



Embedding Data Stewardship in Geoscience Australia

Irina Bastrakova, Sue Fyfe

Geoscience Australia

Steps Toward Implementing Stewardship: the Theory	Implementation Timeline	Geoscience Australia (GA) Data Stewardship Activities: in Practice	Benefits for Geoscience Australia
<p>1</p> <p>Raising awareness in the organisation of the need for data stewardship and the challenges this entails.</p>	<p>July 2009</p> 	<p>Programme Darwin—assessing where we were at through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> conducting organisation-wide audits of GA's data holdings and identifying custodians for each dataset developing agency wide principles on how the agency undertakes science, data management and cataloguing defining a Data Classification Schema that enables consistent alignment of scientific requirements and business workflows with data architecture. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> supporting social, economic and productivity gains within the wider Australian community as the value of GA's data increases and end users develop better / new / innovative products and services reliably and consistently delivering data and information compliant with international standards and can be 'mashed up' with data from other globally distributed data sources
<p>2</p> <p>Establishing a data stewardship framework including a data governance office to set policy and best practice to drive organisational change and manage compliance.</p>	<p>March 2011</p> 	<p>Agency-wide Scientific Data Stewardship Steering Committee—providing high level advice through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> integrating advice of champions from across the Agency guiding development of the data stewardship framework supporting implementation of data stewardship in GA. <p>Domain Specific Scientific Data Communities of Practice—providing scientific expertise through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> involving leading scientific experts identifying and incorporating standards and practices across their domains developing Master Data Management Plans for each master data type setting agency wide QA/QC guidelines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensuring accountability gains for GA by managing data under a consistent agency-wide governance framework increasing open access and online availability to GA data resources, services and applications delivering accessible and verifiable data and procedures that can be used by others to test the results ensuring that GA's data can be trusted and used in evidence based policy advice by capturing, analysing and storing data using well-defined standard operating procedures
<p>3</p> <p>Embedding the functions and a culture of data stewardship into business as usual operations.</p>	<p>June 2013</p> 	<p>Data Governance and Services Section—providing governance through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> developing, communicating and coordinating data stewardship policies, strategies, standards and practices maintaining continuous and active engagement from the Agency executive embedding long term cultural change at all levels within the organisation encouraging the inclusion of data stewardship and management activities in work programs and budgets as a continuous operational activity cultivating, facilitating and supporting the data stewardship committee, communities of practice and champions integrating data stewardship practices into scientific workflows defining a strategic approach to the architecture, development and maintenance of technological systems, platforms and tools for data management and sharing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> removing silos, duplicates and unnecessary replication of data assets and processes ensuring productivity gains for GA by embedding relevant elements of data stewardship activities to the annual business cycle enhancing quality and consistency in developing multiple products and data services generated by all parts of the agency producing data that can be reused and repurposed for uses other than what it was collected for minimising the duplication and developing cost of applications needed to access and use the data.

