



Statement of Australian Government Requirements for Environmental Information

The Statement of Australian Government Requirements for Environmental Information is a critical first step towards presenting a framework for whole-of-government collaboration on environmental information.

The National Plan for Environmental Information initiative

The National Plan for Environmental Information initiative is an Australian Government program intended to improve the quality and accessibility of environmental information for decision-making.

A core element of the initiative is to identify and prioritise requirements for environmental information across the Australian Government.

Statement of Australian Government Requirements for Environmental Information



A challenge for the Australian Government in prioritising its environmental information needs is deciding where to focus. Developed by the Australian Government Environmental Information Advisory Group, the Statement of Australian Government Requirements for Environmental Information (the Statement) identifies where environmental information is critical to deliver outcomes and what the government requirements are.

It reflects the policy, research and operational perspectives of Australian Government agencies that depend on environmental information.

For the first time, the interests of Australian Government in environmental information have been clearly identified. This is an important step towards identifying Australian Government priorities.

The Statement provides an organising framework for whole-of-government collaboration on environmental information by identifying the following nine broad areas-of-interest:

Biodiversity – to manage Australia’s protected areas and conserve and protect Australia’s terrestrial, aquatic and marine biodiversity, ecosystems and reserves.

Biosecurity – to help protect Australia’s economy, environment, and peoples’ health from, and mitigate the impacts of, weeds, pests and diseases.

Climate change – to enable Australia to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to the impacts of climate change and help shape a global solution.

Environmental reporting – to enable the nation to meet its environmental reporting obligations.

Infrastructure and communities – to ensure sustainability and safety of communities and infrastructure.

Natural resources – to enable the productive, innovative and sustainable use of Australia’s resources by industry and the community.

Significant places – to protect and manage Australia’s significant places of natural and cultural heritage.

Waste and pollutants – to preserve the health of Australians and protect the environment from the impacts of pollutants and other waste products.

Water – to ensure the quality of Australia’s water resources and their use by industry, communities and the environment.



Australian Government Environmental Information Advisory Group

The group comprises senior representatives of the following Australian Government portfolios and agencies:

- Attorney-General's Department
- Australian Bureau of Statistics
- Bureau of Meteorology
- CSIRO
- Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency
- Department of Defence
- Department of Health and Ageing
- Department of Infrastructure and Transport
- Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education
- Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport
- Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism
- Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities
- Geoscience Australia
- Murray–Darling Basin Authority
- The Treasury.

Principles for developing the Statement

The Statement was guided by the following principles:

- Adopt a broad definition of environmental information to engage multiple stakeholders.
- Encompass requirements that support social, cultural, economic and environmental objectives.
- Take a long-term view of current and potential environmental information requirements.
- Take an evidence-based approach that details the link between requirements for environmental information and their dependencies on environmental information.
- Be unconstrained by current capacity to collect or disseminate environmental information.
- Revise the Statement periodically, ensuring currency and alignment with Australian Government environmental information needs.



Photo of a male Splendid Fairy-wren from the Biodiversity section of the Statement.

Achievement

The Statement provides a foundational input for developing the National Plan for Environmental Information and defining high value environmental information required to support Australian Government decision-making.

Where to from here?

Further engagement will follow publication of the Statement to develop a clear understanding of the long-term, shared needs of government for specific environmental information and fundamental environmental datasets.

The Statement will be updated biennially, with oversight provided by the Australian Government Environmental Information Advisory Group.

For further information

For further information about the Bureau's environmental information role, visit www.bom.gov.au/environment or contact environment@bom.gov.au



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