

Privacy collection notice

Geospatial satellite images and derived land cover change mapping

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment (the department) has a broad range of land management functions under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) and *Local Land Services Act 2013* (LLS Act). These relate to the monitoring of compliance with land management regulations and engaging with landholders and the public about land management practice. The functions include:

- reporting on land cover change in New South Wales
- supporting, encouraging, and conducting research
- developing measures associated with the equitable, efficient, and sustainable use of NSW natural resources
- sharing information, and engaging and educating landholders and the public
- managing compliance and enforcement aspects of the department's functions.

It is important that the department can assess the impact of the legislation, regulation, and policy that manages rural development in New South Wales.

Land cover change maps derived from satellite imagery which show woody clearing are central to effectively monitoring NSW natural resources. The use of satellite imagery provides an accessible, consistent, and robust method to undertake this analysis in an area as large as New South Wales (approximately 80 million hectares).

Collection of satellite images and derivation of spatial data

To support its land management functions, the department collects, uses and discloses satellite images and derivative maps of New South Wales. Remote sensing, spatial science and technology is vital to analyse and communicate the effectiveness of management legislation, regulation and policy.

The satellite imagery is usually obtained from publicly available sources, including [Copernicus Open Access Hub](#), [Geoscience Australia](#), the [U.S. Geological Survey](#) and the [European Space Agency](#).

The images display features in the landscape and, in some cases, property features, including buildings and infrastructure. Spatial resolution is the smallest unit of an image (also known as a pixel). As imagery used for landcover change mapping has a resolution of 10 m, features smaller than 10 m by 10 m are not identifiable. Therefore, it is not possible to identify individuals in the images.

Each year, the department adds thousands of hours of processing and validation to the free unprocessed imagery to derive interim products, and ultimately, the land cover change maps for New South Wales. Some interim products are retained, while the majority are discarded after use.

Collection of related data

The department will also collect, use and disclose information which supports the analysis and interpretation of these images. This may include:

- vegetation site data collected on the ground
- terrestrial line scan data collected in conjunction with the vegetation site data
- land titles and property information
- other topographic and map content.

Purpose of collection

The department collects these images and related data to support its BC Act and LLS Act functions, extending to:

- landcover change tracking in New South Wales to –
 - monitor and understand general landscape change over time
 - evaluate the effectiveness of land management legislation, regulation, and policy on the landscape in real terms
- information sharing, engagement and education
- compliance and enforcement aspects of LLS Act and BC Act.

Disclosure of images, derived maps and related information through publication

The department may disclose these images, derived maps and related data via the [Environment and Heritage website](#), the [SEED data portal](#) or standalone publications for the following purposes:

- public debate on important environmental issues
- research and government program support
- engagement and education.

Note: disclosure through this method is dependent on the data being unrestricted, that is, not being used in an ongoing compliance investigation into unauthorised clearing.

Disclosure of images, derived maps and related information through provision

Images, derived maps, and related information may be provided to third parties for the purpose of research or support for government programs. These third parties may include:

- Australian federal and state government agencies
- land and water management groups
- universities and other educational institutions
- non-Australian government agencies.

Use of images and related information

Use of this information is consistent with the purpose outlined above. This information will be applied to support key NSW Government programs and activities revolving around:

- environmental monitoring and evaluation
- land management policy and regulation
- landholder engagement
- compliance activities.

More about the department Privacy Policy

The Privacy Policy explains the way in which the department engages with and treats personal information. This policy includes information about how you may access or correct your personal information that is held by us. It also contains information on how you can complain about a breach of the Australian Privacy Principles, and how the department will deal with such a complaint.

A copy of the Privacy Policy can be found on the department's [Privacy webpage](#) or by requesting a copy from the department via email at privacy@dpie.nsw.gov.au.

You can also contact the Information Access & Privacy Unit on 02 9860 1440.