

Name of dataset or data source:

NSW eastern forest soil condition: Spatio-temporal data cube maps

Custodian of the dataset or data source:

Natural Resources Commissioner

Description:

This dataset created by the University of Sydney, includes time series digital soil map products of soil organic carbon (SOC) between January 1990 and December 2020 for the Regional Forest Agreement regions of eastern NSW. Modelling was completed using a data cube platform incorporating machine learning space-time framework and geospatial technologies. Products provide estimates of SOC concentrations and associated trends through time. Also important covariates required to drive this spatio-temporal modelling are identified using the Recursive Feature Elimination algorithm (RFE), which including a range of predictors that vary in space, time and space and time.

Full description of the digital soil maps and methods are presented in: Moyce MC, Gray JM, Wilson BR, Jenkins BR, Young MA, Ugbaje SU, Bishop TFA, Yang X, Henderson LE, Milford HB, Tulau MJ, 2021. [*Determining baselines, drivers and trends of soil health and stability in New South Wales forests: NSW Forest Monitoring & Improvement Program*](#), Final report v1.1 for NSW Natural Resources Commission by NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and University of Sydney.

The metadata's *data packages* section includes project scripts and code, final project report and an external Cloudstor link to download the predicted SOC map products,

Data quality rating:

- ★ Institutional Environment - 5
- ☆ Accuracy - 3
- ★ Coherence - 5
- ★ Interpretability - 4
- ★ Accessibility - 5

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**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.)
- ✓ 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

✗ 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.

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**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

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

NSW Natural Resources Commission

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?