



Eastern NSW plant community type percent cleared calculation

Technical notes – update for release C2.0M2.0 (2023)

Department of Planning and Environment



Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Planning and Environment acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we work and live.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

This resource may contain images or names of deceased persons in photographs or historical content.

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Cover photo: Hunter Escarpment Pokolbin Ironbark Woodland (PCT 4158). Steve Bell

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ISBN 978-1-923132-61-0
EHG 2023/0393
December 2023

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Introduction

This document is an update to the *Eastern NSW plant community type percent cleared calculation: technical notes (DPE 2022a)*. It describes the calculation of percent cleared values for 9 new plant community types (PCTs) added to the PCT master list in version C2.0 (DPE 2023a).

Percent cleared values are a calculation made to better understand the current extent of each PCT. This information supports a range of NSW Government programs including the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme and other land and biodiversity conservation programs.

The State Vegetation Type Map (SVTM) is a regional-scale map of each of the 3 levels of the NSW vegetation classification hierarchy: PCTs (the finest level), vegetation classes and vegetation formations. There are 2 separate SVTM map products:

- the SVTM extant map that shows distribution of the vegetation communities within the limits of present-day native vegetation cover, across all tenures in New South Wales
- the SVTM pre-clearing map that displays the likely distribution of types prior to the loss of native vegetation cover, across all tenures in New South Wales.

The SVTM extant map has been completed for all of New South Wales. The SVTM pre-clearing map includes only eastern and western New South Wales to date (see Figure 1). The pre-clearing map for central New South Wales is currently in preparation.

The NSW vegetation classification hierarchy, the SVTM, and the PCT percent cleared values are part of the Integrated BioNet Vegetation Data program. This program coordinates the development and management of native vegetation classification data and maps for New South Wales.

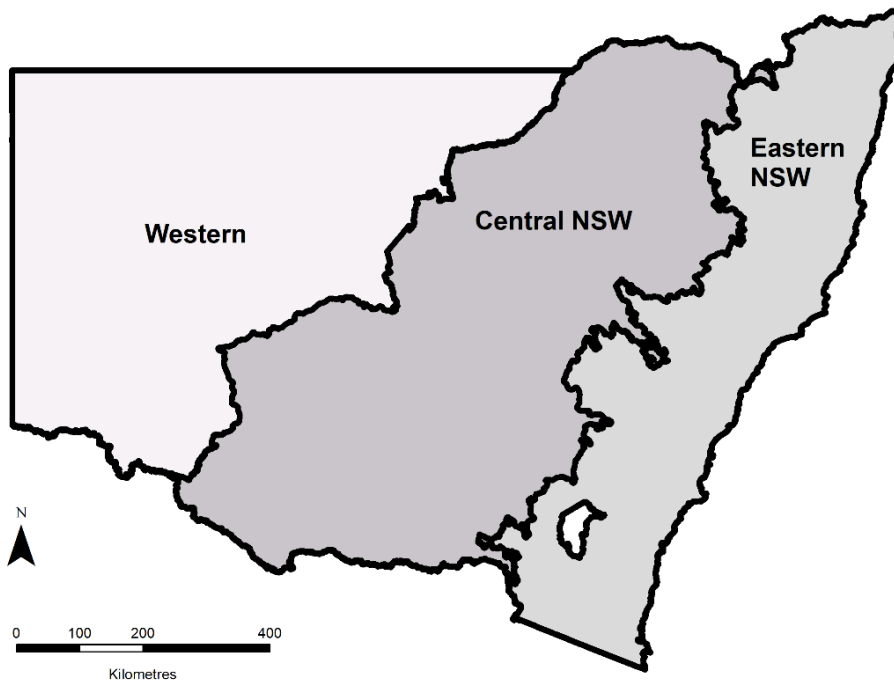


Figure 1 NSW State Vegetation Type Map regions

Method

The methods used to generate the SVTM extant map and pre-clearing map (version C1.1M1.0) are outlined in DPE (2022b) and updated for version SVTM C2.0M2.0 in DPE (2023b).

For 8 of the 9 new PCTs (all except PCT 4162), the raw SVTM PCT % cleared estimates and the condition weighted SVTM PCT % cleared estimates were calculated using the method described in DPE (2022a). The condition weighted SVTM % cleared estimates are the PCT % cleared values available via the BioNet Vegetation Classification application and BioNet web services, which are used by the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme for these PCTs.

The vegetation condition of the remaining fragments of PCT 4162 is so poor (median 0.04) that only the raw SVTM PCT % cleared estimate was calculated – that is, no condition weighted SVTM PCT % cleared value was calculated. This is similar to other small area–low condition PCTs reported in DPE (2022a).

Results

Table 1 lists both the raw and condition weighted SVTM PCT % cleared estimates for the 9 new PCTs released in PCT master list C2.0.

Table 1 Percent cleared estimates for 9 new PCTs added to PCT master list C2.0.

PCTs with a raw SVTM % cleared estimate of 0 may have a revised condition weighted SVTM % cleared estimate of >0 (such as PCTs 3014 and 4159 below) due to low condition indices in that area, refer to DPE (2022a).

| PCT ID | PCT name | Vegetation class | Vegetation formation | Raw SVTM PCT % cleared | Condition weighted SVTM PCT % cleared |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 3014 | Liverpool Range Daphnandra Rainforest | Dry Rainforests | Rainforests | 0 | 38.7 |
| 4157 | Hunter Escarpment Footslopes Singleton Mallee | Hunter-Macleay Dry Sclerophyll Forests | Dry Sclerophyll Forests (Shrub/ grass subformation) | 0 | 0 |
| 4158 | Hunter Escarpment Pokolbin Ironbark Woodland | Hunter-Macleay Dry Sclerophyll Forests | Dry Sclerophyll Forests (Shrub/ grass subformation) | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| 4159 | Nightcap Rhyolite Rocky Red Gum Woodland | North Coast Dry Sclerophyll Forests | Dry Sclerophyll Forests (Shrubby sub-formation) | 0 | 32.8 |
| 4160 | Mid North Conglomerate Blackbutt Shrub Forest | North Coast Dry Sclerophyll Forests | Dry Sclerophyll Forests (Shrubby sub-formation) | 8.4 | 8.4 |
| 4161 | Mid North Stringybark- Turpentine Shrub Forest | North Coast Dry Sclerophyll Forests | Dry Sclerophyll Forests (Shrubby sub-formation) | 11.3 | 11.3 |
| 4162 | Elderslie Banksia Scrub | Sydney Sand Flats Dry Sclerophyll Forests | Dry Sclerophyll Forests (Shrubby sub-formation) | 98.7 | 98.7 |

| PCT ID | PCT name | Vegetation class | Vegetation formation | Raw SVTM PCT % cleared | Condition weighted SVTM PCT % cleared |
|--------|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 4163 | Mount Gibraltar Melaleuca Heath | Southern Montane Heaths | Heathlands | 17.6 | 52.1 |
| 4164 | New England Peppermint Swamp Margin Woodland | Montane Bogs and Fens | Freshwater Wetlands | 85.1 | 92.9 |

References

DPE 2022a. Eastern NSW Plant Community Type % Cleared Calculation Technical Notes. NSW Department of Planning and Environment, Parramatta.

DPE 2022b. NSW State Vegetation Type Map Technical Notes. NSW Department of Planning and Environment, Parramatta.

DPE 2023a. Updating BioNet Plant Community Types: PCT Master List C2.0 (2023). NSW Department of Planning and Environment, Parramatta.

DPE 2023b. NSW State Vegetation Type Map Technical Notes Release C2.0M2.0 (2023). NSW Department of Planning and Environment, Parramatta.