

# Open Data for Public Good: What's needed?

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Digital, Design and Innovation

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Premier  
and Cabinet  
Digital Design and Innovation

The open data community is analytical, critical, and obsessed with measurement. Can we say that we actually understand what has happened with regard to open data around the world over the last decade? After ten years, are individuals, organisations, and governments able to get involved with open data more easily? Are stakeholders really starting to work on new open data initiatives based on evidence or research, or being steered by whatever might be the hot topic of the day? Are activists chasing unachievable dreams or going somewhere tangible?

Stephen Walker et al., *The State of Open Data* (2017)

Top 50 April 2019	
Search Term	Total Unique Searches
property	109
land use	74
school	72
cadastre	69
water	68
population	66
flood	65
metro tunnel	62
search for data...	57
crash	56
roads	56
contours	54
ptv	54
earth resources spatial data collection for the datamart	51
lga	48
road	48
crime	47
traffic	46
vicmap	45
contour	43
transport	43
vegetation	43
geology	42
melbourne	42
elevation	41
pptn	39
vicroads	39
schools	37
soil	37
fire	35
train	34
landuse	33
park	33
soil type	31
bushfire	30
suburb	30
vicmap property	30
hospital	28
parcel	28
tree	27
cadastral	26
bus	25
evc	25
building	24
public transport	24
forest	23
road network	23
traffic volume	23
river	22
catchment	21

# What type of data are people looking for?

Property

Land use

Water use

Population and demographics

Elevation

Schools

Traffic

Hospitals

# Most popular datasets

Public transport

Soil type mapping

Crash statistics

Property boundaries

Baby names

School locations

Top 50 April 2019		
Data Record Name	Pageviews	Supply Line
ptv-timetable-and-geographic-information-2015-gtfs	1,265	PTV
victorian-soil-type-mapping	862	SDM
crashes-last-five-years	859	VicRoads
crash-stats-data-extract	804	VicRoads
cadastral-area-boundary-vicmap-property	447	SDM
road-network-vicmap-transport	388	SDM
ptv-timetable-api	372	PTV
vicmap-elevation-contours	371	SDM
traffic-signal-volume-data	365	VicRoads
victorian-liquor-licences-by-location	362	VCGLR
public-transport-a-collection-of-ptv-datasets	313	SDM
vicmap-elevation-dtm-10m	310	SDM
vicmap-planning	291	SDM
address-vicmap-address	258	SDM
typical-hourly-traffic-volume	246	VicRoads
easement-vicmap-property	239	SDM
parcel-view-vicmap-property	237	SDM
traffic-volume-for-freeways-and-arterial-roads	228	VicRoads
victorian-property-sales-report-median-house-by-suburb	224	DELWP
vicmap-elevation-1-5-contours-relief	219	SDM
ptv-metro-train-stations	214	SDM
vicmap-admin	209	DHHS
vicmap-property-simplified-2-vicmap-property	209	SDM
hospital-locations-spatial	201	VicRoads
property-view-vicmap-property	198	DELWP
postcode-boundaries-polygon-vicmap-admin	189	SDM
victorian-land-use-information-system-2016	187	SDM
parks-and-conservation-reserves-parkres	172	SDM
vicmap-property-parcel-map-polygons	165	SDM
victorian-schools-location-2015	163	DET
crash-stats	162	VicRoads
designated-bushfire-prone-area-bpa	160	SDM
school-locations-2018	159	DET
vicmap-elevation-dtm-20m	158	SDM
historical-mining-activity	156	SDM
victorian-railway-stations	153	SDM
1-in-100-year-flood-extent	152	SDM
metro-contour-1-5-metre-vicmap-elevation	152	SDM
school-locations-2017	152	DET
crashes-last-five-years	151	VicRoads

# Applying open data for public good

Two approaches,  
data as material; data as evidence

# Vegetation Detection Challenge

```
    a = a.replace(/ +(?= )/g, ""), a = a.  
    length; c++) { 0 == r(a[c], b) && b.push(a[c]); }  
    var a = $("#User_logged").a(), a = q(a), a = a.  
    split(" "), b = [], c = 0; c < a.length; c++) {  
    c = {}; c.j = a.length; c.unique = b.length -  
    1; var a = 0, b = $("#User_logged").a(), b = b.  
    q(b), b = b.replace(/ +(?= )/g, ""); inp_arr  
    a = [], c = [], a = 0; a < inp_array.length;  
    c.push(inp_array[a]), b.push({word: inp_array  
    [a - 1], c = r(b[b.length - 1], b, inp_array  
    [a - 1], " "); i = 1; i < b.length;
```

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## Powerline Bushfire Safety Program - Vegetation Detection Challenge

### Organisation

#### Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning creates liveable, inclusive and sustainable communities that support jobs and growth in Victoria. We recognise the link... [read more](#)

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# Powerline Bushfire Safety Program - Vegetation Detection Challenge

These data resources relate to the Powerline Bushfire Safety Program Vegetation Detection Challenge. The challenge aims to develop an algorithm that can identify what species of vegetation might be touching a powerline.

## Data and Resources

 Franxinus Angustifolia (Desert Ash) Gen3i+data+files.zip	<a href="#">Explore</a>
 Franxinus Angustifolia (Desert Ash) /IR+Camera.zip	<a href="#">Explore</a>
 Franxinus Angustifolia Desert Ash Gen3i data files.zip	<a href="#">Explore</a>
 Franxinus Angustifolia Desert Ash IR Camera.zip	<a href="#">Explore</a>
 Franxinus Angustifolia Matlab data.zip	<a href="#">Explore</a>
 Franxinus Angustifolia (Desert Ash) Videos-1.zip	<a href="#">Explore</a>
 Franxinus Angustifolia Desert+Ash Videos-2.zip	<a href="#">Explore</a>
 Franxinus Angustifolia Desert Ash Videos-3.zip	<a href="#">Explore</a>





# MENTOR ME

FIND YOUR PATH

Play (k)



0:00 / 2:45



HD

YouTube



## Open datasets:

Brimbank community infrastructures [data.gov.au](https://data.gov.au)

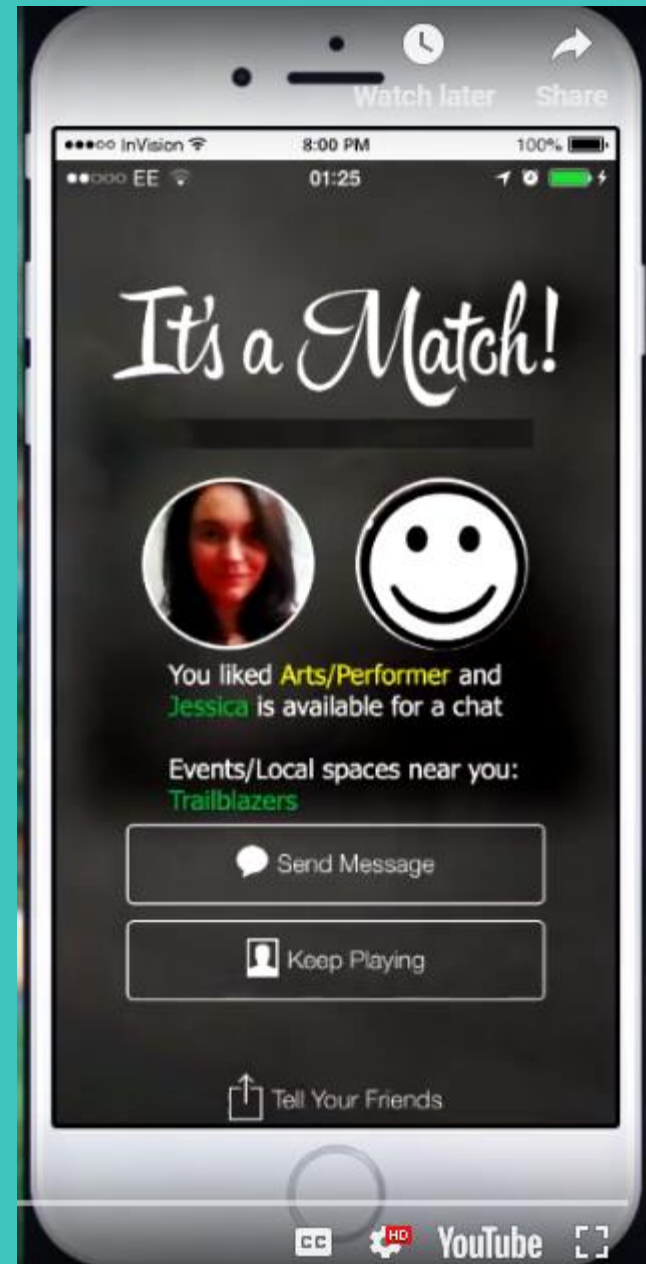
Labour force status – Census

Population density

Disengaged youth

Mental Health Statistics – Headspace

GPS and location data



What's needed?

Interviews revealed a need for higher and more consistent funding for open data initiatives.

However, there is little evidence of proven value creation for data-oriented initiatives.

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However, there is little evidence of proven value creation for data-oriented initiatives.

# An open data leader in government: "It doesn't have to be perfect to be useful"

A Q&A with Will McIntosh, Open Data Team Leader at the City of Melbourne

SHARE

Open government data is used in initiatives aiming to improve intra-governmental workflows, engage citizens in the design of new digital products and services, and inform policy design.

The following interview was conducted as part of a [year-long research project](#) into the attitudes of Australian public servants towards open data initiatives, undertaken by [Dale Lumsden](#), postdoctoral researcher at Tampere University, Finland, and [Sunee Jethani](#), Engagement Manager and Research Fellow at the Victorian State Government's Department of Premier and Cabinet, Digital, Design and Innovation Branch, which manages the [DataVic](#) portal. The research was conducted in partnership with the University of Melbourne.

What follows is an edited version of a conversation between Sunee Jethani and Will McIntosh, Open Data Team Leader at the [City of Melbourne](#), a local government municipality responsible for Melbourne's central business district and inner suburbs. You can read the full transcript [here](#).

**Sunee Jethani:** The first thing that I want to ask is about your background. How did you end up working in open data?

**Will McIntosh:** I studied a double degree, IT and Information Systems at Deakin University. I majored in 3D. That gave me a lot of coding skills and an understanding of how information flowed across organisations or into a game or a physics environment. Over the next seven years, I started to become interested in emerging areas of government. Something that kept coming up around that time — about 2009 onwards — was open data, and that's also when we started hearing about things like Gov Hack and other hackathon events.

## SPEAK TO SOMEONE INVOLVED



**Sunee Jethani**

Engagement Manager and Research Fellow - Department of Premier and Cabinet, Digital, Design and Innovation, State Government of Victoria

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## LOCATION



Melbourne

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## Researching people's attitudes about open data



**Sunee Jethani**

Mar 1 - 2 min read



Image of homepage for [data.vic.gov.au](#)

On the 2nd of March, many across the public sector will do something to mark International Open Data Day. It's an opportunity to celebrate open data and promote access to their datasets.

We have much to celebrate in the way the value of open data is demonstrated and its policies adopted. However, it's also time to think about the past,

<https://medium.com/digital-government-victoria/>



Thank you.  
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