

Name of dataset or data source:

Soil Carbon Accounts - Experimental Account for NSW

Custodian of the dataset or data source:

ED Science (E&H)

Description:

This data cube presents accounts for Soil Organic Carbon (SOC) stocks and flows in New South Wales. These accounts form part of the Natural Capital Markets and Accounts branch Soil Ecosystem Services theme, which currently includes a Soil Organic Carbon physical stock account (SOC storage), and a Soil Organic Carbon physical flow account (SOC sequestration). These accounts are intended to help policy makers identify where to implement programs to maintain stocks of soil organic carbon and to increase carbon sequestration, as part of the NSW NetZero Plan. As well as accounts for physical stocks and flows, this suite of accounts includes a linked socio-economic profile. This profile comprises socio-economic information for ABS Statistical Area 2 (SA2) geographies for NSW and provides information on the socio-economic structure of the local economy of each SA2 and its major types of economic activity. The socio-economic profile is intended to help account users identify the economic activities and related land uses in each SA2 which may affect the extent and condition of the SOC stocks shown in the accounts.

How to use this report

All the accounts in this data cube are linked to a common spatial source based on ABS Statistical Areas and the different land uses of NSW. This means that the accounts can be filtered by each region using the top right-hand side filters on each page. A combination of outputs from each account can show us, for example, the stock of Soil Organic Carbon under different land uses, and its potential increase in 20 years under policies that generate a relative increase in vegetation by 10%.

What kind of policy questions was this account designed to answer?

- Where should policy efforts be focused to maintain NSW Soil Organic Carbon (SOC) stocks?
- What are the major land uses in areas with SOC stocks?
- Which areas have the potential to increase SOC sequestration through alternative land management practices?
- What land uses occur in regions that have a high potential for increasing SOC sequestration?
- Which activities in NSW regional economies may be affecting the extent and condition of SOC stocks and the rate of sequestration?

Data quality rating:

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

INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT**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
- ✓ 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
- ✗ Data collection is authorised by law, regulation or agreement

ACCURACY

Fair



- ✓ 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.

- ✗ 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.

COHERENCE

Fair



- ✓ 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

Good



- ✓ 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 online with an open licence
- ✓ 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 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 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

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?