

NSW Foundation Spatial Data Framework Data Custodian Records



The following spatial theme profile is the formal custodian arrangements for whole of government foundation spatial data.

Land Cover theme

Theme profile

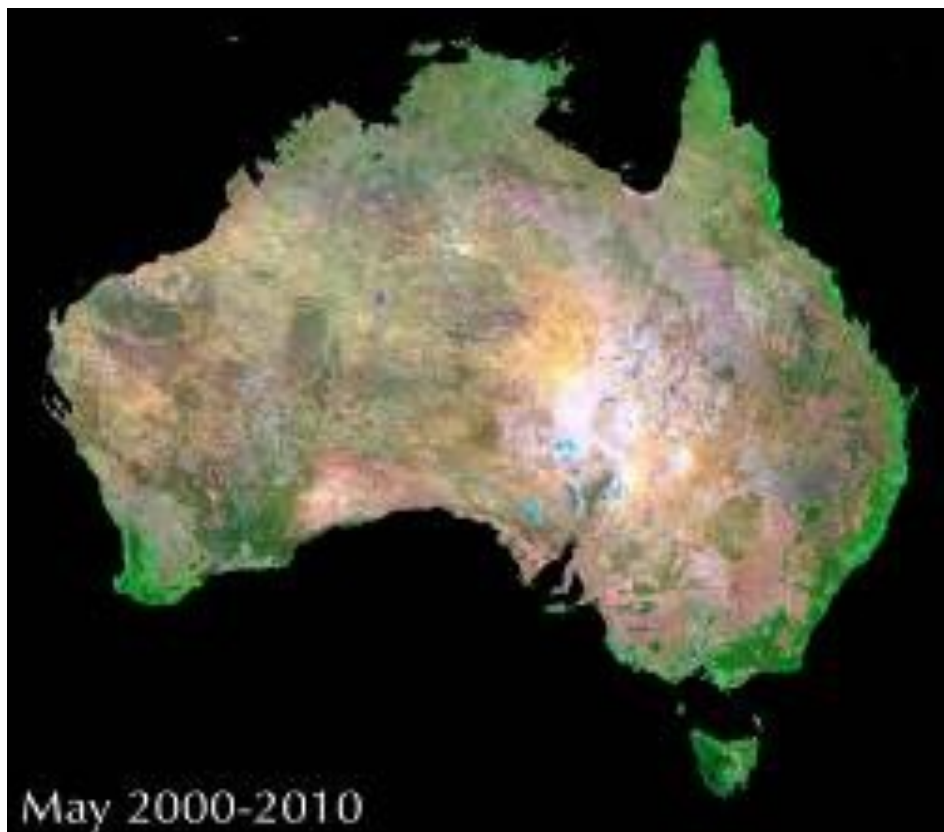


Image depicts Land Cover information for Australia © Geoscience Australia 2015

Name	Land Cover
Description	<p>Land cover is the visible, biophysical cover on the Earth's surface including trees, shrubs, grasses, soils, exposed rocks and water bodies, as well as anthropogenic elements such as plantations, crops and built environments. Land cover changes for many reasons, including seasonal weather, severe weather events such as cyclones, floods and fires, and human activities such as mining, agriculture and urbanisation.</p> <p>Remote sensing data recorded over a period of time allows the observation of land cover dynamics. Classifying these responses provides a robust and repeatable way of characterising land cover types. These complement on ground survey where available.</p>

<p>Datasets</p>	<p>NSW Interim Native Vegetation Extent (2008-v2) NSW SLATS LANDSAT Woody Change: Derived Vector Database 1988 - 2010 Plant Community Type Classification Land Use Soil Landscapes Landscapes and Soils Soil data online</p>
<p>Purpose</p>	<p>The Land Cover theme is an essential and authoritative source of information that can provide insight into the behaviour of land cover to a wide variety of conditions, both natural and situational.</p> <p>This provides natural resource managers with the capacity to identify emerging patterns of land cover change and provides a broad spatial and historical context within which to interpret that land cover change.</p> <p>This can be combined with other information to assess if any pro-active intervention is required to alter change happening to the land cover.</p> <p>Information about Land Cover dynamics is essential to understanding and addressing a range of national challenges including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mapping and monitoring land use, natural resources, biodiversity, water usage, drought, pollution, minerals, water quality, wetlands, groundwater dependent ecosystems, land clearing, floodplains, crop acreage and growth, remnant vegetation, land degradation, irrigation, dry land salinity, and vegetation condition • management of forests, rivers, fisheries, catchments and agriculture • national and state inventories of forests, greenhouse gases, endangered species, land cover, topography, and carbon sinks • emergency management of floods, bushfires and landslides.
<p>Status</p>	<p>The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) is the source of truth for this data theme. OEH manages the state-wide vegetation, soils and land use datasets needed to support the Land Cover definitions. The current status of the land cover related datasets are as listed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woody extent – Statewide 2008 published and updated annually metadata. • Woody vegetation clearing (NSW SLATS 1988-2010) metadata links: a) Landsat woody change data (25m) for 1988-2010, and b) NSW SLATS LANDSAT Woody Change Vector Database 1988-2010. • Plant community type classification available via VIS Classification DB. • Land use. NSW 2005. • Soils Landscapes.

Standards	Woody vegetation extent – state-wide using 5m pixels from SPOT 5 Woody vegetation clearing (NSW SLATS, derived from SPOT 5)
Version	Version 0.7