

How is the Native Vegetation Regulatory Map made?



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Part 5A of the *Local Land Services Act 2013* (LLS Act), requires the Chief Executive of the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) to prepare a Native Vegetation Regulatory (NVR) Map.

The NVR Map generally covers rural land in NSW. It categorises land where management of native vegetation can occur without approval or where management of native vegetation may be carried out in accordance with Part 5A of the LLS Act. A summary of categories used in the NVR Map is shown below.

The NVR Map is prepared using a peer reviewed scientific method. The Map Method is available at: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/bcact/native-vegetation-regulatory-map-method-170495.pdf>.

The map method identifies land cleared as at January 1990, or lawfully cleared between 1 January 1990 and commencement of Part 5A of the LLS Act on 25 August 2017. It also explains how other data layers are used to categorise the land.

In simple terms, land is mapped as Category 1 where it has been lawfully cleared. However, the legislation may require the land to be a different category based on other criteria.

The other criteria may also determine when land is categorised as Category 2 – Vulnerable Regulated Land which are steep lands, riparian lands or special category lands or Category 2 – Sensitive Regulated Lands which are identified in the Regulation. Criteria may include factors such as the presence of coastal wetlands, littoral rainforests or land subject to property agreements or covenants.

The NVR Map will be updated regularly including:

- Annual updates following application of new or improved data
- More frequent updates capturing new information such as code certification and set-aside sites
- Landholder Initiated Map Review (LIMR) changes

Due to ongoing refinements and updates to the NVR Map you should always check if the map has changed before undertaking any management activities on your property. The Map Viewer will allow you to print a date stamped version of the map. It is recommended that you print a copy of the map for your records prior to undertaking any vegetation clearing works.

What are the categories shown on the NVR Map?

Each category has been developed using a combination of scientific assessment and the application of data as specified in the legislation. The following Table provides a general explanation of the categories in simple terms.

Colour	Category	How was this category made?
	Category 1 Unrestricted Management (Exempt)	A range of remote sensing data products are used to develop this category including
	Generally land cleared of native vegetation as at 1 January 1990 or lawfully cleared of native vegetation between 1 January 1990 and the commencement of Part 5A of the LLS Act.	Spot 5, Airborne Digital Scanner (ADS), aerial imagery, Seasonal Cover disturbance assessment between 1990 to 2013 using Landsat imagery and Statewide Landcover and Tree Study (SLATS) woody vegetation change from 1990-2013.
	Land containing, low conservation value grasslands (where identified by the application of the Interim Grassland and other Groundcover Assessment method (IGGAM) and or native vegetation that was identified as regrowth in a property vegetation plan under the <i>Native Vegetation Act 2003</i> .	For clearing prior to the commencement of Part 5A of the LLS Act, areas of clearing are generally identified by interpreting or analysing the remote sensed data. Note: If clearing is subsequently proven to be unlawful, it would be re-categorized to Category 2.
	Land that has been biodiversity certified.	Areas prescribed by the LLS Act and Local Land Services Regulation 2014 (LLS Regulation) are applied where relevant to revise certain Category 2 lands to Category 1.
	Category 2 Code Based Management (Regulated)	This category uses a range of remote sensing data products including: Spot 5, ADS, aerial imagery and Seasonal Cover disturbance assessment between 1990 to 2013 using Landsat imagery.
	Generally land not cleared or unlawfully cleared Also includes areas mapped as Category 2 because of specific criteria stipulated in the Legislation.	Areas prescribed by the LLS Act and LLS Regulation are applied where relevant to revise certain Category 1 lands to Category 2. This may involve applying a range of methods such as integrating existing data sets and records that identify specified features of the land.

Colour	Category	How was this category made?
	Category 2 – Regulated (Vulnerable) Steep and highly erodible land, riparian land and declared special category land.	The development of this sub-category is outlined in the map method. This category may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land mapped as steep or highly erodible land (slope greater than 18 degrees) • Riparian land mapped 20 metres either side of natural streams • Special category land limited to declared areas of: Lowbidgee floodplain (wetlands); Yass region (salinity); Tweed Catchment (land slip)
	Category 2 – Regulated (Sensitive) Generally rural land identified as having special environmental value. Criteria for determining sensitive regulated land are outlined in the LLS Act and LLS Regulation.	Data applied to develop this sub-category is specified in the LLS Regulation. Data and records, from a range of sources, are used to identify land that meets the criteria specified in the LLS Regulation. This category may include such factors as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • coastal wetlands • certain rainforests • old growth forest • core koala habitat • high conservation grasslands • critically endangered entities • land subject to conservation or incentive agreements or covenants
	Excluded land: Land zones where Part 5A of the LLS Act does not apply. The NVR Map displays these areas.	This layer is made up of a specified list of land zonings and statutory exclusions listed in the Part 5A of the LLS Act.

Information

For further information about the NVR Map go to: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/biodiversity/regulatorymap.htm> or contact the Map Review Team on 02 6360 9000 or map.review@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Further information about the NSW Biodiversity Reforms and the NSW Native Vegetation Regulation Map can be found on the Land Management Website <http://landmanagement.nsw.gov.au>.