residential
tenancies
authority

RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES AUTHORITY

OPEN DATA STRATEGY
2013-2017

Introduction

On 9 October 2012, the Premier announced an 'open data revolution' for the Queensland Government with the aim of releasing as much government data as possible to encourage the private sector to develop innovative new services and solutions for the State. The Residential Tenancies Authority (RTA) is committed to adopting an 'open data' culture.

The RTA is committed to openness and accountability in government. Through our website, we already make available a significant amount of information, including corporate publications, monthly operational reports, quarterly median weekly rent spreadsheets and a median weekly rent quick finder search function.

Strategic Overview

The RTA is a Queensland Government statutory authority which administers the *Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008*.

The RTA's main functions are to:
- provide tenancy information
- manage rental bonds
- provide a dispute resolution service
- investigate offences under the Act and prosecute where appropriate
- provide community education
- provide advice to the Minister about residential tenancy and rooming accommodation issues and the operation of the Act, and
- monitor sector data and conduct research.

The RTA monitors and reports on Queensland's residential rental sector by gathering data from bond lodgements and from other official and industry sources. Bond lodgement data includes general tenancies and rooming accommodation.

The RTA collects a large amount of personal data on bond records. Accordingly, while the RTA is committed to releasing maximum data possible, it recognises the need to protect the privacy of individuals and maintain confidentiality as necessary.

The RTA is committed to achieving its release strategy whilst also complying with the relevant legislative and agency governance requirements.

The RTA Open Data Strategy sets out a three year forward plan for delivery of the open data initiative. This strategy will be reviewed every 12 months to ensure its currency.

Data

The RTA collects data in the form of rental bond records which include the location of a rental property, dwelling type (including the number of bedrooms), weekly rent, and the type of person managing the property (e.g. lessor/agent, moveable dwelling park owner, owner/manager).

On a quarterly basis the RTA will release de-identified rental bond data consisting of dwelling type, number of bedrooms, weekly rent, bond created date, bond type and the postcode of the rental property for all new bond lodgements.

The file will be released in an MSExcel format and will be published as soon as is practical after the end of the quarter.

Future Program

The RTA will monitor its Open Data email address at opendata@rta.qld.gov.au for any requests, comments or feedback and will respond accordingly. The RTA will seek to improve its information availability, quality and timeliness, taking into consideration public feedback and operational requirements.

The RTA will continue to build upon its initial data releases and strive to provide meaningful and relevant data for interested parties. The RTA will endeavour to provide data in re-useable formats with 'open' licences, supporting further product development.

Appendix A

Dataset	Description	Target date of publishing (i.e. month & year)	Frequency of update	End of release date	Open licence?
Rental bond data.	Bond lodgement data for general tenancies and rooming accommodation.	Oct-13	Quarterly	Ongoing	Yes