



Government of **Western Australia**  
Western Australian Land Information System

## Charter for WALIS Members

### Purpose of the Charter

This Charter sets out the governance, structure and membership of WALIS and the roles and responsibilities of its members.

### Who we are

WALIS is a dynamic partnership of government agencies and the research and private sectors working to continually improve the capture, management and sharing of location information for the benefit of Western Australia. Location information is a valuable asset because a range of economic, social and physical data can be linked to a geographic location and integrated, transforming it into knowledge of any location, which can be used to make better decisions.

**Vision** WALIS is widely recognised for its ability to harness the power of location information to deliver better decisions, outcomes and services for Western Australians.

**Mission** To drive partnerships which make location-based information easy to find, access and use by the community, government and businesses and empower them to make better decisions, create innovative services and address major challenges facing our State.

### Enabling Framework

In order to achieve its vision and mission, WALIS members are guided by the Location Information Strategy for Western Australia (I) and the Location Information Access Framework (II).

#### I. The Location Information Strategy for Western Australia

In alignment with WALIS' mission, on 1 August 2011, the Western Australian State Cabinet approved the implementation of the Location Information Strategy for Western Australia. The Location Information Strategy is the blueprint aimed at addressing some of Western Australia's major challenges, including planning for a growing population and adapting to climate change. The Strategy pinpoints priority initiatives of economic, social and environmental significance and details effective ways to maximise the value of the collection, management and use of Western Australia's location information assets.

The Location Information Strategy is driven by the following principles and initiatives which members are expected to follow:

- Location Information is only collected once to avoid duplication and made readily available to support functions of Government through the [Capture WA](#) Program
- Location information is consolidated and accessed in the most cost-effective way through the Open Data ([data.wa.gov.au](http://data.wa.gov.au)) or the Shared Location Information Platform (SLIP)
- Research and development investment in location information and technology will be applied to meeting the State's strategic needs.

## II. The Location Information Access Framework

The Location Information Access Framework [Guidelines](#) and [Code of Practice](#) provides direction to WALIS members and other relevant organisations to make the broadest possible range of location-based information easy to find, access and use by the WA community, government and businesses. This framework consolidates, updates and replaces all previous policies and practice guidelines in this area.

The Location Information Access Framework principles are:

**Principle 1 – Availability.** Location information generated by the WA public sector should be made available publicly, in accordance with the WA whole-of government Open Data Policy

**Principle 2 – Licensing.** Government-held location information should be made available under flexible licences which meet the needs of consumers as far as practicable.

**Principle 3 – Pricing.** Location information generated by the WA public sector should be made available at zero cost, or the lowest cost possible in accordance with the WA Whole of Government Open Data Policy. *Pricing should reflect the WALIS commitment to increase access to the broadest range of fit-for-purpose, Government-held location information. Factors that may affect pricing decisions include public interest, and policy or legislative provisions.*

**Principle 4 – Discovery.** Location information generated by the WA public sector should be made discoverable through [data.wa.gov.au](http://data.wa.gov.au), and be accompanied with interpretive details that facilitates the appropriate understanding and use of the information.

**Principle 5 – Access.** Government-held location information should be accessible in industry standard formats that promote its re-use, and provided with interpretive information.

**Principle 6 – Creation, Capture, Acquisition.** The capture and acquisition of location information by the WA public sector should be conducted in a manner ensuring optimised use of resources, and delivered so that the value is maximised.

**Principle 7 – Implementation Guidelines.** WA public sector agencies involved in the capture, management and sharing of location information should follow the Framework Guidelines to maximise the benefit of this information to the WA community. *WALIS members and associated organisations should follow the framework Guidelines relating to the accountability for, and acquisition, management, publication and dissemination of Government-held location information.*

### Governance and Structure

WALIS has a long and successful track record of coordinating access to location information and facilitating cross-sectoral consultation since it was established in 1981. WALIS achieves its purpose and fosters collaboration among WALIS members through committees, collaborative groups and delivery of location information projects. These groups and activities are coordinated through the WALIS Office.

The WALIS Council, consisting of operational managers or representatives of WALIS partners, is the main committee representing key focus areas across the public sector, leading WALIS initiatives and managing operational issues for location-based information.

Activities related to governance, strategic direction, and policy endorsement at executive level is progressed through the Chief Executive Officers/Directors General's meetings.

## Membership

The 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 location-based information. Whilst only WA Government agencies and departments, statutory authorities and Government Business Enterprises and some Federal Government agencies are eligible to sign this Charter (and be considered “full” members of WALIS), other organisations across the research and private sectors can become Associate Members of WALIS by signing a Memorandum of Understanding.

## Review

The WALIS Office will lead a review of the Charter in consultation with WALIS members to ensure it remains consistent with the WALIS mission, objectives and responsibilities.

## Roles and Responsibilities

WALIS members are expected to:

- Share knowledge, information and best practices with regard to the capture, management and sharing of location information
- Collaborate with other WALIS members and associates through the use of the Location Information Access Framework as set out in the [Guidelines](#) and [Code of Practice](#) to improve the quality and accessibility of location information
- Participate and contribute to WALIS activities and projects which support the objectives of the [Location Information Strategy](#) and [Open Data Policy](#).
- Actively promote greater understanding and awareness of the value of location information to a broader audience to realise the vision and mission

WALIS members receive the following benefits from membership:

- Access to the shared knowledge and experience of other WALIS members
- The opportunity to shape industry practices and ensure the needs of their organisation are considered with regard to these practices
- Access to new location information and technology developed or enhanced through WALIS activities and projects
- Promotional opportunities for location information initiatives within the WALIS community and to a broader audience.
- Regular communications and updates on state and national initiatives and events.

## Endorsement

By signing the Charter, members of [WALIS](#) agree to actively contribute and support the mission of WALIS through its enabling framework and the responsibilities outlined in this Charter.

Please return the completed page to [walis@walis.wa.gov.au](mailto:walis@walis.wa.gov.au)

Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated WALIS Council Member:

(Where applicable) \_\_\_\_\_