

# IMOS Animal Tracking – Tag Embargo Policy

## Embargo Extension Request Policy Guidelines

As a National Research Infrastructure Program, IMOS is formulated on the principle of Open Data. The funding underwriting IMOS is provided on the basis that scientists are part of a community that shares data in a spirit of collaboration for the most robust research outcomes, using transparent processes for the rapid advancement of science. Such practices are increasingly becoming the policy of funding bodies and scientific journals globally. As a Facility of IMOS, the Animal Tracking Facility is structured to operate using open data principles. Nevertheless, it has been recognised that there are some particular circumstances where a period of embargoing of specific data may be justified in the interests of encouraging research programs to participate in the IMOS Animal Tracking network.

Within the IMOS Animal Tracking Database Security Policy ([imos.org.au/animaltracking\\_data.html](http://imos.org.au/animaltracking_data.html)), a project Principal Investigator (PI) or their delegate can place an embargo on tag data within the IMOS Animal Tracking Database. When a tag data embargo is initiated, the tag owner can view both the tag registration and tag release data, but the owner of the detection data (receiver data), other registered IMOS Animal Tracking users, and the general public cannot access the tag data. This procedure to protect tag information was developed by IMOS Animal Tracking to enable scientists under specific circumstances (e.g. graduate students) to be able to publish their data within a reasonable timeframe prior to it becoming publicly available to the wider community. IMOS Animal Tracking has instigated this policy because it recognises that tags are usually purchased and deployed through research grants by bodies other than IMOS and therefore the inclusion of such data is a co-investment.

When initially entering tag information on the IMOS Animal Tracking Database, scientists may select to have their tag data embargoed. The initial period of embargo is one year from the date of tag registration, or three years for registered PhD students as IMOS Animal Tracking recognises that students may need to publish their results prior to data becoming open access. An email will be sent to the project PI three months before the expiry of a tag data embargo. Embargoes can be extended after review upon recommendation of the IMOS Animal Tracking Scientific Committee or their delegate (e.g. the Data Committee).

Extension of embargoes can be requested by completing this form ([http://imos.org.au/fileadmin/user\\_upload/shared/AATAMS/Application\\_Form\\_Embargo\\_ExtensionV2.docx](http://imos.org.au/fileadmin/user_upload/shared/AATAMS/Application_Form_Embargo_ExtensionV2.docx)) and emailing it to [aatams\\_data\\_committee@emii.org.au](mailto:aatams_data_committee@emii.org.au).

Research personnel requesting embargo extensions should consider the following guidelines which will be used by IMOS Animal Tracking to assess whether an extension should be granted.

- 1) Embargoes are intended to provide scientists with the opportunity to publish with priority, and embargo extensions will be approved where it is demonstrated that release of the data may inhibit this process.
- 2) Embargo extension may be granted to Honours, Masters, or PhD students to the date when their thesis has been submitted, or until the first publication using the data has been accepted.

Therefore, the following information will help the committee in assessing embargo extension application:

- Status of the research project (starting and intended finishing date);
- Publications intended to result from the research (title and authors) and status of these publications (e.g. data still being collected, data being analysed, in preparation, in review, accepted);
- Whether the species being tagged is at risk or may be exposed to risk through detailed public knowledge of its locations and movements<sup>1</sup>.

In addition to the above, the following should also be provided when project relates to a student:

- Student and supervisor names;
- Organisation and degree for which the project is being undertaken;
- Intended thesis submission date; and
- Funding source and relevant information on their data policy.

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<sup>1</sup> In exceptional cases Protected Data Status for tag data may be justified where a convincing case can be made that there is an imminent danger to the animal or associated project. See [http://imos.org.au/animaltracking\\_applicationforms.html](http://imos.org.au/animaltracking_applicationforms.html)