

OSGeo Oceania Special Interest Group - QGIS Charter

Background

QGIS has matured as a GIS client and as a result has a large community of active users. Unfortunately, for users that have moved from a proprietary vendor notice there is a distinct lack of local support, which the proprietary vendors provide by way of regular newsletters, meetups and networking events. Local user groups for QGIS exist with a common goal of representing community interests to the QGIS project and closing the gap in local community support.

The Oceania QGIS Special Interest Group (SIG) provides a means of supporting people involved in QGIS activities in Oceania. This SIG Charter will be updated annually to reflect the development of the SIG.

Aim

Provide support to the QGIS network in Oceania promoting the use of QGIS, advocating for professional development, and combining resources (time and monetary) to meet targets identified by the community. The SIG is not intended to replace the roles and responsibilities of local QGIS User Groups, but to support them in their endeavours.

Scope

The SIG will operate within the [OSGeo Oceania Special Interest Group Guidelines](#) and will work to address the following items:

- **Participants:** Support Participants in the QGIS project within the Oceania geographic region. Maintain a Participant Register in order to reach out to the community to notify of the group's financial capacity, to address user growth, donation, software development and advocacy activities.
- **User growth:** Support skills development, networking, and collaboration opportunities that the SIG can assist the community to deliver; either with a monetary contribution or assembling volunteer resources. These might include local user groups, meetups, online sessions led by a professional trainer, mentoring, networking opportunities or any initiative that the SIG agrees by way of majority is beneficial for the community.

- **Donate:** Fund community development efforts by way of an annual donation to the QGIS project and by participating in crowdfunding initiatives identified by the community that will benefit users of the SIG.
- **QGIS Development:** Actively pursue development of features that will improve QGIS for Oceania users by focusing on application “pain points” as raised by the user community.
- **Resource:** Provide a framework for the community to access funds for addressing user development, donation or advocacy activities, by way of allowing the community to raise a request and have it voted on by the community. While being conscious of smaller voices in the community allowing them to participate and realise benefits of the resourcing framework.

Composition and Roles

The SIG will be composed of Participants and a Steering Committee. It is the intention of the inaugural Steering Committee, in the first 12 months (and evermore), to expand the geographic reach and user representation for Participants and Steering Committee composition.

Participants

A Participant is an individual that has registered their interest with the SIG. A Participant is a person that has interests in the QGIS Project, and resides in or is involved in activities pertaining to the QGIS Project within the Oceania geographic region.

Participants can sit on the Steering Committee, are welcome to attend QGIS SIG meetings and propose initiatives for the SIG to pursue. Participants however do not have voting rights when it comes to decisions made by the SIG, in order to have voting rights Participants will need to make themselves available to serve on the steering committee.

Participants are expected to behave in accordance with the OO code of conduct once it is ratified by the board. In the meantime we will refer to the [OSGeo code of conduct](#).

Proposals

A Participant can raise a proposal to engage the SIGs assistance via the [OSGeo Oceania mailing list](#).

The proposal is required to be discussed on the open mailing list for a minimum of 1 week where Participants can ask for clarification and further information. It is encouraged that a use case with clear outcomes on how it benefits the community should support the proposal.

After the discussion period, the steering committee will vote on the proposal and will supply the SIG with a response on the decision making process and outcome.

Steering Committee

The steering committee will consist of Participants that are willing to donate their time to the operation of the SIG. The inaugural SIG steering committee will be the Participants proposing the SIG in accordance with the [OSGeo Oceania Special Interest Group Guidelines](#).

Involvement

Participants can be onboarded to the Steering Committee by approaching the steering committee via the OO mailing list, depending on the volume of Participants already on the committee the new Participant will be accepted or added to a waiting list. Steering committee Participants can also stand down at any time by announcing their intention to the steering committee and further communicating to the OO mailing list.

Voting

When voting on proposals the Steering Committee will have a maximum period of seven days to discuss the matter and cast a vote. It is expected where possible that all Steering Committee participants cast a vote with the exception of those who have removed themselves due to a conflict of interest. Steering Committee participants that appear to be inactive will be asked if they want to renew their commitment or stand down from the Steering Committee.

Conflict of Interest

In some cases, proposals may create a conflict of interest for a Steering Committee Participant, for example if they are the proponent, or if they stand to personally benefit, financially or otherwise. To protect the integrity of Steering Committee decisions, Participants should recuse themselves from the process if there is a real or perceived conflict, as early as possible. Depending on the nature of the conflict, this may be as simple as abstaining from voting on a proposal, or may require the participant to excuse themselves from related discussions.

Open and transparent decision making processes may also help reduce the impact of potential conflicts of interest.

Communication

All formal SIG communication will take place on the [OSGeo Oceania mailing list](#) with QGIS User Groups and other identified addresses cc'd in. The SIG will strive to be transparent in all correspondence and doing this on the public mailing list will provide that platform.

Other forms including Slack (Maptime) and Twitter (OO, QGIS user groups) may be used as well to support formal SIG Communications.

The exception for communication where there is a need to respect privacy, for example in addressing a code of conduct issue, will occur directly to affected parties.

Communications may include steering committee meeting outcomes, activities, crowdfunding initiatives, latest developments, QGIS Project updates and more.

Reporting

The SIG will meet the reporting commitments specified in the SIG Guidelines and provide updates on the financial position to Participants on a quarterly basis.