

Name of dataset or data source:

Assessment of Bangalay Sand Forest TEC on NSW Crown Forest Estate

Custodian of the dataset or data source:

Chief Environmental Regulator (EPA)

Description:

Bangalay Sand Forest is a threatened ecological community (TEC) associated with coastal sand plains found in the Sydney Basin and South East Corner bioregions. The most common tree species are *Eucalyptus botryoides* (bangalay) and *Banksia integrifolia* (coast banksia). The understorey is characterised by a mix of sclerophyll and mesophyll species. In this report, we focus on the distribution of this TEC in the NSW South Coast region, an area that extends from Sydney to the Victorian border. This study assesses whether Bangalay Sand Forest is located within the 350,000 hectares of state forest found in our southern study area. Our interpretation of Bangalay Sand Forest (BASF) was informed by the six previously described vegetation communities cited in the final determination that were relevant to the South Coast region. Four are eucalypt-dominated forests and one a coastal scrub dominated by *Banksia integrifolia* and *Leptospermum* species. An additional community has a mixed canopy composition for which the final determination includes a qualifying statement to exclude stands dominated by *Casuarina glauca*. Initially we examined existing maps of coastal sand landforms and geology along with available vegetation maps to determine the likely extent of habitats suitable to support the presence of the TEC within state forest. We reviewed candidate areas that were within or proximate to state forests using interpretation of high-resolution digital aerial imagery as a basis for planning field surveys. We identified a small number of areas in Termeil and East Boyd State Forests that were plausible locations for BASF and an additional two areas in Nullica and Mogo State Forests identified from existing vegetation mapping. Sites that had not already been subject to field survey were visited and were either systematically sampled or were rejected on site where the species composition and landform were clearly mapping inaccuracies (e.g. estuarine mudflat). Our analyses of plot data assigned 66 plots (out of 8452) to Bangalay Sand Forest, based on allocation to a previously defined community cited in the final determination and agreed substrate qualifiers. We used plot data and a selection of environmental and remote-sensing variables to develop a Random Forest (RF) presence-absence model of the probability of occurrence of Bangalay Sand Forest across the study area. We used the RF model and the locations of plot data to further assess whether Bangalay Sand Forest occurred on state forest.

We found no evidence of Bangalay Sand Forest occurring on any state forest within our study area based on the results of our field surveys, analysis of plot data, review of existing map data and predictive models.

Data quality rating:

- ★ Institutional Environment - 4
- ★ Accuracy - 4
- ★ Coherence - 4
- ★ Interpretability - 4
- ★ Accessibility - 5

INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT**Very Good**

- ✓ Does the information have the potential to enhance services or service delivery?
- ✓ The following governance roles and responsibilities for this asset are clearly assigned:
 - Information Asset Owner
 - Information Asset Custodian
 - Information Steward
- ✓ Data collection is authorised by law, regulation or agreement
- ✓ The Custodial agency has no commercial interest or conflict of interest in the data

- ✗ The data aligns with the Data Quality Framework, including:
 - Legislation
 - Policies
 - Information Asset Governance
 - Standards
 - Data Management Plans

ACCURACY**Very Good**

- ✓ Data has been subject to a data assurance process (for example: Checking for errors at each stage of data collection and processing, or verifying data entry and making corrections if necessary.)
- ✓ There are no known gaps in the data or if there are gaps (for example: non-responses, missing records, data not collected), they have been identified in caveats attached to the dataset.
- ✓ No changes have been made or other factors identified (for example: weighting, rounding, de-identification of data, changes or flaws in data collection or verification methods) that could affect the validity of the data; or any changes/factors have been identified in caveats attached to the asset.
- ✓ The data collection met the objectives of the primary user. The data correctly represents what it was designed to measure, monitor or report.

- ✗ Data is revised and the revision is published if errors are identified

COHERENCE**Very Good**

- ✓ Standard definitions, common concepts, classifications and data recording practices have been used.
- ✓ Elements within the data can be meaningfully compared.
- ✓ This data is generally consistent with similar or related data sources from the same discipline
- ✓ The data does not form part of a collection or, if it is the latest in a series of data releases, there have not been any changes in methodology or external impacts since the last data release.

- ✗ The data can be analysed over time (for example, there have not been any significant changes in the way items are defined, classified or counted over time).

INTERPRETABILITY**Very Good**

- ✓ Information is available about the primary data sources and methods of data collection (e.g. instruments, forms, instructions).
- ✓ Information is available to help users evaluate the accuracy of the data and any level of error
- ✓ Information is available to explain concepts, help users correctly interpret the data and understand how it can be used
- ✓ Information is available to explain ambiguous or technical terms used in the data

✗ A data dictionary is available to explain the meaning of data elements, their origin, format and relationships

- i Find out more about the data dictionary from the Custodian (contact details below).
- i Find out more about the primary data sources and methods of data collection from the Custodian (contact details below).
- i Find out more about concepts used in this dataset and how to understand or interpret the data from the Custodian (contact details below).
- i Find out more about ambiguous or technical terms used in the data from the Custodian (contact details below).

ACCESSIBILITY

Excellent



- ✓ Data is available online with an open licence
- ✓ Data is available in machine-processable, structured form (e.g. CSV format instead of an image scan of a table)
- ✓ Data is available in a non-proprietary format (e.g. CSV, XML)
- ✓ Data is described using open standards (e.g. RDF, SPARQL) and persistent identifiers (URIs or DOIs)
- ✓ Data is linked to other data, to provide context (e.g. employee ID is linked to employee name or species name is linked to genus)

DATA DISCLAIMER

You must check and comply with the licensing conditions for the information you wish to use. This may require you to contact the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE), or other custodial agency, or the third party copyright owner for permission to use the material. You may also use any material in accordance with rights you may have under the [Copyright Act 1968](#) (Cth), for example under the fair dealing provisions or statutory licences. Use of material in a way not permitted by this copyright notice may be an infringement of copyright. Infringing copyright may expose you to legal action by, and liability to, the copyright owner. Wherever a third party holds copyright in material, the copyright remains with that party. Their permission may be required to use the material and you should contact that party directly. As far as practicable, material for which the copyright is owned by a third party will be clearly labelled. Excluded material can only be used under the specific terms of use attached to that material. If you want to use this material in a manner that is not covered by those specific terms of use, you must request permission from the copyright owner of the material.

DPE endeavours to make sure that information provided is correct at the time of its publication. However, as necessary you should obtain independent advice before making any decision based on the information. The information is made available on the understanding that custodial agencies and the State of NSW accept no responsibility for any damage, cost, loss or expense incurred by you as a result of:

- any error, omission or misrepresentation in the information provided
- without limiting the above, any delay, failure or error in recording, displaying or updating information, including but not limited to, data relating to credit holdings.

Custodial agencies and the State of New South Wales disclaim all responsibility and all liability (including without limitation, liability in negligence) for all expenses, losses, damages and costs you might incur as a result of the information being inaccurate or incomplete in any way, and for any reason.

For more information about this dataset or data source, contact:

Environment Protection Authority (EPA)

Data Broker email:

N/A

Data Broker phone:

N/A

Understanding the Data Quality Statement

The data quality statement aims to help you understand how a particular dataset could be used and whether it can be compared with other, similar datasets. It provides a description of the characteristics of the data to help you decide whether the data will be fit for your specific purpose.

The Data Quality statement is prepared by the data custodian (provider of the dataset), using a questionnaire that has been developed in accordance with the NSW Government Standard for Data Quality Reporting.

About the quality rating:

The reporting questionnaire asks five questions for each of these data quality dimensions:

- Institutional Environment
- Accuracy
- Coherence
- Interpretability
- Accessibility

For each question: “yes” = 1 point; “no” = 0 points

The number of points determines the Quality Level for each dimension (high, medium, low).

Only dimensions with four or five points receive a star.

Points	Quality Level	Star / No Star
0	Poor	No Star
1	Poor	No Star
2	Fair	No Star
3	Good	No Star
4	Very Good	Star
5	Excellent	Star

Evaluating data quality

Quality relates to the data's “fitness for purpose”. Users can make different assessments about the data quality of the same data, depending on their “purpose” or the way they plan to use the data.

The following questions may help you evaluate data quality for your requirements. This list is not exhaustive. Generate your own questions to assess data quality according to your specific needs and environment.

- What was the primary purpose or aim for collecting the data?
- How well does the coverage (and exclusions) match your needs?
- How useful are these data at small levels of geography?
- Does the population presented by the data match your needs?
- To what extent does the method of data collection seem appropriate for the information being gathered?
- Have standard classifications (eg industry or occupation classifications) been used in the collection of the data? If not, why? Does this affect the ability to compare or bring together data from different sources?
- Have rates and percentages been calculated consistently throughout the data?
- Is there a time difference between your reference period, and the reference period of the data?
- What is the gap of time between the reference period (when the data were collected) and the release date of the data?
- Will there be subsequent surveys or data collection exercises for this topic?
- Are there likely to be updates or revisions to the data after official release?