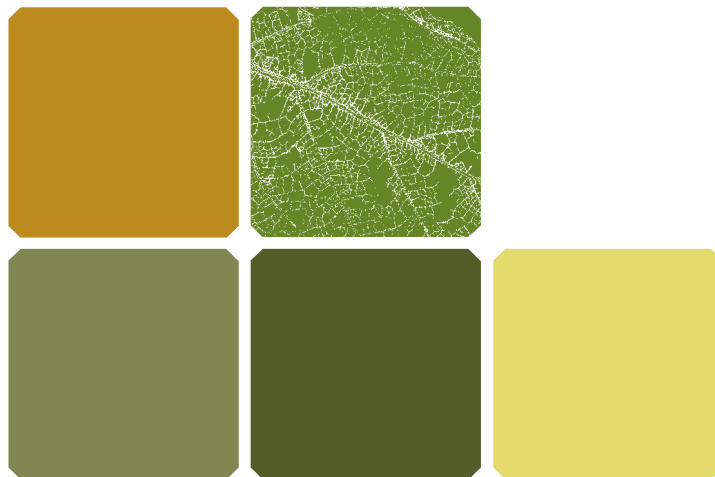


NSW Government

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

NSW Native Vegetation REPORT CARD 2006



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Native Vegetation Report Card

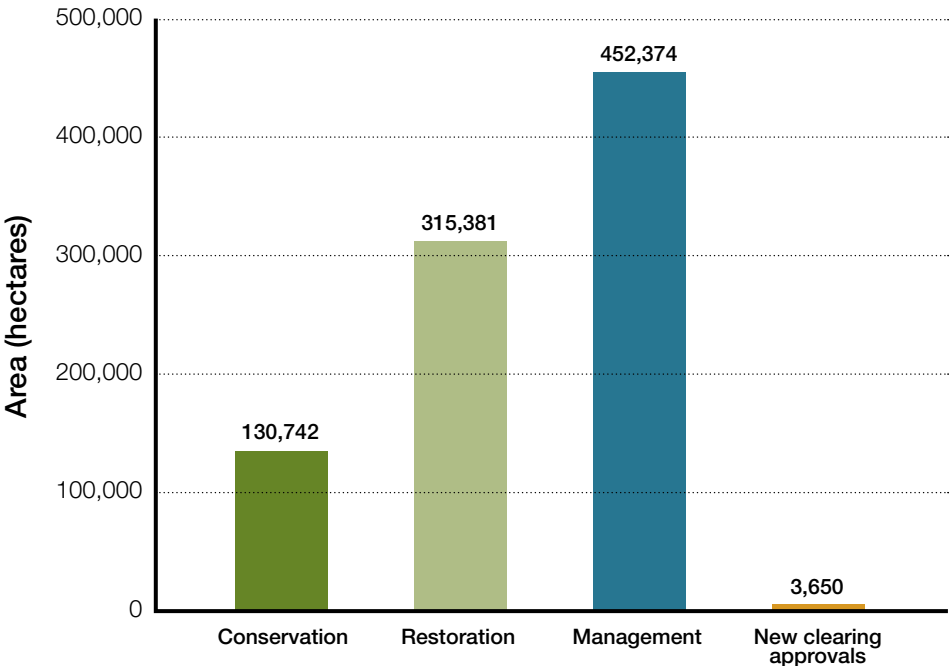
The Native Vegetation Report Card is a regular report that provides the latest information on the conservation, revegetation, management and clearing of native vegetation.

This report card is the second under the new *Native Vegetation Act 2003* and covers the whole of 2006. Further reports will be released every six months. It helps build a picture of what's happening with native vegetation across the State.

The report shows that reforms to native vegetation management are working and backs up the recent NSW Auditor General's report into the regulation of clearing of native vegetation in NSW.

The native vegetation statistics have been gathered through a collaborative effort between NSW natural resource agencies such as the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) and Forests NSW.

Area of native vegetation that has been conserved, restored, managed, and including new clearing approvals – 2006



Categories

Conservation Areas	hectares
Public Reserve System - National Park Estate (DEC) and Flora Reserves (Forests NSW)	52,155
Private Conservation Areas (Conservation Agreements and Wildlife Refuges – Habitat Retained and Management Agreements)	78,587
TOTAL	130,742

Restoration/Revegetation of Native Vegetation	hectares
Restoration/Revegetation (Incentive PVPs)	31,590
Restoration/Revegetation (PVP Offsets)	3,908
Plantations (Native only)	8,294
Revegetation through other NHT and NAP Incentives	130,204
Retained as a Condition of Approval to Clear (<i>Plantation & Reafforestation Act 1999 & Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997</i>)	6,413
Wildlife Refuges – Habitat Restored	127,975
Other Revegetation or Natural Regeneration (excluding Invasive Native Scrub)	6,999
TOTAL	315,381

Management of Native Vegetation	hectares
Invasive Native Scrub Management (PVPs)	118,895
Improved Rangeland Management*	286,733
Public Forest Estate (Forests NSW)	395
Private Native Forestry	17,141
Weed Removal Programs	29,211
TOTAL	452,374

Clearing of Native Vegetation	hectares
Clearing Approved where environmental outcomes maintained or improved (PVP/DA)	287
Clearing Approvals – Thinning to benchmark (PVP/DA)	591
Clearing Approvals – Isolated Paddock Trees (PVP/DA)	6
Clearing under other Legislation (<i>Plantation & Reafforestation Act 1999 & Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997</i>)	2,766
Alleged Illegal Clearing	not available
TOTAL	3,650

* This is a new category, for which data is now available.

Category description

Conservation Area

- **Public Reserve System – National Park Estate (DEC) and Flora Reserves (Forests NSW)** – New National Parks, Nature Reserves and State Conservation Areas, or additions to National Parks, Nature Reserves and State Conservation Areas. Data from NPWS (DEC).
- **Private Conservation Area** – Area of new Conservation Agreements and Wildlife Refuges under the National Parks and Wildlife Act, managed by DEC, and Management Agreements (CMAs). Wildlife Refuges – Habitat retained: are areas being managed exclusively for conservation of wildlife habitat.

Restoration/Revegetation of Native Vegetation

- **Restoration/Revegetation (Incentive PVPs)** – Area of revegetation or restoration of native vegetation as set out in a Property Vegetation Plan.
- **Restoration/Revegetation (PVP Offsets)** – Area of Offsets negotiated in a PVP. Offsets are actions that a landholder agrees to in order to balance any negative impacts of clearing.
- **Plantations (Native Only)** – Plantable area, includes plantations of native species only.
- **Restoration/Revegetation/Native Vegetation Management through NAP and NHT Incentives** – Revegetation activities from NHT and NAP funding.
- **Wildlife Refuges – Habitat retained:** Are areas integrating conservation into other landuse activities, which also provides wildlife habitat eg. Grazing on native unimproved grasslands/rangelands/woodlands.
- **Retained as condition of approval:** Area of land retained as a condition of clearing consent, includes vegetation clearing approvals and plantation authorisations.
- **Other Revegetation or natural regeneration (Excluding Invasive Native Scrub).**

Management of Native Vegetation

- **Invasive Native Scrub Management (PVP)** – Area under a PVP to treat invasive native scrub (INS). INS is the term used to describe native plant species that have spread rapidly within their natural range.
- **Improved Rangeland Management** – Improvement of native vegetation through management and incentive projects involving the control of grazing pressure by feral goats and domestic stock either through fencing or controlling access to water.
- **Public Forest Estate (Forests NSW)** – Area of new State Forest.
- **Private Native Forestry** – Areas of native forest approved for timber harvesting and often silviculture, not significantly degrading native forests.
- **Weed Removal Programs** – Area of land to be cleared of exotic weeds for environmental improvement on State Protected Land.

Clearing of Native Vegetation

- **Clearing approved where environmental outcomes maintained or improved (PVP/DA)** – Area of land where clearing approved under a PVP/DA will 'improve or maintain' environmental outcomes. The impact of clearing is measured against four environmental values: water quality, soils, salinity and biodiversity (including threatened species).
- **Clearing Approval – Thinning to Benchmark** – Area of land to be cleared using thinning provisions of the Environmental Outcomes Assessment Methodology.
- **Clearing Approval – Isolated Paddock Tree (PVP/DA)** – Estimated area of total paddock trees removed under a PVP.
- **Clearing under other legislation** – Area of land to be cleared under the *Plantations and Reafforestation Act 1999* and outstanding applications under the *Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997*.
- **Alleged Illegal Clearing** – Data is routinely available from Hot Spots program but is not available for this reporting period.

DATA SOURCES

- Data taken from DNR's NVC Act application database 'VegNet2' on 3 July 2006 and 16 January 2007, Plantations Public Register and relevant paper files on 12 July 2006 and 22 January 2007, and from PAMS database on 11 July 2006 and 25 January 2007. DEC provided data on 5 and 12 July 2006 and on 23 January 2007, Forests NSW provided data on 5 July 2006 and 16 January 2007 and CMAs provided data on 26 July 2006 and by 7 March 2007.

DATA LIMITATIONS & EXCLUSIONS

- The statistics do not include clearing carried out under exemptions.
- The statistics only include DNR, DEC, CMA and Forests NSW data. It does not include other agencies' or external organisation's data.
- Data on Alleged Illegal Clearing for 2006 is currently not available at the time of publication.