## PRINCIPLES FOR GOOD SPREADSHEET PRACTICE



## STRATEGY AND PLAN

- Determine how much your organisation depends on spreadsheets and plan your approach and processes accordingly.
- 2 Adopt a consistent methodology for spreadsheets in your organisation.
- 3 Ensure designers and users of spreadsheets have appropriate knowledge, competence, experience, and awareness of functionality.
- **4** Determine if a spreadsheet is a suitable tool.
- 5 Focus on the purposes of the spreadsheet.
- 6 Tailor the design and documentation to the needs of the audience and dependent processes.



## DESIGN AND BUILD

- 7 Make the spreadsheet easy to use, providing supporting guidance where helpful.
- 8 Design with adaptability in mind to minimise future manual intervention.
- 9 Structure workbooks with a clear flow of inputs, processes, and outputs.
- 10 Seek to control, clean, and optimise data quality and structure prior to using them.
- 11 Structure worksheets to avoid inconsistent logic and layout.
- **12** Keep formulas consistent across ranges.
- 13 Use the simplest features, functions, or formulas for the task.
- **14** Avoid using fixed values within formulas.
- Refer to existing calculated results instead of reperforming the calculation.



## CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT

- 16 Collaborate in design and review processes. This ensures accuracy, robustness, and the mitigation of risks.
- 17 Build in checks, controls, and alerts from the outset.
- 18 Test and review to reduce the risk of error and identify inefficiencies.
- 19 Ensure there is a regular process of backup and version control. This minimises loss of work and avoids the use of the wrong version.
- 20 Manage access levels and protection to reduce the risk of accidental or malicious changes.



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