

Question on Notice

No. 822

Asked on 19 November 2013

MR SHUTTLEWORTH ASKED THE MINISTER FOR SCIENCE, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATION AND THE ARTS (MR WALKER)—

Will the Minister provide an update on the further development of our digital economy and the Open Data applications currently developed or under developed?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government is committed to embracing the full potential of digital technologies and services to benefit all Queenslanders and our economy.

On 29 August 2013, I released our ICT Action Plan which sets out our planned actions to implement our Queensland Government ICT Strategy 2013-17. Both the strategy and action plan reinforce our vision for a transformed public service that is focused on improving services for Queenslanders by better use and analysis of Government data, and by using modern, cost-efficient technology.

Also in line with our commitment, on 1 November 2013, I released the Government's draft Queensland Digital Economy Strategy for public consultation. Our aim is for Queensland to be Australia's most digitally interactive State and to be recognised globally as a digital innovation hub.

The draft strategy consultation document has been designed to seek community, industry and business feedback on a range of action ideas that will advance Queensland's digital economy by increasing and improving the range of Queensland Government services available on-line and the end user experience of these services. Our draft strategy also focuses on Queensland small businesses and non-government organisations to ensure they can embrace the changes required to compete and prosper in the digital economy.

During our public consultation phase, we were particularly interested in feedback from Queenslanders who live in remote and regional communities and those businesses that, while they may have a website, do not currently trade and sell goods and services online.

Public consultation closed on 9 December 2013. The feedback gathered from this process is now being assessed by my department with the goal of finalising the Queensland Digital Economy Strategy in the first half of 2014.

One of the key digital initiatives of the Queensland Government is our Open Data Initiative. Open Data refers to Government agencies releasing their extensive range of data openly to the public for both commercial and community purposes. The Premier announced this major initiative in December 2012.

After a year, we now have over 600 datasets published on our open data portal <https://data.qld.gov.au/>. Access to these datasets provides unlimited uses, including local application developers and people using the data, to “mash up” with any other datasets to develop applications, particularly to make better predictions and to help people make better service choices.

There are a number of applications or “Apps” that have already been developed. For example, one links bus and train status information with GPS mapping information to form applications that can provide public transport users with accurate predictions, using their smart-phone, of when the next bus or train will arrive.

In the six months to October 2013, the most popular dataset downloads, comprising more than 13000 downloads, have been the Queensland Globe (9780), crime statistics (2561), flood plain assessment overlay (683) and Translink data (707).

On 3 December, the winners of the 2013 Premier’s Awards for Open Data were announced. The Awards showcased the innovative uses being made of Government datasets to create solutions and deliver new and more effective services for all Queenslanders. One of the highly innovative “Apps” that won both the *Growing and developing Queensland’s Future* and the *Microsoft Start-Up Accelerator Award* was Ms Rachael Mulliss’ *AgriHUB* App. The AgriHUB App project is based on information gathered from the Queensland Government’s recent land audit. It is a simple, interactive mapping of vast amounts of documentation knitted together in an interactive style to help industry make more sustainable business and environmental decisions.

Over the coming year, the Government will be publishing many more datasets for public use.

Open data is complementary of both our ICT and digital economy strategies as they aim to transform the Government from being a service provider to a service enabler allowing applications to be developed both inside and outside of government to provide better services and service choices for Queenslanders.