

Open licensing of research outputs

NRM Climate Change Adaptation Information Management Support Project



Choosing open licences for NRM Element 2 outputs will encourage information sharing and re-use, while ensuring that creators are acknowledged for their original work.

About copyright

In Australia, most creative and intellectual outputs (including datasets) are subject to copyright protection. Australian law grants copyright owners automatic and exclusive permission to reproduce, communicate and publish their work. Under the Copyright Act, people can view and download your work for private research only, and must seek your permission for any other type of activity or re-use.

About licences

A licence is a legal instrument that enables you as the copyright holder to indicate your wishes about how your material can be re-used and how you want to be attributed as the creator of the work.

A licence lets you reserve some rights as the owner of the material, but grants re-users more rights than they would have solely under copyright legislation.

Why license?

A licence tells people exactly what they can do with your work, which creates clarity about re-use.

Applying an open licence will maximise the impact of your work by allowing NRM planners and other audiences to undertake common activities such as deriving data or aggregating your data with other datasets.

If you don't apply a licence or other terms and conditions, you will automatically reserve all your rights under the Copyright Act. This will restrict re-use by NRM planners and others, and will mean you may have to respond to permissions requests.

Do you have the right to license?

You must be the copyright holder (or delegate) of the material you wish to apply a licence to. If uncertain, check your organisation's intellectual property policy and data management policies.

Where you have included third party copyright material in your work, the terms that apply to your use of that material will affect how you can license your final outputs. You should ensure that the owner of the third party material has granted you permission to re-license their material; there may be standard terms and conditions of use associated with the material (e.g. a licence) or you may have negotiated specific permissions for re-use.

There may be some situations (e.g. where you have published a scholarly journal article through a commercial publisher) where you have waived the copyright in your work and therefore can't legally apply a licence.

Which licence should you choose?



Element 2 projects should apply the AusGOAL principle of *using the least restrictive licence that is applicable to the material being licensed*. If you want your material to be as widely used as possible, the **Creative Commons Attribution Only** licence (CC-BY) would be the most useful for that aim.

A **CC-BY** licence means:

- Anyone who re-uses your material must attribute you as the author or creator of the material
- Users may copy and distribute your material without asking you for permission
- Users can change, adapt and remix your content
- Users can choose the terms under which they release their remixed content
- Users can use your content for commercial gain.

Other, more restrictive Creative Commons licences are also available. The **Creative Commons licensing flowchart** will help you choose the most suitable licence: <http://creativecommons.org.au/content/licensing-flowchart.pdf>

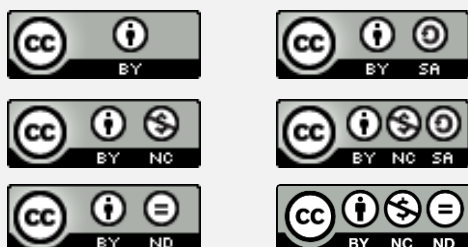
Open licensing of research outputs

NRM Climate Change Adaptation Information Management Support Project







Creative Commons licences

Creative Commons (CC) licences are a set of standardised open content licences which grant users permission to use copyright works in accordance with the particular standard set of conditions. CC licences originated in the U.S. and have been translated to 52 jurisdictions around the world. They are recommended by AusGOAL (Australian Government Open Access Licensing initiative) and are widely used by government and related sectors. There are six standardised CC licences:



Each CC license represents a different combination of permissions and restrictions:

-  **Attribution (BY)** – the author or creator of the work must be attributed.
-  **Non Commercial (NC)** – may only be used for non-commercial purposes.
-  **No Derivatives (ND)** – only exact copies can be copied, shared or used.
-  **Share Alike (SA)** – users may create and distribute derivative works, but these should only be distributed under licence terms identical to those that apply to the original work.

For detailed descriptions of the CC licences see <http://www.ausgoal.gov.au/creative-commons-v4.0>

How do you apply a Creative Commons licence?

To apply a Creative Commons licence, you simply apply or associate CC markings (e.g. logos and/or machine readable code) to the material being licensed. You may also want to include a copyright notice stating the authors and date of creation.

For example, a text-based document could be marked like this:



Griffith University, 2014

© 2014 by Griffith University. *Open licensing of research outputs* is made available under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

For more information on how to apply the CC markings to different types of materials see <http://wiki.creativecommons.org/Marking>.

High resolution CC logos can be downloaded from <http://creativecommons.org/about/downloads>.

What if you want to apply a more restrictive licence to data?

If you would like to make data available only under certain strict conditions or by negotiation (e.g. because data contains personal or other confidential information), you can use a restrictive licence or other written agreement such as a Data Transfer Agreement.

A restrictive licence provides you with more protection and enables you to be specific about terms and conditions. AusGOAL provides a restrictive licence template at <http://www.ausgoal.gov.au/restrictive-licence-template>.

Acknowledgements

This fact sheet is informed by information provided under open licences by other organisations, including:

Australian National Data Service. *Creative Commons and Data* Available at: <http://www.ands.org.au/guides/cc-and-data.html>

AUSGoal. *Research Data Licensing FAQs*. Available at: <http://www.ausgoal.gov.au/research-data-faqs>

Griffith University 2013. *Managing Climate Change Adaptation Data and Information: A Reference Guide for Element 2, Stream 2 Projects*. Available at: <http://www.terranova.org.au>

Prepared by: Griffith University NRM CCAIMS Project
Last modified: 1 June 2014 (version 1.0)



© 2014 by Griffith University. *Open licensing of research outputs* is made available under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>