

## About the NSW Environmental Data Portal

The Environmental Data Portal (EDP) is an initiative of the NSW Government in response to community requests for reliable and readily available information about the environment in NSW.

The Portal will make a broad range of environmental data available through a single online source.

### Who is the Portal for?

The Portal is being developed as a resource for everyone in the community, including landowners, researchers, local government, industry and special interest groups.

### What information will the Portal include?

In order to deliver benefits quickly, the Environmental Data Portal is being delivered in stages.

#### Stage 1: due July 2016

The Portal Stage 1 will include environmental information related to Water, Land and Air currently held by NSW government entities. These include but are not limited to:

- NSW Resources and Energy
- Department of Planning and Environment
- NSW Office of Environment and Heritage
- NSW Environment Protection Authority
- NSW Department of Primary Industries
- NSW Health
- Land and Property Information

The Portal will include geospatial representations of data overlaid onto a map of NSW.

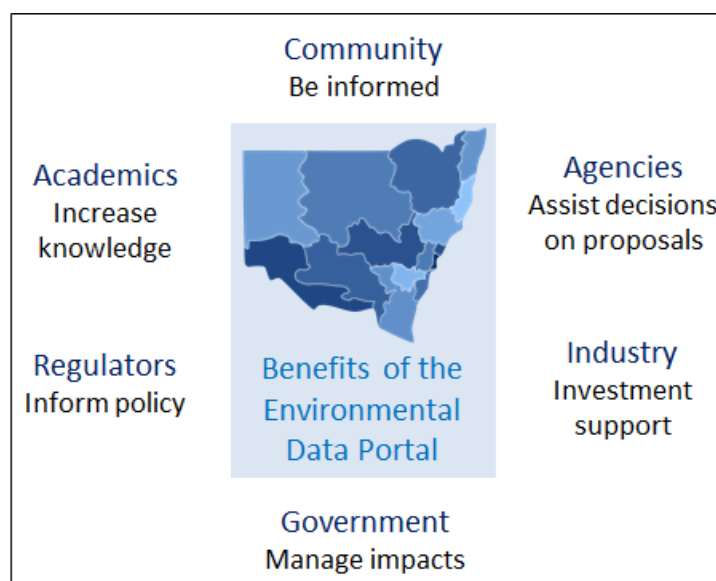
#### Later stages

Data from research bodies and the resources industry will be incorporated at a later stage, such as real-time monitoring data and compliance results.

### How will the Portal be used?

The Portal is being designed to cater to a broad range of interests and potential uses, from simple enquiries to independent scientific analysis. Some examples:

- A farmer in a regional area can obtain objective scientific facts in an easy to understand format, in order to participate in community discussions.
- A land owner can see what resource rights are held over a property and what current and planned activities are occurring nearby, in order to ascertain potential impacts on water, air quality, noise etc.
- A community member with a technical or scientific background can analyse and interpret environmental data and draw their own conclusions.



### Why is the Portal being developed?

The Portal is one of the recommendations resulting from the NSW Chief Scientist's 2013 [Independent Review of Coal Seam Gas Activities in NSW](#). However, the information in the Portal will not be limited to the impacts of gas mining.

### Who is developing the Portal?

The project to build the Portal is being managed by the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation (DFSI), on behalf of NSW Resources and Energy, within the Department of Industry.

## Is the Portal like Common Ground NSW?

[CommonGround NSW](#) contains interactive maps that show where coal, mineral, petroleum and gas activities are proposed or active across NSW. The Environmental Data Portal is similar in concept, but will contain a broader range of environmental information.

## About the EDP User Group

The EDP User Group will play an important role in ensuring the Portal is 'fit for purpose' by helping us to properly understand what users want and need.

### What is the User Group?

The Department of Finance, Services and Innovation is inviting a cross-section of representatives from groups with environmental interests in NSW to participate in the project.

These include agricultural, environmental, Aboriginal and council groups, research bodies, coal seam gas community groups and environmental planning consultancies.

### What will the User Group do?

The User Group will assist the project to:

- define User Requirements for the Portal
- test the Portal in development.

#### Defining User Requirements

Members of the User Group will be requested to participate in a requirements gathering exercise, which may include interactive surveys, mapping user journeys and group workshops (attended in person).

All the required information will be provided including descriptions of:

- the available environmental data
- the various ways in which the data can be represented (for example, 3D modelling, wireframes and geospatial visualisations)

### Testing the Portal

Once the Portal reaches a certain stage of development, the User Group will be involved in testing its features.

Testing of the Portal will be able to be performed remotely, from anywhere with an Internet connection.

### Timeframes

The requirements gathering and testing exercises are planned to occur during the following months:

<b>User Requirements gathering</b>	December 2015 / January 2016
<b>Testing of the Portal</b>	April / May 2016

### Is technical knowledge needed?

Participants in the User Group will not need any particular technical expertise, but should:

- be able to actively represent the interests of their organisations in a group workshop environment
- have a good knowledge of how they and their organisations would be likely to use environmental data – for example, a 'wish list' for the Portal.

### Why should you participate?

Direct participation in the planning stages of the project, via the User Group, is the best way to ensure this important public resource meets the needs of your group or organisation.

The requirements defined by the User Group will also lay the groundwork for future functionality enhancements.

### CONTACT

For more information about the project please contact:

**Teresa Leopold**, Dept of Finance, Services and Innovation  
p 02 9372 8770, e [teresa.leopold@finance.nsw.gov.au](mailto:teresa.leopold@finance.nsw.gov.au)

**Sesh Mysore**, Dept. of Finance, Services & Innovation  
p 02 9372 7189 e [seshadri.mysore@finance.nsw.gov.au](mailto:seshadri.mysore@finance.nsw.gov.au)