

Name of dataset or data source:

Assessment of McKies Stringybark/Blackbutt Open Forest on NSW Crown Forest Estate

Custodian of the dataset or data source:

Chief Environmental Regulator (EPA)

Description:

The operational map McKies Stringybark/Blackbutt Open Forest (MSBOF) was constructed to resolve long-standing issues surrounding its identification, location and extent within the NSW State Forest estate covered by the eastern Regional Forest Agreements. The project's Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) Reference Panel (the Panel) reviewed the determination for MSBOF and agreed upon a set of diagnostic parameters for its identification. These parameters included the presence of lateritic soils and the characteristic eucalypt species *Eucalyptus mckieana* and *Eucalyptus andrewsii*. Using these diagnostic parameters, we assessed whether MSBOF is present within more than 150 000 hectares of state forests within the Upper and Lower North East IFOA areas of the Nandewar and New England Bioregions. We began the assessment process by examining the distribution of *Eucalyptus mckieana* records in NSW Bionet and other available systematic plot data characterising regional vegetation patterns. We then used the results of a recently completed vegetation mapping in the region (OEH, 2015) to provide an indicative map of related vegetation communities within State Forests. From this initial investigation, we identified three state forests as candidate areas for MSBOF within the Project Study area - Mount Topper, New Valley and Clive State Forests. We collected systematic plot data from these state forests in mapped communities related to the TEC and from within stands of vegetation dominated by the primary eucalypt species described in the determination. On this basis we identified four plots within Mount Topper State Forest as being MSBOF TEC and went on to construct an operational map at a scale commensurate with the needs of forestry field operations. In total, we mapped a total of 201 hectares of MSBOF, 101 hectares of which were contained in the IFOA area.

Operational TEC Mapping have been derived by API at a viewing scale between 1-4000 using ADS40 50 cm pixel imagery and 1 m derived LIDAR DEM grids for floodplain EECs.

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

X 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.

X 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.

X 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

X 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)

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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?