

Privacy collection notice for geospatial satellite images and derived land cover change mapping

The NSW Department of Planning & Environment (DPE) has a broad range of land management functions under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and *Local Land Services Act 2013*. These relate to the monitoring of compliance with land management regulations, and engaging with landholders and the public about land management practice:

- reporting on land cover change in NSW
- supporting, encouraging, and conducting research
- developing measures associated with the equitable, efficient, and sustainable use of NSW natural resources
- information sharing, engagement, and education
- compliance and enforcement aspects of DPE's functions

It is important that DPE can assess the impact of legislation, regulation, and policy managing rural development in NSW.

Land cover change maps derived from satellite imagery which show woody clearing is central to effectively monitoring NSW natural resources. The use of satellite imagery provides an accessible, consistent, and robust method to undertake this analysis in an area as large as NSW (approximately 80 million hectares).

Collection of satellite images and derivation of spatial data

To support its land management functions, DPE collects, uses, and discloses satellite images and derivative maps of NSW. Remote sensing, spatial science, and technology is vital to analyse and communicate the effectiveness of management legislation, regulation, and policy.

The satellite imagery is usually obtained from publicly available sources, including [Copernicus Open Access Hub](#), [Geoscience Australia](#), the [U.S. Geological Survey](#), and the [European Space Agency](#).

The images display features in the landscape, and in some cases, property features, including buildings and infrastructure. Spatial resolution is the smallest unit of an image (also known as a pixel). As imagery used for landcover change mapping has a resolution of ten metres, features smaller than 10 by 10 M are not identifiable. Therefore, it is not possible to identify individuals in the images.

Each year, DPE adds thousands of hours of processing and validation to the free unprocessed imagery to derive interim products, and ultimately, the land cover change maps for NSW. Some interim products are retained, while the majority are discarded after use.

Collection of related data

DPE will also collect, use, and disclose information which supports the analysis and interpretation of these images. This may include:

- vegetation site data collected on the ground
- terrestrial line scan data collected in conjunction with the vegetation site data
- land titles and property information
- other topographic and map content

Purpose of collection

DPE collects these images and related data to support its *Biodiversity Conservation Act* (BCA) and *Local Land Services Act* (LLSA) functions, extending to:

- tracking landcover change in NSW to:
 - monitor and understand general landscape change over time
 - evaluate the effectiveness of land management legislation, regulation, and policy on the landscape in real terms
- information sharing, engagement, and education
- compliance and enforcement aspects of LLSA and BCA

Disclosure of images, derived maps, and related information through publication

DPE may disclose these images, derived maps, and related data via environment.nsw.gov.au, seed.nsw.gov.au, or standalone publications for the following purposes:

- public debate on important environmental issues
- research and government program support
- engagement and education

Note: disclosure through this method is dependent on the data being unrestricted, due to ongoing compliance investigation into unauthorised clearing.

Disclosure of images, derived maps, and related information through provision

Images, derived maps, and related information may be provided to third parties for the purpose of research or support for government programs. These third parties may include:

- Australian federal and state government agencies
- land and water management groups
- universities and other educational institutions
- non-Australian government agencies

Use of images and related information

Use of this information is consistent with the purpose outlined above. This information will be applied to support key NSW Government programs and activities revolving around:

- environmental monitoring and evaluation
- land management policy and regulation
- landholder engagement
- compliance activities

More about the DPE Privacy Policy

The DPE Privacy Policy explains the way in which DPE engages with and treats personal information. This policy includes information about how you may access or correct your personal information, where it is held by us. It also contains information on how you can complain about a breach of the Australian Privacy Principles, and how DPE will deal with such a complaint.

A copy of the Privacy Policy can be found at www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/privacy or by requesting a copy from DPE via email at privacy@dpie.nsw.gov.au.

You can also contact the Information Access & Privacy Unit on 02 9860 1440.