

vegetation

NSW Native Vegetation REPORT CARD

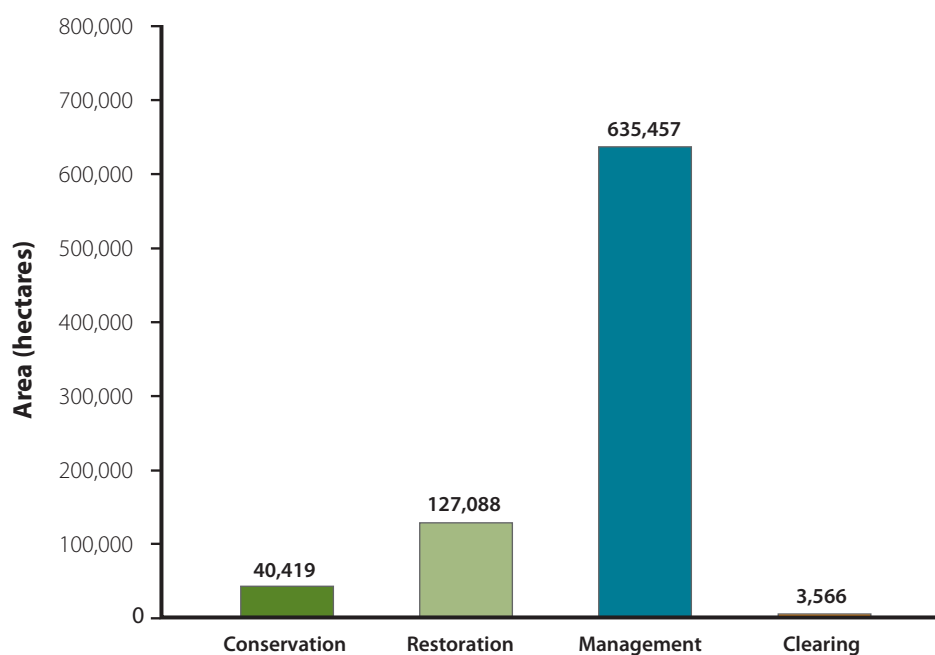
1 July to 31 December 2007

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

This report card is the fourth under the new *Native Vegetation Act 2003* and covers the period from 1 July to 31 December 2007. Also shown is the data from the two 2006 and the 1 January to 30 June 2007 Native Vegetation Report Cards for comparison. Further reports will be released every six months. They help build a picture of what is happening with native vegetation across the state.

The native vegetation statistics have been gathered through a collaborative effort between NSW natural resource agencies such as the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC), the Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs), the Department of Primary Industries (DPI), and Forests NSW.

Figure 1 Area of native vegetation that has been conserved, restored, managed and approved for clearing (including new clearing approvals) – 1 July to 31 December 2007



Categories

	Area (hectares)			
	Jan-Jun 2006	Jul-Dec 2006	Jan-Jun 2007	Jul-Dec 2007
New conservation areas				
Public reserve system – national park estate	26,606	25,549	129,706	35,070
Public reserve system – flora reserves	0	0	0	2,726
Private conservation areas – voluntary conservation agreements ¹	3,034	3,764	59	790
Private conservation areas – conservation covenants ²	4,201	910	6,914	484
Private conservation areas – wildlife refuges	69,786	90	166	121
Private conservation areas – PVPs in perpetuity ³	not available	not available	not available	1,229
TOTAL	103,627	30,313	136,844	40,419

New restoration/revegetation of native vegetation

Incentive PVPs	19,374	12,216	44,942	52,075
PVP offsets	1,078	2,830	2,101	7,376
Native plantations	4,787	3,506	12,384	7,194
Revegetation through other incentives (non-PVP) ⁴	76,165	54,038	185,629	54,946
Retained as a condition of approval to clear – <i>Plantations and Reafforestation Act 1999</i> and <i>Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997</i>	3,387	3,026	3,902	5,260
Wildlife refuges – habitat restored	127,975	0	3,807	131
Natural regeneration – excluding invasive native scrub	not available	1,500	16,766	106
TOTAL	232,767	82,615	337,916	127,088

New management of native vegetation

Invasive native scrub PVPs	41,145	77,750	446,365	357,250
Thinning to benchmark PVPs	7	584	264	74
Public forest estate	1,115	-720	-2,550	-11,848
Private native forestry on state protected land	7,699	9,441	7,142	5,435
Private native forestry PVPs ⁵	—	—	—	38,415
Improved rangeland management	not available	286,733	not available	119,870
Weed removal programs	940	28,271	276,642	126,261
TOTAL	50,906	402,059	727,862	635,457

New clearing of native vegetation

Clearing PVPs approved where environmental outcomes maintained or improved ⁶	36	257	119	3,374
Clearing under <i>Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997</i>	2,011	504	0	7
Clearing under <i>Plantations and Reafforestation Act 1999</i>	153	98	238	185
TOTAL	2,200	860	357	3,566

¹This was referred to previously as conservation agreements

²This is a new category and includes new data for previous reporting periods

³This is a new category

⁴This includes NHT, NAP and other revegetation categories from previous reports

⁵The first Private Native Forestry PVPs were approved in September 2007

⁶This includes clearing of isolated paddock trees

Category description

New conservation areas

- **Public reserve system – national park estate.** Areas of new national parks, nature reserves and state conservation areas, or additions to national parks, nature reserves and state conservation areas.
- **Public reserve system – flora reserves.**
- **Private conservation areas – conservation agreements.** Areas of new voluntary conservation agreements under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.
- **Private conservation areas – conservation covenants.** New conservation covenants imposed during the conversion of perpetual leases to freehold land in the Central and Eastern Divisions of NSW.
- **Private conservation areas – wildlife refuges.** Areas of new wildlife refuges under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. These areas are managed exclusively for conservation of wildlife habitat.
- **Private conservation areas – PVPs in perpetuity.** PVPs with in perpetuity conservation agreements.

New restoration/revegetation of native vegetation

- **Incentive PVPs.** Area of revegetation or restoration of native vegetation as set out in an incentive PVP.
- **PVP offsets.** Area of offsets as part of a PVP. Offsets are actions that a landholder agrees to in order to balance any negative impacts of clearing.
- **Native plantations.** New areas of native species plantations.
- **Revegetation through other incentives.** Revegetation activities conducted by CMAs through funding sources other than PVPs.
- **Retained as a condition of approval to clear – *Plantations and Reafforestation Act 1999 and Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997*.** Area of land retained as a condition of clearing consent, includes vegetation clearing approvals and plantation authorisations.
- **Wildlife refuges – habitat restored.** Areas integrating conservation into other land use activities, which also provides wildlife habitat, e.g. grazing on native unimproved grasslands/rangelands/woodlands.
- **Natural regeneration – excluding invasive native species.**

New management of native vegetation

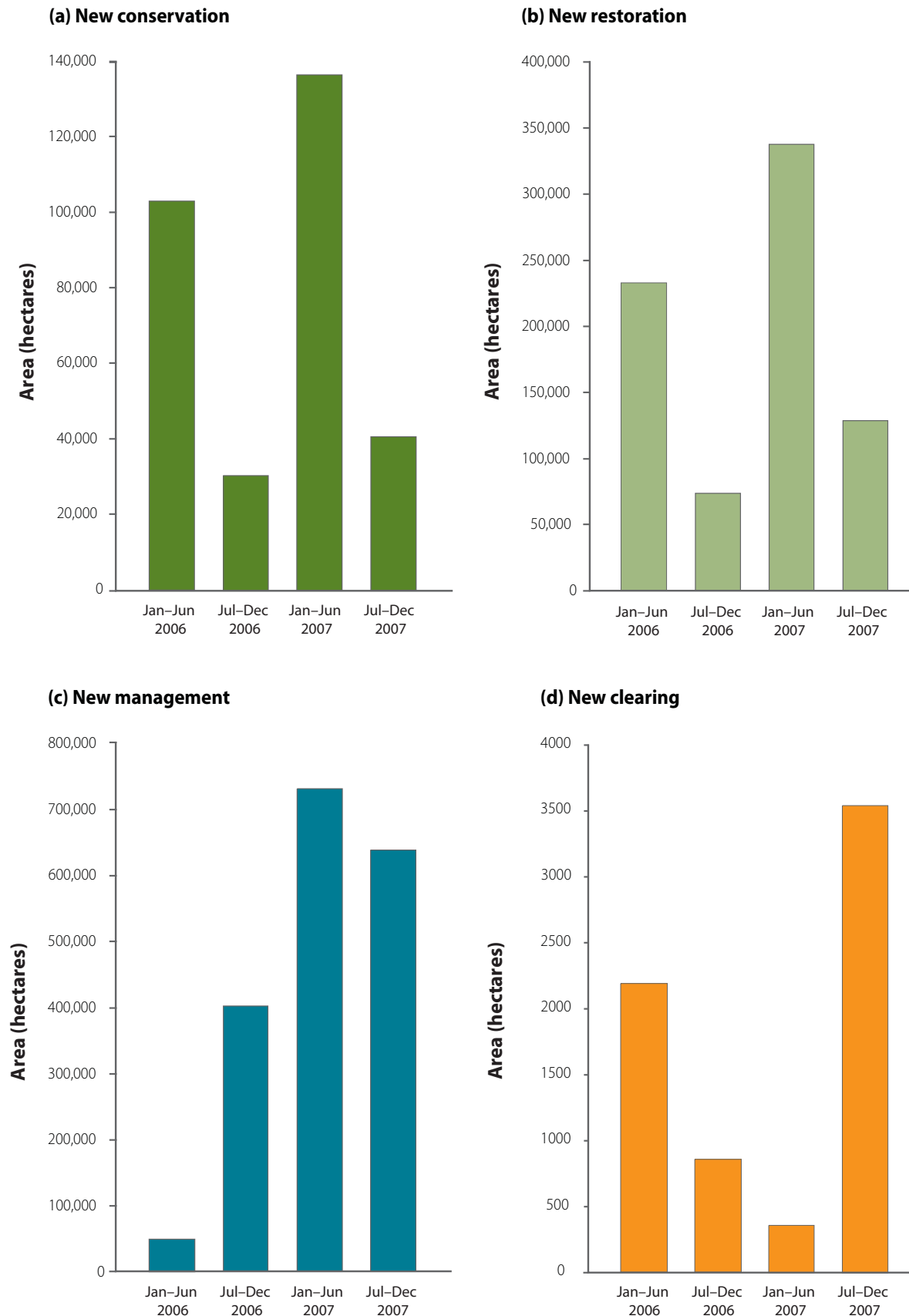
- **Invasive native scrub PVPs.** Area authorised under a PVP to manage invasive native scrub, the term used to describe native plant species that have spread rapidly within their natural range.
- **Thinning to benchmark.** Area of land to be cleared using thinning provisions of the Environmental Outcomes Assessment Methodology.
- **Public forest estate.** Area of new state forest.
- **Private native forestry on state protected land.** Areas of native forest on state protected land approved for timber harvesting and silviculture that does not significantly degrade native forests.
- **Private native forestry PVPs.** Area under a PVP for timber harvesting and often silviculture within a native forest. The Private Native Forestry Code of Practice commenced operation in August 2007.
- **Weed removal programs.** Area of land to be cleared of exotic weeds for environmental improvement.

New clearing of native vegetation

- **Clearing PVPs approved where environmental outcomes maintained or improved.** Area of land where clearing approved under a PVP that 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 under *Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997*.** Area of outstanding applications to be cleared under the *Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997*.
- **Clearing under *Plantations and Reafforestation Act 1999*.** Area of land to be cleared under the *Plantations and Reafforestation Act 1999*.

Figure 2 Area of native vegetation that has been **(a)** conserved, **(b)** restored, **(c)** managed and **(d)** approved for clearing (including new clearing approvals) – 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2007

(Note: The scale differs for each graph)



Data sources

Forests NSW provided data on 11 February 2008, DPI provided information on plantations on 22 January 2008, DoL provided information on conservation covenants on 26 February 2008, and information was collected from DECC for the public reserve system on 29 January 2008, private conservation areas on 4 February 2008 and PNF PVPs on 14 January 2008. Data was taken from DECC's *Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997* application database 'VegNet2' and from the PVP Administration and Management Systems database on 22 January 2008. CMAs provided data from 15 January to 15 February 2008.

Data limitations or exclusions

- The statistics do not include clearing carried out under exemptions.
- The statistics only include DECC, DPI, DoL, CMA and Forests NSW data. They do not include data from other agencies or external organisations.

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