

**Name of dataset or data source:**

NSW Native Vegetation Area Clearing Estimate (NVACE)

**Custodian of the dataset or data source:**

ED Biodiversity &amp; Conservation (E&amp;H)

**Description:**

The NSW Native Vegetation Area Clearing Estimate (NVACE) is a statewide spatial vector layer estimating the presence and absence of native vegetation at 2020. The NVACE does not discriminate different types of native vegetation.

The dataset was first published by NSW Department Planning and Environment (DPE) in 2023 and will be updated intermittently.

The NVACE uses best available primary and supplementary datasets to identify areas where native woody and non-woody vegetation occurs. Due to datasets being of different ages and resolution, errors of commission and omission may be included.

Primary published datasets used in the creation of NVACE Version 1 include:

1. [\*\*NSW Native Vegetation Extent 5m raster\*\*](#)
2. [\*\*NSW Landuse 2017\*\*](#)

The NVACE is refined using a combination of datasets to remove known areas of clearing, for example, Statewide Landcover and Tree Survey ([SLATS](#)) data for woody vegetation and non woody vegetation change clearing events from Non-Woody Landcover Disturbance Program ([NWD](#)).

The Geoscape Surface Cover raster is used to refine native vegetation in urban areas. Components are used to remove roads and swimming pools and add increased resolution tree canopies.

Land identified as Category 1 exempt under the amended Local Land Services act 2013 has been removed from NVACE as per the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016.

Small polygons resulting from editing the NVACE are removed as artefacts.

A more detailed description of the methodology is published and provided on the [DPE website](#).

The NVACE dataset has been developed by DPE to provide guidance on whether a development exceeds the Area Clearing Threshold for entry into the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme (BOS), as guided by [\*\*Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017 s7.2\*\*](#).

Together with the Biodiversity Values Map, the NVACE forms the basis for determining whether a local development ([\*\*Part 4 NSW EP&A Act\*\*](#)) should be assessed for inclusion in the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme. A development which is required to be assessed for clearing of native vegetation in the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme may then potentially require biodiversity offsets against any losses undertaken as part of the development.

The dataset is primarily available to be displayed at a property scale when preparing a Biodiversity Map and Threshold (BMAT) report but may be provided on application to users in a spatial data format.

More information on the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme can be viewed here:

[About the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme | NSW Environment](#)

The Biodiversity Values Map homepage, containing links to the BMAT tool and other related BOS information can be viewed here:

[Biodiversity Values Map | NSW Environment and Heritage](#)

**Data quality rating:**

- ★ Institutional Environment - 5
- ☆ Accuracy - 3
- ★ Coherence - 5
- ☆ Interpretability - 2
- ☆ Accessibility - 2

**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.)
- ✓ Data is revised and the revision is published if errors are identified
- ✓ The data collection met the objectives of the primary user. The data correctly represents what it was designed to measure, monitor or report.
- ✗ 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.

**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

Fair



✓ 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

Fair



✓ 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 available online with an open licence

✗ 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 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?