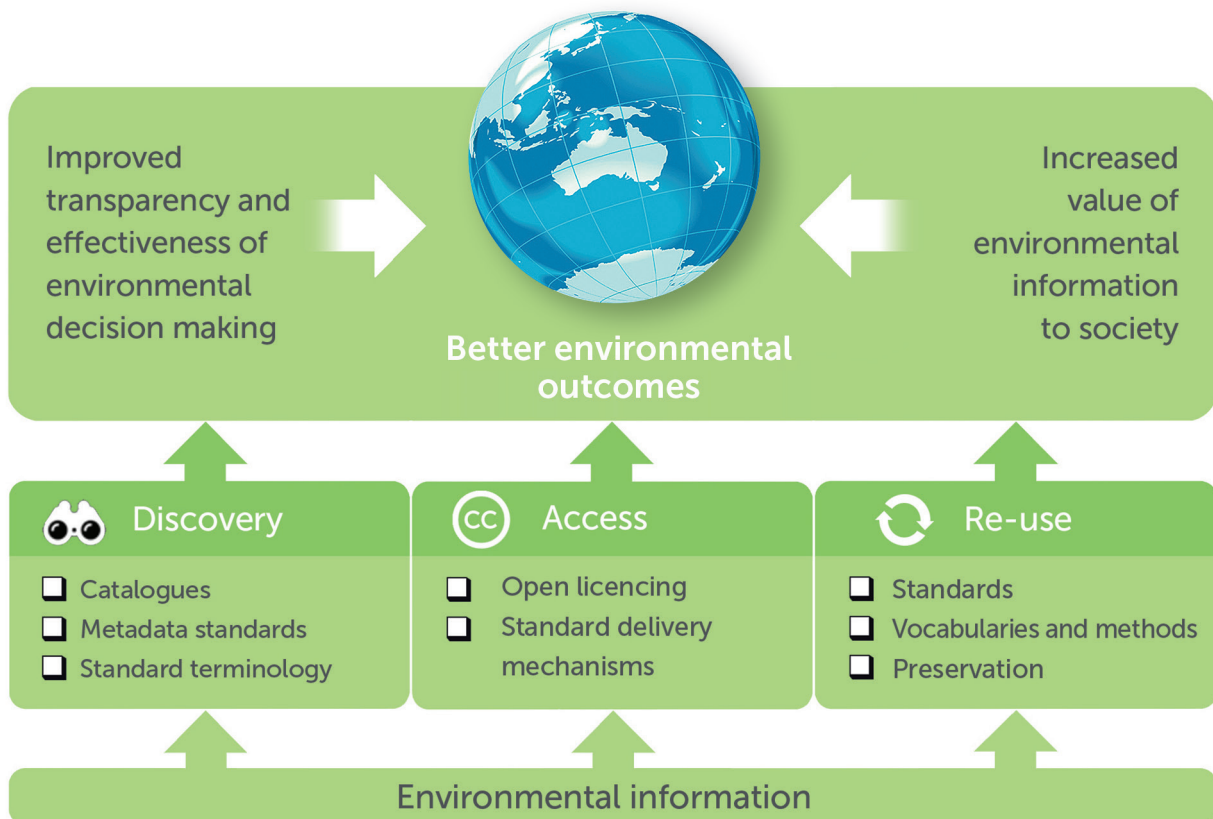
Increasing the value of environmental information for the environment, society and the economy by improving its discovery, access and re-use.

In Australia, environmental information is collected across many disciplines and geographies, by many people and institutions for many purposes. As a consequence environmental information holdings can be fragmented and difficult to access and use by anyone other than the original collector.

Improving the discovery, access and re-use of environmental information will improve the transparency, efficiency, responsiveness and effectiveness of governments, businesses and communities making environment-related policies and decisions. Opening environmental information to its broadest user base also

stimulates innovation and increases the value to society and the economy from the investment in environmental information collection.

The purpose of these principles is to provide guidance to Australian government information custodians on how to make the environmental information for which they are responsible more *discoverable*, *accessible* and *re-useable*. This will enable the integration and interpretation of data gathered from different sources across Australia and internationally by many different organisations. It will also enable the rapid incorporation of data into many applications, products and decision making.





Principles

1. Valued

Environmental information should be treated as a valuable and strategic asset, the value of which increases through access and re-use.

2. Well described

Environmental information and data services should be described with and linked to high quality metadata that enables users to evaluate its fitness for their various purposes.

3. Standardised

Environmental information, metadata and data services should use common standards such as those identified in the National Environmental Information Infrastructure (NEII) Reference Architecture: www.neii.gov.au/publications.

4. Published online

Environmental information should be published online in a timely manner and in [machine-readable](#) standards-based formats.

5. Discoverable

Environmental information should be registered, searchable and visible through relevant web portals such as data.gov.au increasing the awareness of relevant information by government community and industry.

6. Available under an open licence

Environmental information should be published for use under an open licensing agreement, preferably a Creative Commons Attribution (CC-BY) licence under the AusGOAL framework, and available at no cost: www.ausgoal.gov.au

7. Preserved

Data archives should be established to preserve the environmental information necessary to track changes in the environment. These archives should be aligned with the reference model for the [OAIS](#) (Open Archival Information System).

8. Governed and managed

Governance and management of environmental information collection, compilation, storage and delivery should:

- implement and promote effective, efficient and consistent practices
- be accountable, transparent and representative to stakeholders
- support users and managers to meet these principles through education, capacity building, and facilitating the participation and collaboration of all levels of government, industry and the community.

9. Compliant

Environmental information management practices should meet statutory, legal and ethical obligations such as privacy and sensitivity.

10. Feasible and cost effective

Practices for environmental information management and publication should be feasible to implement and cost effective to sustain by organisations of all sizes, enabling the widest range of participation. This can be best achieved by aligning with the approaches of the Australian Government's National Environmental Information Infrastructure (NEII) Reference Architecture.

FIND OUT MORE

For more information about the National Principles for Environmental Information go to www.bom.is/enviroinfoprinciples or www.environment.gov.au/science/national-plan-environmental-information