



Types of land on the Biodiversity Values Map

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This resource may contain images or names of deceased persons in photographs or historical content.

© 2025 State of NSW and Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

With the exception of photographs, the State of NSW and Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (the department) are pleased to allow this material to be reproduced in whole or in part for educational and non-commercial use, provided the meaning is unchanged and its source, publisher and authorship are acknowledged. Specific permission is required to reproduce photographs.

Learn more about our copyright and disclaimer at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/copyright

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

Cover photo: Farmland, Oberon. Rosie Nicolai/DCCEEW

Published by:

Environment and Heritage

Department of Climate Change,

Energy, the Environment and Water

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

Website www.environment.nsw.gov.au

ISBN 978-1-923357-82-2

EH 2025/0054

First published in March 2020; reprinted April 2024, September 2024 and March 2025 with amendments

Find out more at:

environment.nsw.gov.au



Contents

- Purpose of this document 5
- Introduction 6
- Coastal wetlands and littoral rainforest mapped under Chapter 2 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021 8
 - Description of the mapping 8
 - Who develops and maintains the mapping? 8
 - How is the mapping developed? 8
 - Further information on the mapping 8
 - How is the mapping applied in the Biodiversity Values Map? 9
- Core koala habitat identified in a plan of management under State Environmental Planning Policy (Koala Habitat Protection) 2019 10
 - Description of the mapping 10
 - Who develops and maintains the mapping? 12
 - How is the mapping developed? 12
 - Further information on the mapping 12
- Declared Ramsar wetlands defined by the Environment Protection and *Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* 13
 - Description of the mapping 13
 - Who develops and maintains the mapping? 13
 - How is the mapping developed? 14
 - Further information on the mapping 14
 - How is the mapping applied in the Biodiversity Values Map? 14
- Land containing threatened species or threatened ecological communities identified as potential serious and irreversible impacts 15
 - Description of the mapping 15
 - Who develops and maintains the mapping? 15
 - How is the mapping developed? 15

How is the mapping applied in the Biodiversity Values Map?	16
Biodiverse riparian land	17
Who develops and maintains the mapping?	17
How is the mapping developed?	17
How is the mapping applied in the Biodiversity Values Map?	17
High conservation value grasslands or groundcover	18
Description of the mapping	18
Who develops and maintains the mapping?	18
How is the mapping developed?	18
Further information on the mapping	18
How is the mapping applied in the Biodiversity Values Map?	18
Old growth forest	19
Description of the mapping	19
Who develops and maintains the mapping?	19
How is the mapping developed?	19
Further information on the mapping	20
How is the mapping applied in the Biodiversity Values Map?	20
Rainforest	21
Description of the mapping	21
Who develops and maintains the mapping?	21
How is the mapping developed?	22
Further information on the mapping	22
How is the mapping applied in the Biodiversity Values Map?	22
Declared areas of outstanding biodiversity value	23
Description of the mapping	23
Who develops and maintains the mapping?	23
How is the mapping developed?	23
Further information on the mapping	24
How is the mapping applied in the Biodiversity Values Map?	24
Council nominated areas considered to conserve biodiversity at bioregional or state scale	25
Description of the mapping	25
How is the mapping developed?	25

Other land of sufficient biodiversity value to be included in the map	26
Description of the mapping	26
Who develops and maintains the mapping?	26
How is the mapping developed?	26
Further information on the mapping	26
How is the mapping applied in the Biodiversity Values Map?	26
General refinements to the Biodiversity Values Map	28
What general refinements are applied to Biodiversity Values Map datasets?	28
How are general refinements applied to the BV Map?	29
More information	30

Purpose of this document

This document describes the types of land that can be included on the Biodiversity Values Map. This includes a brief description of the type of land, the organisation that develops and maintains the mapping, the process they follow and where more information can be found. This document will be updated periodically as new and modified mapping is included on the Biodiversity Values Map.



Photo 1 **Swift parrots (*Lathamus discolor*).** Ken Stepnell/DCCEEW

Introduction

The Biodiversity Values (BV) Map is prepared by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water under Part 7 of the *Biodiversity Conservation (BC) Act 2016*. The BV Map is one of the thresholds that activates the Biodiversity Offset Scheme (BOS) established under the Biodiversity Conservation (BC) Regulation 2017 (cl. 7.1).

The BOS threshold is used to determine when it is necessary to engage an accredited assessor to apply the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) to assess the impacts of a proposal. It is used for local developments that require council consent and clearing native vegetation that does not require council consent in urban areas and areas zoned for environmental conservation (under the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Vegetation in Non-Rural Areas) 2017*).

The initial version of the BV Map was published on 25 August 2017. The BV Map can be viewed through the Biodiversity Values Map and Threshold Tool (BMAT Tool). General information about the map can be found on the [Biodiversity Values Map webpage](#).

The BV Map is updated periodically to include new map layers or refinements to existing layers. A register of these updates can also be viewed on the Biodiversity Values Map page.

Landholders can request a review of the mapping where they consider there is an error.

Information on applying for a map review and an outline of the changes made in each update is provided on the Biodiversity Values Map webpage. You can access BV Map spatial data through the NSW Sharing and Enabling Environmental Data (SEED) Portal.

Clause 7.3(3) of the Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017 describes 11 types of land the Environment Agency Head may include on the BV Map. These land types are:

- a. coastal wetlands and littoral rainforest mapped under the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Coastal Management) 2018*
- b. core koala habitat identified in a plan of management under *State Environmental Planning Policy No 44 – Koala Habitat Protection (SEPP 44)* (replaced by SEPP (Koala Habitat Protection) 2019 on 1 March 2020)
- c. declared Ramsar wetlands defined by the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
- d. land containing threatened species or threatened ecological communities identified as being at risk of serious and irreversible impacts under section 6.5 of the BC Act
- e. biodiverse riparian land
- f. high conservation value grasslands or groundcover
- g. old growth forest identified in mapping developed under the *National Forests Policy Statement*

Types of land on the Biodiversity Values Map

- h. rainforest identified in mapping developed under the *National Forests Policy Statement*
- i. declared areas of outstanding biodiversity value
- j. council nominated areas with connectivity or threatened species habitat that the Minister considers will conserve biodiversity at a bioregional or state scale
- k. any other land that in the opinion of the Environment Agency Head is of sufficient biodiversity value to be included.

Coastal wetlands and littoral rainforest mapped under Chapter 2 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021

Description of the mapping

The Resilience and Hazards State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) defines the coastal zone and establishes state-level planning priorities and development controls to guide decision-making for development within the coastal zone.

One of the 4 coastal management areas is the coastal wetlands and littoral rainforests area. The Coastal Management SEPP 2018 is now Chapter 2 (Coastal Management) of the Resilience and Hazards SEPP 2021.

The coastal wetlands and littoral rainforests area are defined in the *Coastal Management Act 2016* as land that displays ‘the hydrological and floristic characteristics of coastal wetlands or littoral rainforests and land adjoining those features’.

The mapping includes coastal wetlands and littoral rainforest across all local government areas, including those in Greater Metropolitan Sydney.

The coastal wetlands and littoral rainforest area also include a separate map layer of a 100-metre proximity area, applying to all land zones, around the coastal wetlands and littoral rainforests.

Minor updates and amendments are made to this data to ensure its currency.

Who develops and maintains the mapping?

The NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (NSW Planning) are responsible for the maintenance of the coastal wetlands and littoral rainforest mapping.

How is the mapping developed?

Fact sheet 4: Mapping of Coastal Management Areas (Technical) outlines the criteria and methods used to identify the coastal management areas, including the coastal wetlands and littoral rainforests area.

Further information on the mapping

Information on the Resilience and Hazards SEPP is available on the [NSW Planning website](#). This includes a link to the Coastal SEPP Mapping Tool and Fact sheets.

The spatial data and metadata are available through the Resilience and Hazards SEPP – SEED dataset.



Photo 2 Littoral Rainforest in the New South Wales North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions. Jackie Miles/DCCEEW

How is the mapping applied in the Biodiversity Values Map?

The former SEPP 14 – Coastal Wetlands and SEPP 26 – Littoral Rainforest were replaced with the coastal wetlands and littoral rainforest area in the BV Map Version in 2018.

The proximity areas around coastal wetlands or littoral rainforests were not included as they represent land adjacent to, or in proximity to, the coastal wetland or littoral rainforest rather than the vegetation community itself.

Changes arising from the amended coastal wetlands and littoral rainforests area mapping were included in BV Map in 2019.

Core koala habitat identified in a plan of management under State Environmental Planning Policy (Koala Habitat Protection) 2019

Description of the mapping

The SEPP (Koala Habitat Protection) 2019 came into effect on 1 March 2020 and replaces the former SEPP 44 – Koala Habitat Protection.

Key changes and features of the new SEPP are outlined on the NSW Planning website, including fact sheets and frequently asked questions.

The new policy provides for the development of koala plans of management (KPoM) that can cover part or whole local government areas listed in Schedule 1 of the Policy. These plans can identify areas of core koala habitat and identify special provisions to control the development of that land.

Plans of management that were developed under the former SEPP 44 continue to apply. The new *Koala Habitat Protection Guideline* outlines the survey method for identifying core koala habitat in new koala plans of management to be made under the SEPP (Koala Habitat Protection) 2019.

Currently, there are 7 comprehensive koala plans of management and 3 precinct koala plans of management that have areas included on the BV Map. In the existing koala plans of management, some councils use different terms to describe koala habitat types in their koala plans of management, such as primary habitat, preferred habitat and core habitat.

The Environment Agency Head (EAH) decision on which habitat class is appropriate for inclusion on the BV Map is listed in Table 1 as the mapping category considered to be core koala habitat:

Types of land on the Biodiversity Values Map

Table 1 Koala Plan of Management datasets included in the BV Map as at time of publication

LGA	Mapping category considered to be core koala habitat	Council websites
Coffs Harbour	Primary	<u>Coffs Harbour – Living with Koalas – Koala Plan of Management</u>
Port Stephens	Preferred	<u>Port Stephens – Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management</u>
Kempsey (Eastern Portion)	Primary	<u>Kempsey Shire Council – Koala Plan of Management</u>
Lismore (South East)	Primary	<u>Lismore City Council – Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management</u>
Bellingen	Core	<u>Bellingen Shire Council – Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management</u>
Ballina	Core	<u>Ballina Shire – Koala Management Strategy</u>
Campbelltown	Core	<u>Campbelltown City Council – Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management</u>
Port Macquarie (Area 13, Area 14 and Kings Creek)	Core	<u>Port Macquarie–Hastings Council – Area 13 Precinct Plan</u> <u>Port Macquarie–Hastings Council Area 14 Koala Plan of Management</u> <u>Port Macquarie – Hastings Council – Kings Creek Koala Plan of Management</u>

Note: The Tweed Coast and Byron Coast koala plans of management are mapped under Part (k) Other land of sufficient biodiversity value.

Who develops and maintains the mapping?

Local councils develop and maintain the mapping in their koala plans of management. Mapping changes need to be approved by the Planning Secretary.

How is the mapping developed?

Refer to each council's website (see above).



Photo 3 Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*). John Turbill/DCCEEW

Further information on the mapping

The spatial data and metadata of the existing koala plans of management are held under licence by the local councils to which they apply.

The approved koala plans of management and habitat mapping categories that the Environment Agency Head considers to be core koala habitat are included on the BV Map.

Declared Ramsar wetlands defined by the Environment Protection and *Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

Description of the mapping

New South Wales Declared Ramsar wetlands are listed under an international convention known as the Ramsar Convention that aims to protect their ecological character. Its full name is the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance.

The Australian Government signed the Convention, which was entered into force in Australia in 1975.

The Australian Government can, with the support of state and territory governments, nominate sites to be listed under the Convention. Sites must meet at least one of 9 internationally accepted criteria.

Ramsar wetlands are protected as a 'Matter of National Environmental Significance' under the Australian Government's *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is the sole or part land manager for most Declared Ramsar wetland sites in New South Wales.

More information on the Convention and each site in New South Wales is available on our [internationally significant wetlands page](#).

Who develops and maintains the mapping?

The Australian Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water maintain the mapping.

The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's Biodiversity and Conservation Science Division advise the Australian Government on the mapping.



Photo 4 **RAMSAR Wetland Towra Point is the most significant wetland in the Sydney region – recognised at a national and international level.**
John Spencer/DCCEEW

How is the mapping developed?

Mapping is developed as part of the nominations for new sites and alterations to the boundaries of existing sites.

Further information on the mapping

A map of NSW Ramsar wetlands and a data quality statement are available through the SEED Portal.

Digital data for the National Map of Ramsar wetlands is available from the Australian Government Ramsar Wetlands website.

How is the mapping applied in the Biodiversity Values Map?

All Declared Ramsar wetland sites in New South Wales are included on the BV Map.

Land containing threatened species or threatened ecological communities identified as potential serious and irreversible impacts

Description of the mapping

Threatened species and threatened ecological communities (TECs) identified under s. 6.5 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* as being at risk of a serious or irreversible impact (SAIL) are those considered most at risk of extinction from development impacts or activities.

Decision-makers are required to determine whether a proposed development or clearing activity will result in a serious and irreversible impact.

The Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017 identifies 4 principles to assist decision-makers to determine if serious and irreversible impacts would occur. More information is available from the department's webpage on serious and irreversible impacts of development on biodiversity. This includes a guidance document that provides supporting information to assist with the application of the SAIL principles. The serious and irreversible impacts webpage lists the threatened species and threatened ecological communities that are at risk of serious and irreversible impacts.

The department periodically updates the list of entities at risk of serious and irreversible impacts. Information about updates to SAIL species and SAIL threatened ecological communities is available on the [Updates to the Biodiversity Values Map webpage](#).

The department has undertaken a prioritisation of the unmapped SAIL species and those that occur in areas undergoing development are a high priority to be mapped.

Who develops and maintains the mapping?

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

How is the mapping developed?

Threatened species at risk of a serious or irreversible impact

The department has developed the *Method for mapping threatened species for inclusion in the Regulatory framework*.

This document outlines a standardised approach to the mapping of threatened species and suitable habitat that are included in the BV Map and the Native Vegetation Regulatory Map. This approach aims to map areas where there is a high likelihood of finding the species or its suitable habitat.

The draft methods and data used to map each species will be reviewed by an external expert prior to consideration of the mapping for inclusion in the BV Map.

Threatened ecological communities at risk of a serious or irreversible impact

Where available, existing mapping has been used. The department will develop a standard method for mapping threatened ecological communities for inclusion into regulatory maps that will be used to refine existing mapping and guide development of new mapping for threatened ecological communities.



Photo 5 **Blue Gum High Forest Critically Endangered Ecological Community. John Spencer/DCCEW**

How is the mapping applied in the Biodiversity Values Map?

New or revised mapping that is approved by the Environment Agency Head or their delegate will be included in an update to the BV Map.

Biodiverse riparian land

Description of the mapping

Biodiverse riparian land is land within 20 metres of a bed or bank of a named natural watercourse or waterbody.

Only topographic streams with an assigned name and identified as 'natural' are included in the BV Map.

Who develops and maintains the mapping?

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

How is the mapping developed?

The biodiverse riparian layer used in the BV Map has been created from a combination of available datasets. This includes mapping of various hydrological features appearing on topographic maps that are digitised by NSW Spatial Services and stored in the Digital Topographic Database. A 22.5 metre buffer was applied to the centreline of smaller watercourses and a 20-metre buffer applied to larger watercourses and water bodies.

As the mapping of water bodies includes harbours, bays and estuaries where the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme does not apply, a layer of these waterbodies was created and erased from the protected riparian layer.

To remove areas cleared by recent developments, an 'urban area' layer of lots less than or equal to 1000 m² within land zoned for residential, business or industrial was created and erased from the protected riparian land layer.

How is the mapping applied in the Biodiversity Values Map?

The map displays topographic streams identified as 'natural' and that have an assigned 'name'.

Built-up areas within the riparian corridor are removed from the BV Map. In rural areas, riparian land is also removed from the BV Map where a change in land-use has eliminated the natural stream features.

Watercourses may have moved through time as erosion, deposition, and transport of sediment occurs.

Updates to the BV map can be made if the watercourse is no longer aligned with the biodiverse riparian land mapping.

High conservation value grasslands or groundcover

Description of the mapping

The Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017 (cl.7.3(3)(f)) states that the published Interim Grasslands and other Groundcover Assessment Method can determine areas of high conservation value grasslands or groundcover.

No high conservation value grassland or groundcover areas have been included on the BV Map at this stage.

Who develops and maintains the mapping?

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

How is the mapping developed?

No mapping has been developed at this stage.

Further information on the mapping

Information on the Interim Grasslands and other Groundcover Assessment Method (IGGAM) is available on the department's website.

How is the mapping applied in the Biodiversity Values Map?

No areas have been considered for inclusion at this stage.

Old growth forest

Description of the mapping

Old growth forest was originally mapped at a regional scale using aerial photography interpretation techniques as a part of a Comprehensive Regional Assessment undertaken between 1997 and 2000.

The Comprehensive Regional Assessments were a set of ecological assessments undertaken to inform the development of Regional Forest Agreements for the Upper and Lower North East, Southern and Eden regions of New South Wales.

Old growth forests are currently defined as an ecologically mature forest where the effects of disturbances are now negligible.

Who develops and maintains the mapping?

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water maintains the old growth forest mapping dataset.

How is the mapping developed?

The old growth mapping is maintained and continually updated using fine-scale digital mapping techniques and field surveys.

As this data was created at a regional scale, rather than an individual property scale, any map review of disputed old growth forest areas will be undertaken using the most recent aerial photography available to map the actual extent of old growth forest on the property.

Mapping is conducted in a 3D on-screen environment using specialised hardware and software and using high-resolution ADS (Airborne Digital Scanner) digital imagery. Two assessors review the mapping and then results are stored in a database.

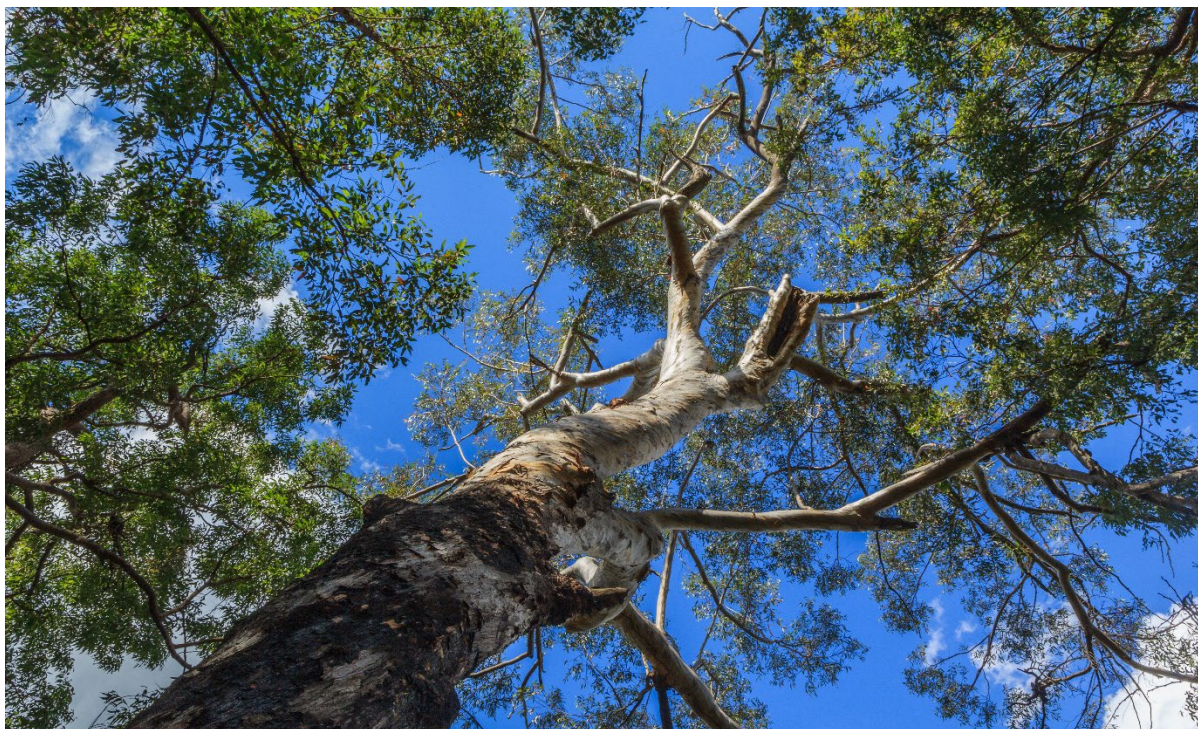


Photo 6 Senescent blackbutt tree (*Eucalyptus pilularis*). Nick Westman/DCCEEW

Further information on the mapping

Landholders with a Private Native Forest (PNF) Property Vegetation Plan (PVP) can also apply to have the map of old growth forest in their Property Vegetation Plan reviewed, if they believe it is not accurate.

The protocol for re-evaluating old growth forest on private property describes the methods used to identify and validate old growth forest on private land.

How is the mapping applied in the Biodiversity Values Map?

Mapped areas of old growth forest are included on the BV Map.

Rainforest

Description of the mapping

Rainforests were originally mapped at a regional scale using aerial photography interpretation techniques as a part of a Comprehensive Regional Assessment undertaken between 1997 and 2000.

The Comprehensive Regional Assessments were a set of ecological assessments undertaken to inform the development of Regional Forest Agreements for the Upper and Lower North East, Southern and Eden regions of New South Wales.

Rainforests are currently defined as tree-dominated vegetation with rainforest species making up 50% or more of the crown cover, except where non-rainforest emergent species (including brush box and turpentine) occur and exceed 30% or more of the upper stratum crown cover.



Photo 7 Illawarra Subtropical Rainforest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion. Jemma Lemmon/DCCEEW

Who develops and maintains the mapping?

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water maintains the rainforest mapping dataset.

How is the mapping developed?

The rainforest mapping is maintained and continually updated on request by the department using fine-scale digital mapping techniques and field survey.

As this data was created at a regional scale, rather than on an individual property scale, any map review of disputed rainforest areas will be undertaken using the most recent aerial photography available to map the actual extent of rainforest on the property.

Mapping is conducted in a 3D on-screen environment using specialised hardware and software and using high-resolution ADS (Airborne Digital Scanner) digital imagery.

Two assessors review the mapping and then results are stored in a database.

Further information on the mapping

Landholders with a Private Native Forest (PNF) Property Vegetation Plan (PVP) can also apply to have the map of rainforest in their Property Vegetation Plan reviewed, if they believe it is not accurate.

The protocol for re-evaluating rainforest on private property describes the methods used to identify and validate rainforest on private land.

How is the mapping applied in the Biodiversity Values Map?

Mapped areas of rainforest are included on the BV Map.

Declared areas of outstanding biodiversity value

Description of the mapping

The *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (Part 3 - BC Act) gives the Minister for the Environment the power to declare areas of outstanding biodiversity value. These are special areas that contain irreplaceable biodiversity values that are important to the whole of New South Wales, Australia or globally.

The Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017 (Part 3) establishes the criteria for declaring areas of outstanding biodiversity values.

The criteria have been designed to identify the most valuable sites for biodiversity conservation in New South Wales.

Further information on areas of outstanding biodiversity values is available on the department's website.

Areas of declared critical habitat under the repealed *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*, (including Little Penguin and Wollemi Pine declared areas), have become the first areas of outstanding biodiversity values in New South Wales with the commencement of the BC Act.

The following 4 critical habitat areas existing at the commencement of the BC Act are therefore taken to be areas of outstanding biodiversity values:

- Gould's petrel
- Little penguin population in Sydney's Northern Harbour (at Manly)
- Michell's rainforest snail on Stotts Island Nature Reserve
- Wollemi pine

The Area of Outstanding Biodiversity Value register includes the declarations for these areas.

Who develops and maintains the mapping?

Nominators of proposed areas will be required to provide mapping of the areas.

How is the mapping developed?

The department is developing assessment guidelines for interpreting the listing criteria for areas of outstanding biodiversity values and nomination guidelines that will outline the information required in nominations.

Further information on the mapping

Further information on areas of outstanding biodiversity value mapping will be made available on the department's website once the assessment and nomination guidelines have been finalised.

How is the mapping applied in the Biodiversity Values Map?

Of the 4 existing areas of outstanding biodiversity values, only the area for the Little penguin population at Manly includes private land and has been included on the map.

The other 3 areas of outstanding biodiversity value are entirely within NPWS reserves and as they are protected from development, they have not been included on the map.



Photo 8 Little penguin (*Eudyptula Minor*) female at nest. Nicholas Carlile/DCCEEW

Council nominated areas considered to conserve biodiversity at bioregional or state scale

Description of the mapping

The Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017 (cl.7.3(3)(j)) states that:

‘Land that, in the opinion of the council of the local government area concerned, contains vegetation connectivity features or threatened species habitat and whose inclusion in the map will, in the opinion of the Minister, conserve biodiversity at a bioregional or state scale.’

No areas have been included on the BV Map at this stage.

How is the mapping developed?

Future nomination guidelines will provide information on mapping requirements.

Other land of sufficient biodiversity value to be included in the map

Description of the mapping

The Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017 (cl.7.3(3)(k)) states that: ‘any other land that, in the opinion of the Environment Agency Head, is of sufficient biodiversity value to be included in the map.’

As at the time of publication, the Environment Agency Head has approved a number of datasets for inclusion in the BV Map. Additional datasets assessed as being of sufficient biodiversity value by the Environment Agency Head may be included in future versions.

Who develops and maintains the mapping?

Mapping datasets for inclusion under this land type may be developed by the department, or by other organisations.

As at the time of publication, mapping has been developed by the department’s Strategic Policy, Science and Engagement (SPSE) Group, National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and local councils.

How is the mapping developed?

Department teams may propose land to be included on the BV Map under these criteria and it will be added if, in the opinion of the Environment Agency Head, it is ‘of sufficient biodiversity value’ to be included in the BV Map under the Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017, c7.3 (3) (k).

Further information on the mapping

Information about datasets and their publication details are available on the Biodiversity Values Map Updates webpage.

If you are seeking current detailed information about the mapping on your property, contact the Map Review Team and request a Biodiversity Values Map Explanation Report.

Additional information on threatened species, communities, their distribution and threats can be found in the BioNet database.

How is the mapping applied in the Biodiversity Values Map?

After approval for inclusion by the Environment Agency Head, mapping is incorporated into the BV Map at the next major update, typically undertaken twice per year.

A list of the major update changes undertaken since the commencement of the map is available on the Biodiversity Values Map Update webpage.

All mapping included within the BV Map is subject to ongoing refinement as new information becomes available and by Landholder Initiated Map Review.



Photo 9 Alpine she-oak skink (*Cyclodomorphus praealtus*). George Madani/DCCEEW

Where to get help

Links to references in this document are listed below in the More Information section.

If you need any further information about the Biodiversity Values Map for your property contact the department's Map Review Team using our [online enquiry form](#) or contact us at map.review@environment.nsw.gov.au or on 1800 001 490.

General refinements to the Biodiversity Values Map

General map refinements that may affect more than one land type are applied to the BV Map from time to time. These refinements occur as new information becomes available.

What general refinements are applied to Biodiversity Values Map datasets?

General refinements to land type datasets fall into 3 broad categories based on their purpose:

1. Accuracy refinements

A common refinement affecting multiple datasets is applied where there is information or mapping supporting removal of an area of land unlikely to contain high biodiversity values. This can include updated high precision data for features such as roads and buildings for exclusion.

Very small areas remaining after such refinements are known as map slivers. These slivers are also removed to maintain the map's functionality.

2. Policy and legislative requirements

Several refinements may be applied for policy and legislative reasons. An example is land certified for development as part of Biocertification conferral.

For certified land, the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme requirements have already been met and no further assessments are required. Such areas are removed from the BV Map. For more information, go to our [Biodiversity certification webpage](#).

Similarly, clearing of native vegetation on rural land that is identified as being Category 1 – exempt under Part 5A of the *Local Land Services Act 2013*, is exempt from assessment under the Biodiversity Assessment Method (Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 s6.8(3)). Therefore, lands mapped as Category 1 – exempt by the Native Vegetation Regulatory Map have been removed from the BV Map.

Note that impacts prescribed by Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017 c6.1 may still be considered by the Biodiversity Assessment Method within lands mapped as Category 1 – exempt on the Native Vegetation Regulatory Map.

Additionally, critically endangered ecological communities and critically endangered species of plants are designated as category 2 – sensitive regulated land (clause 108(2)(b), LLS Regulation); however, statewide comprehensive mapping of all critically endangered ecological communities and critically endangered species of plants is not currently published on Native Vegetation Regulatory map. The presence of critically endangered ecological community and/or critically endangered plants must be considered for site-scale refinement.

Active approvals for clearing where the biodiversity values have been assessed, such as part of a subdivision assessed and authorised by council, are also removed from the BV Map where the data is available.

3. Landholder Initiated Map Reviews

Changes approved by the Environmental Agency Head following a Landholder Initiated Map Review are applied to the BV Map routinely.

Landholder Initiated Map Reviews are available for the owner or representative of a land holding and can be requested at no cost. More information on the map review process is available through the [Map Review Team Online Enquiry Form](#).

How are general refinements applied to the BV Map?

General refinements to the BV Map are applied using 2 different mechanisms, depending on the scale and time criticality of the change.

Localised changes with a higher time dependency, such as Landholder Initiated Map Reviews, can be applied as a patch update. Patch updates to the BV Map are applied monthly.

Landscape scale changes such as targeted updates to existing land type datasets and inclusion of newly approved datasets as part of major updates generally occur one or 2 times per year.

The current published BV Map is available via the SEED Portal. Enquiries regarding archive versions of the BV Map should be directed to the Map Review Team.

More information

- [Australian Government Ramsar Wetlands of Australia](#)
- [Areas of Outstanding Biodiversity Value register](#)
- [Australian Zoologist](#)
- [Ballina Shire – Koala Management Strategy](#)
- [Bellingen Shire Council – Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management](#)
- [Biodiversity Certification](#)
- [Biodiversity Values Map and Threshold Tool \(BMAT Tool\)](#)
- [Biodiversity Values Map and Threshold Tool web page](#)
- [Biodiversity Values Map updates](#)
- [BioNet Threatened biodiversity database](#)
- [Byron Coast Koala Plan of Management](#)
- [Campbelltown City Council – Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management](#)
- [Coastal management](#)
- [Coffs Harbour – Living with Koalas – Koala Plan of Management](#)
- [Environmental Data](#)
- [Fact sheet 4: Mapping of Coastal Management Areas \(Technical\) \(PDF 1.2MB\)](#)
- [Interim Grasslands and other Groundcover Assessment Method](#)
- [Internationally significant wetlands](#)
- [Kempsey Shire Council – Koala Plan of Management](#)
- [Lismore City Council – Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management](#)
- [Map Review Team Online Enquiry Form](#)
- [Method for mapping threatened species for inclusion in the Regulatory framework](#)
- [NSW Planning website](#)
- [NSW Planning website Koala Habitat Protection SEPP](#)
- [Part 5A of the Local Land Services Act 2013](#)
- [Port Macquarie–Hastings Council – Area 13 Precinct Plan](#)
- [Port Macquarie–Hastings Council Area 14 Koala Plan of Management](#)
- [Port Macquarie – Hastings Council – Kings Creek Koala Plan of Management](#)
- [Port Stephens – Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management](#)
- [Protocol for re-evaluating old-growth forest on private property \(PDF 304KB\)](#)
- [Protocol for re-evaluating rainforest on private property \(PDF 256KB\)](#)
- [Ramsar Wetlands of New South Wales](#)
- [Resilience and Hazards State Environmental Planning Policy \(SEPP\) 2021](#)
- [Serious and irreversible impacts](#)
- [Sharing and Enabling Environmental Data \(SEED\) Portal: Biodiversity Values Map](#)

Types of land on the Biodiversity Values Map

- [State Environmental Planning Policy \(Coastal Management\) 2018 \(PDF 311KB\)](#)
- [State Environmental Planning Policy \(Coastal Management\) 2018 – SEED dataset – Repealed](#)
- [State Environmental Planning Policy \(Koala Habitat Protection\) 2019 \(PDF 253KB\)](#)
- [State Environmental Planning Policy \(Koala Habitat Protection\) 2019: Frequently asked questions \(PDF 336KB\)](#)
- [State Environmental Planning Policy \(Koala Habitat Protection\) 2019– Repealed](#)
- [Tweed Coast Koala Plan of Management](#)
- [Vulnerable Lands – Steep or Highly Erodible, Protected Riparian and Special Category](#)