RD&E Data Management FAQs for Research Partners

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Data Ownership, Access and Usage

Who 'owns' the data?

It is always co-owned by the Research Partner and GRDC, and ownership of the data is comprehensively outlined and agreed upon in the Research Contract.

My dataset has been retracted, but the metadata record still appears in the GRDC Data Catalogue. How can I remove it?

The Research Partner should contact the GRDC Data Catalogue support centre as soon as practicable and outline which metadata entry should be removed and the reason for its removal.

Will I be notified if someone requests access to my dataset?

Yes, Research Partners will be notified of all dataset access requests, but decisions on all co-owned RD&E data are made by the co-owners. Upon receiving a request for data reuse, GRDC will assess whether to share the data and inform the co-owner, who will also decide.

How will I know who is using my data?

If your data has been made available as Open access, your own organisational or institutional repository staff may be able to identify who has accessed your data. Open access means RD&E Data are publicly available and accessible by a third party without permission from the data owners.

If your data has been made available as Restricted access, no one can access your data without the approval of both the GRDC and all data owners (yourself or your research organisation) – in that approval process, you will be given the details of the requestor (see the Restricted dataset access process).

Why can't I download anything?

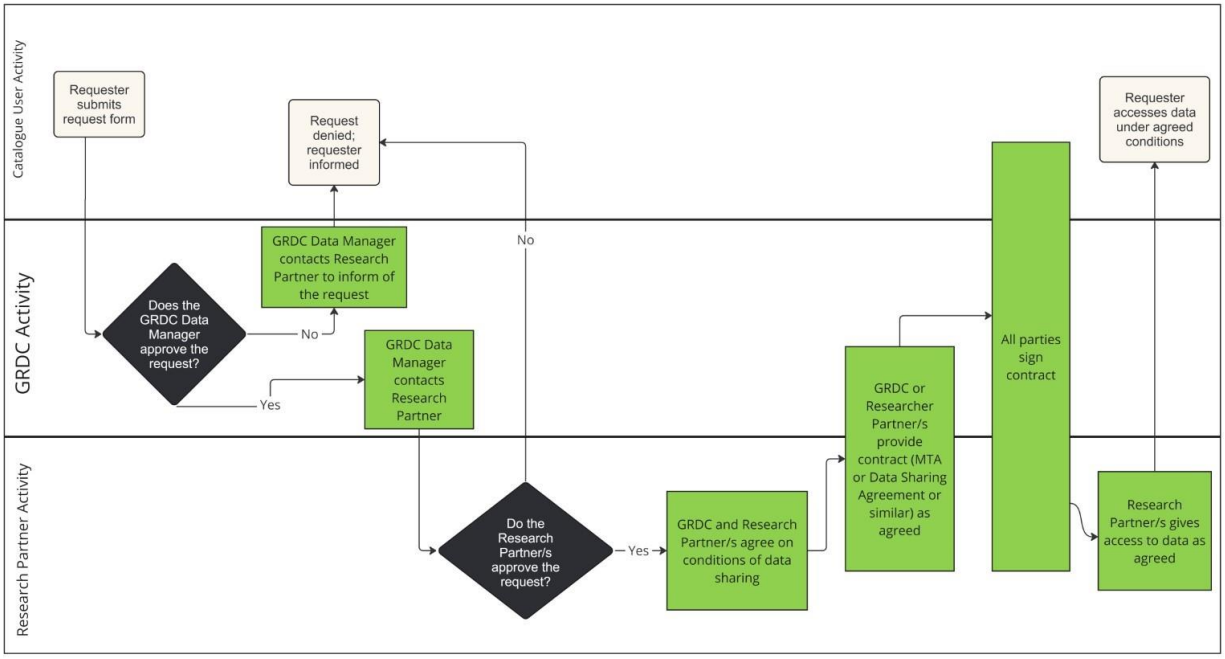
The GRDC Data Catalogue doesn't hold any RD&E data; it only holds metadata, which is descriptive information about the data. You can request access to a dataset by clicking "Request Dataset" and filling out the form.

I have found a dataset I'd like to access. Who should I talk to?

Please complete all the fields in the GRDC RD&E Data Request Form, and the GRDC Data Manager will get back to you about your intended use and seek permission/access from the relevant Research Partner.

What happens when someone requests a Restricted dataset that we co-own?

Please see the flowchart below for the requested data process.



What about data that is owned by others? What permissions are required from these owners?

This is covered in s2 of the Research Contract, which includes what third-party data is being brought to the investment, the terms of use for that data, and how that data will be used. Also, as outlined in the GRDC RD&E Data Management Policy statement, when accessing or using third-party data, Research Partners must be transparent with the third parties about what data will be collected, used and generated in their projects, as well as the purposes for which it will be collected, used and shared in order to not infringe the rights of any third party or to breach any obligation of confidence owed to a third party.

I am completing a DMP and don't know what to put for "Access Conditions." How do I know what to set?

The access conditions will be consistent with the Research Contract or as negotiated between GRDC and the Research Partner as captured in the Research Contract. GRDC Investment Managers and the Research Partners will agree on the Access Conditions to be recorded in the DMP, and before RD&E metadata is deposited in an Approved repository. The GRDC is developing a set of internal guidelines on this.

Data Security and Governance

What security measures does the GRDC Data Catalogue have in place to prevent my data from being released or leaked?

The GRDC Data Catalogue doesn't hold any RD&E data; it only holds metadata, which is descriptive information about the data.

What data governance structures are in place to ensure that private information about dataset contributors is not released from the GRDC Data Catalogue?

The metadata captured for the GRDC Data Catalogue should not contain any sensitive information. The GRDC Data Catalogue holds no data (only metadata), so no private information can be released.

Does the GRDC Data Catalogue adhere to the National Farmers Federation Australian Farm Data Code?

The GRDC Catalogue cannot be certified against the National Farmers Federation (NFF) Farm Data Code for two reasons:

- The GRDC doesn't collect data directly from farmers/growers; this is done by Research Partners.
- The GRDC Data Catalogue doesn't hold RD&E data – only metadata. Research Partners hold the data in their own repositories.

However, related to the NFF Farm Data Code and as outlined in the GRDC RD&E Data Management Policy statement: when accessing or using third-party data, Research Partners must be transparent with the third parties about what data will be collected, used and generated in their projects, as well as the purposes for which it will be collected, used and shared not to infringe the rights of any third party or to breach any obligation of confidence owed to a third party.

The GRDC cannot provide guidance to Research Partners on how to comply with the NFF Farm Data Code.

Data Management and Support

Where is the data in the GRDC Data Catalogue stored?

The GRDC Data Catalogue doesn't hold any RD&E data, only metadata - descriptive information on the data.

How do I know what an approved repository is?

The list of approved repositories is in Section C of the GRDC Guidelines for Research Partners.

How long will GRDC support the Data Catalogue?

The GRDC Data Catalogue is an enduring foundational investment that ensures GRDC knows what valuable data have been generated through its investments and that the data is findable, accessible, and reusable.

How do I determine which data outputs should be listed in a repository?

The IPPO register captures all the Project Outputs (including RD&E data). The GRDC (Investment Manager) IM and Researcher Partner bring their combined expertise to discuss and agree on what RD&E data should be captured in the DMP for preservation and future reuse. The GRDC also has internal guidelines that help IMs with these decisions.

Who is responsible for each step in data management?

Responsibilities for data management are provided in Research Contract clauses 9.12 & 9.13. The Research Contract – Two Party is available on the GRDC website: https://grdc.com.au/research/partnering-in-rde-investment/contract-templates

What will relevant documentation look like – will the generic MTA be used, or will a new data-specific MTA be created? Where will this documentation reside?

The data may be shared under a CC licence, an MTA, or other data-sharing agreement. Co-owners can provide a draft generic MTA (or similar document) in which the recommendation is to share the data and the conditions of data use are explicitly described.

Online Farm Trials

I already use Online Farm Trials, how is the GRDC Data Catalogue different?

The GRDC Data Catalogue links to raw datasets housed in external repositories for further research and analysis, while Online Farm Trials provides summarised trial results and practical recommendations for immediate user by growers and agronomists.

Will I be required to use both Online Farm Trials and the GRDC Data Catalogue?

Yes, there are some cases when it makes sense to use both. For example, if your work produced both practical insights in the form of a trial results report with summarised results and raw data that can be used for further analysis, using both platforms will help reach different audiences and maximise the impact of your work.

For further information, contact the DataHarvest team **dataharvest@grdc.com.au**.

DataHarvest is an investment of the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC). It is led by Curtin University through the Centre for Crop and Disease Management (CCDM).

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