

Name of dataset or data source:

Corridors - Cessnock LGA

Custodian of the dataset or data source:

ED Biodiversity & Conservation (E&H)

Description:

The Department of Planning provides support to Local Government to enable evidence-based planning decisions. Biodiversity and Conservation Division collaborated with Cessnock City Council in 2021-2022 to deliver environmental map layers (Environmental Lands Study) that facilitate council's review of their Local Environment Plan. This dataset is one of those and provides a scientifically valid structural connectivity analysis for the 196,468-hectare Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA) at fine/local scale using evidence-based data. The connectivity analysis was conducted at multiple raster scales then combined into a final vector format with accuracy commensurate to a scale range of 1:500 to 1:1000. This connectivity analysis is one aspect of biodiversity information that maps the current state of biodiversity movement at a scale that can inform local planning decisions. This dataset was derived using the Spatial Links analysis tool described in the mapping of habitat linkages study by M. Drielsma et al. (2007) because it overcomes some of the limitations of GAP CLoSR. The Spatial Links tool does not require nodes for patches because it can assess each cell in a patch as a start/endpoint. Additionally, Spatial Links overcomes any limitations of addressing the infinitely variable and complex spatial configuration of any landscape. A more detailed examination of the Spatial Links methodology compared to other analytical techniques is discussed in the detailed studies of connectivity for planning by M. J. Drielsma et al. (2022). This study adopted the 106 m gap-crossing threshold and overcame the singular 1100m maximum dispersal threshold by applying multiple scales that addressed a range of dispersal distances to cater for varying ecological traits of fauna and flora. The final dataset results from the Spatial Links analysis at fine scale across the Cessnock LGA buffered by 1km to avoid any abrupt termination of connectivity at the edges of the LGA.

Data quality rating:

- ★ Institutional Environment - 5
- ★ Accuracy - 5
- ★ Coherence - 5
- ★ Interpretability - 5
- ☆ Accessibility - 1

INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT**Excellent**

★

- ✓ Does the information have the potential to enhance services or service delivery?
- ✓ The data aligns with the Data Quality Framework, including:
 - Legislation
 - Policies
 - Information Asset Governance
 - Standards
 - Data Management Plans
- ✓ 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

ACCURACY

Excellent



- ✓ 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.)
- ✓ Data is revised and the revision is published if errors are identified
- ✓ 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.

COHERENCE

Excellent



- ✓ 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 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).
- ✓ 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.

INTERPRETABILITY

Excellent



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

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

Poor



✓ 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:

NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Data Broker email:

data.broker@environment.nsw.gov.au

Data Broker phone:

131555

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?