



Newcastle Earthquake Felt Reports Project

Privacy Impact Assessment Report

26 October 2020

Document information

Date PIA completed:	26 October 2020	
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Prepared by:	Project Manager, Information Services, Place Space and Communities Division	

Endorsement and approval

Project Manager/Responsible Official:

I recommend the project proceeds as proposed in this document.

Position:	Project Manager, Information Services, Place Space and Communities Division
Date:	26 October 2020

Privacy Officer:

I support the project proceeding as proposed in this document.

Position:	Director, Governance and Risk
Date:	20 November 2020

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

This Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) Report:

- identifies possible impacts on the privacy of individuals' personal information, and
- recommends options for mitigating or minimising any negative impacts.

1.2 Applicable legislation

This PIA analyses the privacy impacts of collecting, storing, using and disclosing personal information for the purposes of the Newcastle Earthquake Felt Report project against the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs) set out in the *Privacy Act 1988*.

1.3 Project description

Following the Newcastle earthquake (Thursday 28 December 1989) Newcastle Police and the University of Queensland called for the public to provide information on their impression of the earthquake via a standardised “felt” report. This call resulted in 5300+ responses which have subsequently been provided to Geoscience Australia.

Only summary information (modified Mercalli intensity—MMI) has been extracted from the felt reports to date.

The project will deliver de-identified and transcribed felt report data which will then be used for earthquake impact research.

1.4 Scope of the PIA

This PIA covers the transcription of the felt reports obtained by a collaboration between the University of Queensland and NSW Police (Newcastle) via the citizen science transcription process component of DigiVol.¹

1.5 Review

It is not believed that the PIA will need to be reviewed given the relatively small duration and complexity of the project.

1.6 Stakeholders consulted

This PIA was undertaken in consultation with Geoscience Australia’s Privacy Officer.

¹ <https://volunteer.ala.org.au/>

2 Personal information flows

This section explains how personal information will flow through the entity's systems and processes as a result of the output or deliverable to be produced by the project. It describes:

- what personal information will be collected and how it will be used and disclosed
- who will have access to it, and
- how it will be stored and protected.

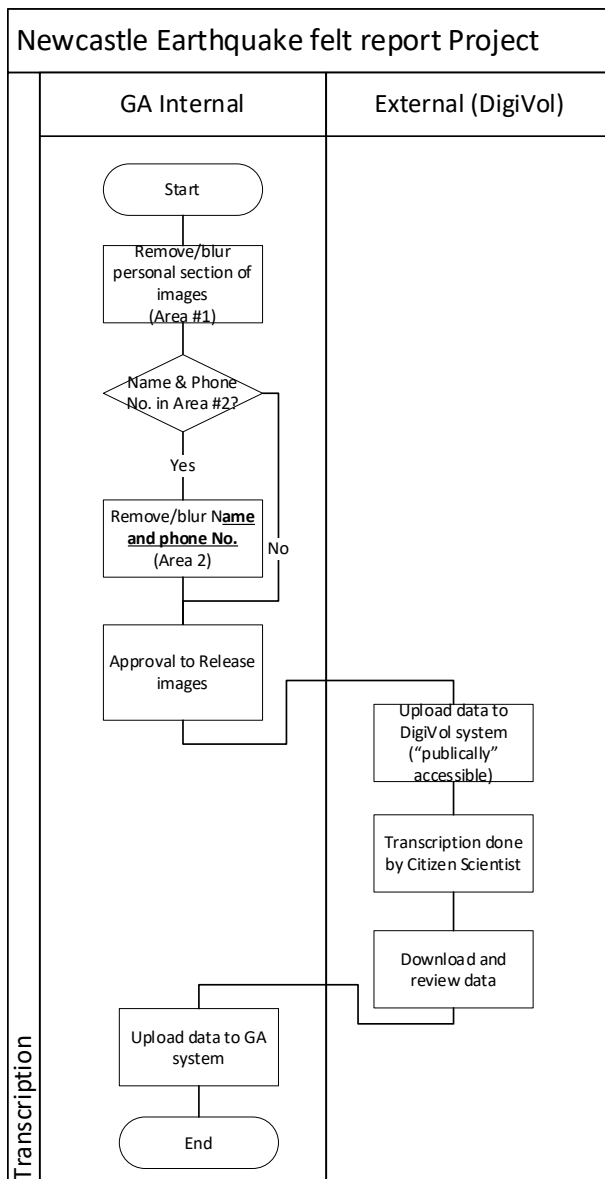
Personal information – Information or an opinion about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable

Sensitive personal information – A subset of personal information that includes information or an opinion about an individual's race, political opinions, religious beliefs, professional memberships, union membership, sexual orientation, criminal record or health

(Refer Figure 1 below)

Business process/activity	Components of personal information <i>(For example, name, date of birth, address)</i>	Collection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>From?</i> • <i>By who?</i> • <i>How?</i> • <i>Lawful authority (if any)?</i> 	Storage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How?</i> • <i>Where?</i> • <i>By who?</i> • <i>For how long?</i> 	Use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>By who?</i> • <i>Why?</i> • <i>When?</i> • <i>How?</i> • <i>Lawful authority (if any)?</i> 	Disclosure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>By who?</i> • <i>To?</i> • <i>Why?</i> • <i>When?</i> • <i>How?</i> • <i>Lawful authority (if any)?</i>
Redact personal section of images	Name, phone No. and address of respondent	Historic image (collected 1989-90)	Image stored within Geoscience Australia corporate storage	Project Officer	Nil
Assess Area #2 for Name and Phone No.	Possible Name and/or Phone number	Historic amended image(collected 1989-90)	Image stored within Geoscience Australia corporate storage	Project Officer	Nil
Redact Name and Phone No. if found	Possible Name and/or Phone Number	Historic amended image (collected 1989-90)	Image stored within Geoscience Australia corporate storage	Project Officer	Nil
Review images to confirm personal information removed				Project Team Member(s)	Nil
Approval to release images				Director (or above)	Nil

Upload images to DigiVol system		Historic Amended image	DigiVol system	Project Officer	Available publicly
Transcription done by Citizen Scientist		Historic Amended image & transcription	DigiVol System	Citizen Scientist	
Download and review data		Historic amended image & transcription	DigiVol System	Project Officer	
Upload data to Geoscience Australia system		Transcription (text)	Geoscience Australia corporate storage/database	Project Officer	Available publicly



NEWCASTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
and
THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

NEWCASTLE EARTHQUAKE OF THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1989, at 10.28am

EARTHQUAKE QUESTIONNAIRE

Please check every question, either underline the words which describe the event or add additional information. EVEN NEGATIVE REPLIES ARE OF EQUAL ASSISTANCE.

Date of event: 28 Dec 1989 Local time of event: 10.28am

Your location at above time: State: N.S.W. Town: Newcastle

Street address: 6 ORION CLOSE ELKHORE VALE

Nearest cross street: ACQUARIUS AVENUE

THE EVENT WAS FELT BY: Yourself several people many people.

AT THE TIME OF THE EVENT YOU WERE: indoors outdoors, sitting, driving, sleeping, can't remember.

IF INDOORS, THE BUILDING WAS A: home apartment, store, office, other large building, can't remember.

YOU WERE IN THE: Basement, ground floor, first floor, floor, can't remember.

THE BUILDING IS CONSTRUCTED OF: Timber, reinforced concrete, galvanised iron, other, can't remember.

IF INDOORS YOU FELT THE PREMISES SHAKE: Not at all, faintly, moderately, strongly, exceedingly.

For either of the above two questions:
The motion was: rapid slow
In a direction: North, North-East South-West
and shook for a time of: 10 minutes, seconds.

Did you notice any noises? Please explain: A loud almost thunderous rumble and crack

THIS EVENT MADE YOU: (Cross those items pertaining to your reaction)

- ☒ Realise immediately it was an earthquake
- ☐ Didn't realise until later that it was an earthquake
- ☒ Feel alarmed
- ☒ Mention it to others
- ☐ Run to a window
- ☐ Run outdoors
- ☐ Think it was a sonic boom

You also noticed:

- Sleeping people WOKEN UP
- RATTLING of windows ☒ doors ☒ dishes ☒
- CREAKING of walls ☐ frame ☐
- Hanging objects (doors/lights/pendulum clock) did ☒ did not ☐ swing
- IF SWINGING, the direction was North, North-East
- Parked cars MOVED
- SHAKING trees, bushes: Slightly, moderately, strongly
- SHIFTING of small objects: Furnishings, ...
- OVERTURNING of vases, etc, small objects, furnishings, ...
- ☒ FELL plaster, windows, mirrors, walls, chimneys, ground, ...
- FALL of knickknacks (...), books, pictures, plasters, walls
- BROKEN dishes, windows, ...
- TWISTING, FALLING of chimneys, monuments, ...
- DAMAGE to wood, glass, masonry: Slight, considerable, great.

Do you have any reasons to believe that what you experienced was an earthquake? ☐ No, ☒ Yes (please explain) I remembered the earth tremor of 15-20 yrs ago.

Were there any subsequent shocks and if so where did they occur?

Have you ever noticed an earthquake in the area before: ☐ No, ☒ Yes.

If yes, give approximate date and time: 15-20 yrs ago

Your name: [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Mailing address: [REDACTED]

Your careful reply will aid us in locating and understanding this event.

The survey has been run at the request of Newcastle Police.

Please return to:
Inspector Terry Collins, PERSONNEL OFFICER,
POLICE STATION, NEWCASTLE P.O. BOX 2300

Area #2

Area #1

Figure 1 - Flow to remove personal information from forms

3 Analysis of privacy risks

Privacy principle	Proposed information handling practices	Identified risks
Consideration of personal information privacy (APPs 1 & 2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open and transparent management Anonymity and pseudonymity 	<p>The Geoscience Australia Privacy Policy, available www.ga.gov.au/privacy, explains how the entity manages personal information, including the mechanisms for inquiries and complains.</p> <p>The project will use anonymised information from historic earthquake felt reports.</p>	None
Collection of personal information (APPs 3 to 5) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collection of solicited personal information Dealing with unsolicited personal information Notification of collection 	<p>Personal information will NOT be collected as part of this project. The personal information was captured as part of an initiative run by the University of Queensland and Newcastle Police immediately following the earthquake in December 1989.</p>	None
Dealing with personal information (APPs 6 to 9) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use or disclosure Direct marketing Cross-border disclosure Adoption, use or disclosure of government related identifiers 	<p>Identifying information (i.e. name, phone number and home address) will be removed from the image. This work will be undertaken in-house by a project officer and the personal information will remain within the Geoscience Australia ICT environment. The de-identified image will then be uploaded to the DigiVol system where it is accessible to the public. The address or location at which the quake was felt is to be retained to provide a spatial context.</p> <p>Identifying an individual from a de-identified felt report is not considered to be reasonably practicable, noting that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a felt location does not necessarily correspond to an individual's residential address (which could establish a more direct link between the location and identity of the individual) multiple individuals can be located at a single felt location significant time (>30 years) has passed since the information was collected; there is a reasonable expectation that individuals who submitted reports may no longer be connected to those locations. 	<p>Risks that may occur include –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That historic personal information contained on the felt report forms will not be removed from images and is accidentally placed on the internet. From personal knowledge an individual may note a felt location (place at which the quake was felt) coincides with redacted personal information.
Integrity of personal information (APPs 10 & 11) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality 	<p>There is no intent to update or check the quality of the personal information as the project will use anonymised information.</p>	None

Privacy principle	Proposed information handling practices	Identified risks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security 	<p>The original images containing personal information are stored in Geoscience Australia's corporate systems and protected in accordance with the requirements of the Protective Security Policy Framework.</p>	
<p>Access to, and correction of, personal information (APPs 12 & 13)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access Correction 	<p>As personal information (i.e. name, phone number and home address of person lodging the felt report) will be removed from the images placed on the internet individuals external to Geoscience Australia should not have a need to access or correct the personal information.</p> <p>Individuals may request access to any personal information held by Geoscience Australia in accordance with the privacy policy at www.ga.gov.au/privacy.</p>	<p>None</p>

4 Actions to address the identified privacy risks

#	Identified privacy risk	Existing controls that contribute to managing the identified risk	Recommended actions
1	That historic personal information contained on the felt report forms will not be removed from images and is accidentally placed on the internet.	To mitigate this risk images to be placed on the internet will be reviewed by multiple people prior to uploading. Notwithstanding there being a small likelihood that personal information may escape the multiple screens, the risk of serious harm to any individual should this occur is extremely unlikely. The process used to remove personal information is proportionate to this risk.	nil
2	From personal knowledge an individual may note a felt location (place at which the quake was felt) coincides with redacted personal information.	This risk is partly mitigated by the passage of time (greater than 30 years). Additionally, the removal of personal identifiers (i.e. Name, phone number and home address) will further reduce this risk.	nil

5 PIA outcomes

5.1 Agreed recommended actions

#	Recommendation	Agreed Yes/No
1	Nil	

5.2 Action plan

#	Actions to be taken	Responsibility for action	Date for completion
1	Nil		