



# BioNet Web Service

Release notes

February 2025 (Release 4.0.2)

Department of Climate Change,  
Energy, the Environment and Water



## Acknowledgement of Country

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water 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This resource may contain images or names of deceased persons in photographs or historical content.

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Artist and designer Nikita Ridgeway from Aboriginal design agency Boss Lady Creative Designs created the People and Community symbol.

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Environment and Heritage  
Department of Climate Change,  
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Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124  
Phone: +61 2 9995 5000 (switchboard)  
Phone: 1300 361 967 (Environment and Heritage enquiries)  
TTY users: phone 133 677, then ask for 1300 361 967  
Speak and listen users: phone 1300 555 727, then ask for 1300 361 967  
Email [info@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@environment.nsw.gov.au)  
Website [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au)

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# Background

BioNet is the repository for biodiversity data maintained by the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) and contains species sightings and systematic survey records, vegetation classification and threatened biodiversity data. The BioNet Web Service initiative is a program of work conducted by the department. It progressively makes data held in BioNet open and available to developers via open application programming interfaces (APIs). BioNet Web Service enables organisations and individuals to directly integrate biodiversity data into their software systems and unlock the innovation potential of this valuable community-owned data asset. By delivering these data via open APIs, we are improving environmental decision-making by integrating up-to-date, consistent and reliable biodiversity data into planning and assessment systems. As the size of the datasets and user base grow, system upgrades and database optimisations need to be applied to retain a stable and efficient web service.

## New functionality

BioNet Web Service has been optimised to use OData server-driven paging by implementing the `@odata.nextLink` function. Users who historically page through large datasets by specifying `$top` and `$skip` OData query operators should plan to transition to the optimised `@odata.nextLink` paging method.

## Enhancements

This release covers infrastructure and technology systems updates to improve the performance and stability of the web service.

### SpeciesSightings\_CoreData

Additional optimisation has been applied to the SpeciesSightings\_CoreData entity set to further improve query performance and download speed. Existing queries and work process are compatible with this release.

#### Fields removed

- ID

The ID indexing field applied to SpeciesSightings\_CoreData introduced in BioNet Web Service Release 4.0 has been decommissioned. catalogNumber can be used for indexing.

## VegetationClassification\_PCTBenchmarks

### Fields added

- PCTBID

This indexing ID field has been added to optimise performance.

## VegetationClassification\_PCTGrowthForm

### Fields added

- PCTGFID

This indexing ID field has been added to optimise performance.

## Thesaurus

### Fields added

- TID

This indexing ID field has been added to optimise performance.

## SystematicFloraSurvey\_SiteData

### Fields added

- SFSSDID

This indexing ID field has been added to optimise performance.

# Documentation

Documentation for the BioNet Web Service are available via the [BioNet web services page](#):

- [BioNet Web Service Developer guidelines](#)
- [BioNet Web Service Power Query quick guide](#)

# Recommended changes

To take advantage of the new performance features some small changes to client tools or scripts are recommended.

- For pagination use **@odata.nextLink** instead of **\$skip**
- To return record counts use **/\$count** instead of **"/?\$count=true**
- Use automatic HTTP decompression if supported by your tools

Please refer to the [BioNet Web Service Developer guidelines](#) for more comprehensive advice.

# Warnings and known limitations

No warnings or known limitations specific to this release.