

**Name of dataset or data source:**

Vulnerable Lands - Steep or Highly Erodible, Protected Riparian and Special Category

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

ED Science (E&H)

**Description:**

Maintenance of tree cover on certain land is covered by legislation. Such land has previously been mapped in NSW and is called protected land, or in recent times State Protected Land (SPL). Not to be confused with the Vulnerable Regulated Land referred to within the Local Land Services Act 2013 and Regulations.

The purpose of protected land is to regulate the destruction of trees on land susceptible to erosion or land that is otherwise environmentally sensitive. This was administered under part IV, Division 2 of the Soil Conservation Act, 1938. Subsequently, under clause 32(1) the Native Vegetation Regulation 2005, the Minister may prepare a Natural Resource Management Plan (NRM Plan) for two purposes:

- under subclause 31(1)(a), to identify as vulnerable land, land that is steep or highly erodible, protected riparian land or special category land;
- Under subclause 31(1)(b), to identify as protected regrowth, all native vegetation (that is regrowth) on land that is identified as steep or highly erodible or protected riparian land.

Additionally, under clause 31(3) of the Regulation the Minister may approve and publish guidelines to enable the clearing, without approval being required, of exotic trees or dead trees on State Protected Land in circumstances where no more than minimal harm is likely. To facilitate the production of an accessible, digital 'Vulnerable Land' dataset, catchments or parts of catchments that contain gazetted State Protected Land have been used as a guide to constrain the spatial extent of a new digitally-generated 'Vulnerable Land' dataset under the NV Act. No additional areas have been mapped. The dataset comprises three individual components which have direct relationship to previously mapped SPL.

- Land that was Category A SPL (over 18 degrees) is now steep or highly erodible land. This is land at significant risk of soil erosion. Limiting erosion on these areas requires the maintenance of vegetation cover, especially groundcover.
- Land that was Category B SPL is now protected riparian land. This provides the filters that keep our streams clean; habitat for many species of flora and fauna and in many cases, the only remaining natural corridors in the landscape.
- Land that was Category C SPL is now special category land. This exists over a few small areas of NSW that are considered to be at particular environmental risk. These include catchments in the Yass, Tweed, and 'Lowbidgee' areas.

**Data quality rating:**

- ★ Institutional Environment - 4
- ☆ Accuracy - 0
- ★ Coherence - 4
- ☆ Interpretability - 2
- ☆ Accessibility - 1

**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

- ✗ The data aligns with the Data Quality Framework, including:
  - Legislation
  - Policies
  - Information Asset Governance
  - Standards
  - Data Management Plans

**ACCURACY****Poor**

- ✗ 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****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.

- ✗ 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****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

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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source, contact:

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?