

Tasmanian Government

Information Licensing Framework

Version 1.1 – 7 January 2010

Department of Premier and Cabinet



1 Introduction

The Tasmanian Government Information Licensing Framework is the Tasmanian adaptation of the National Government Information Licensing Framework. It has been developed as part of the Interoperability Program of the Office of eGovernment within the Department of Premier and Cabinet (formerly the Inter Agency Policy and Projects Unit).

The aim of the Interoperability Program is to improve whole-of-government efficiency, effectiveness, and agility. The use of common standards and guidelines is one way to build the capacity for interoperability between agencies. Interoperability standards and guidelines are developed in consultation with stakeholders, generally from Tasmanian Government agencies.

2 Authority and history

The Tasmanian Government Information Licensing Framework was approved for use in Tasmanian Government agencies by the Tasmanian Government's Inter Agency Steering Committee (IASC) on 9 November 2009

3 Background

The Australian Government has identified information licensing as an issue needing a national solution. In December 2008 the Online Communications Council (OCC) endorsed (in principle) development of a National Government Information Licensing Framework (NGILF), based on the Government Information Licensing Framework produced and trialled by the State Government of Queensland.

NGILF consists of a set of model licences, including Creative Commons licences, a restrictive license, plus supporting decision making tools. These are intended for application to information released by agencies.

The Tasmanian Government assessment of the NGILF focused on the Creative Commons licences and the supporting decision making tools.

Benefits offered by the standard, include cost reduction, process improvement and risk reduction resulting from:

- Improved access to and use of Government held information
- Standardisation of transactions between various jurisdictions, with the potential to extend this to community and the private sector transactions
- Improved management of Intellectual Property held by the Government
- Reduced legal risk associated with potential unauthorised use of data and information products and services both within and outside of Government

4 Purpose of the Standard

The standard is to improve:

- Agency management of intellectual property through:
 - A tool to assist in assessing intellectual property issues as part of the processes in releasing and publishing agency information
 - Use of copyright licences that are interoperable, thus simplifying the process of managing the intellectual property issues arising when information from multiple sources is merged for release or publication

- Use of copyright licences that clearly align with policy objectives of disseminating information to the wider community
- Customer and community ability to confidently use and re-use government information through simple and understandable copyright statements

5 Access to the Standard

The tool to assist in assessing intellectual property issues as part of the process in releasing and publishing agency information can be found www.gjlf.gov.au. The set of Creative Commons licenses are at the same web address.

Where the Creative Commons licenses are not appropriate (eg where there may be commercial, privacy, lack of appropriate rights to all or part of the content, or other issues) agencies should seek appropriate legal advice to develop alternate licence or copyright statement.

Agencies are advised to get appropriate legal advice to ensure contacts for material acquired for publication, such as graphic design or photographs, include sufficient rights for the agency to distribute the material under the Creative Commons licence model.

This document can be found at www.egovernment.tas.gov.au

6 Intended audience

The Tasmanian Government Information Licensing Framework Standard applies to Tasmanian Government departments and agencies as listed in Division 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the *Tasmanian State Service Act 2000*.

All organisations releasing and publishing information should consider the use of this standard.

Agency publishing officers should understand the scope of this standard.

7 Review of the Standard

Review of the Tasmanian Government Information Licensing Framework Standard is co-ordinated by the Office of eGovernment, Department of Premier and Cabinet.

8 Feedback and assistance

The Office of eGovernment welcomes feedback on the use of this standard. Please direct your feedback and enquiries to:

The Interoperability Program
Office of eGovernment
Department of Premier and Cabinet
Ph: 03 6232 7722 or email: egovernment@dpac.tas.gov.au

Refer to www.egovernment.tas.gov.au for further information on Interoperability and other standards and guidelines.