



How to access Vegetation Condition Benchmark data from BioNet

Quick guide for BioNet Vegetation Classification
August 2017

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How to access Benchmark data from BioNet

Vegetation Condition Benchmark information for a Plant Community Type (PCT) is maintained in the BioNet Vegetation Classification database. This document provides a quick guide on how to view the Benchmark information and to export the Benchmark data.

How to view Benchmark data via the PCT user interface

1. Login to the BioNet Vegetation Classification Database

Register and access the database (use your email as login ID). The link to access the application is:

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NSWVCA20PRapp/LoginPR.aspx>

2. Search and display PCT data

Access this function by clicking on the 'Search and Display PCT' dropdown menu item on the 'PCT Data' top navigation bar.

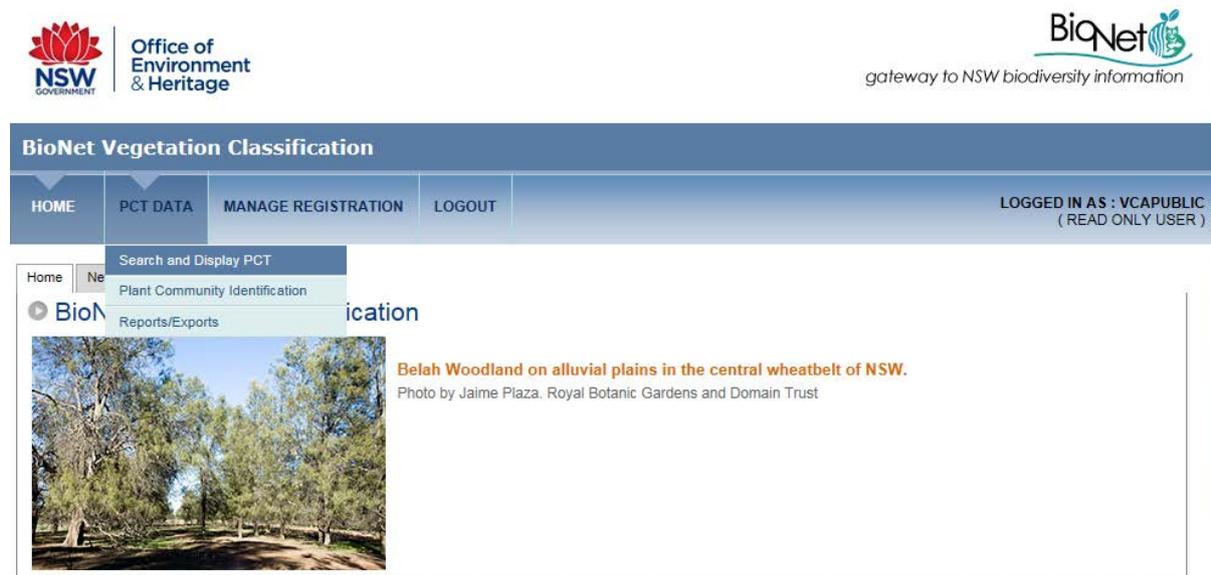


Figure 1 BioNet Vegetation Classification homepage

3. Search for PCT Data

Step 1: Specify the Plant Community Type ID or other parameters in the State-wide Search fields.

How to use the search fields:

The fields for the 'State-wide search' are either text fields (the first four fields) or dropdown menu fields (the bottom six fields).

The additional fields allow you to search by threatened ecological communities (*Threatened Ecological Communities Act* (EC Act) and threatened ecological communities (TEC) name), and by local government authority (LGA).

For the text fields, type in the terms or partial terms and hit 'Enter' on your keyboard, or the 'Search' button at the bottom of the screen. For example, entering 'red gum' in the PCT common name field will retrieve all PCTs with 'red gum' in their common name.

To use one of the dropdown fields, click the dropdown arrow next to the relevant field, then click to select the entry you want.

If you want to create a search using more than one term, either type in the full or partial terms in the free text fields, and select the relevant entries via the dropdown fields.

When you are using multiple fields to create your search, you can specify how you want the terms to interact. This means setting a condition where ALL terms must be met, or where ANY of the terms are met. These two types of interactions are chosen via the dropdown fields to the right of the relevant field.

As an example, selecting Alpine Herbfields from the Vegetation Class (Keith 2004) field, then selecting Broken Hill Complex from the IBRA Bioregion field and leaving the interaction term as the default 'or' will retrieve a list of all PCTs that are either in the Broken Hill Complex IBRA Bioregion or are defined as within the Alpine Herbfields Vegetation Class.

State-wide Search Fields:

Plant Community Type ID :

VCA ID :

Type (part) scientific name or click button to search for name

PCT Scientific Name : OR

Text Fields

PCT Common Name :

Authority : --choose--

Vegetation Formation (Keith, 2004) : --choose--

Vegetation Class (Keith, 2004) : --choose--

PCT Definition Status : --choose--

IBRA Bioregion : --choose--

IBRA Subregion :
 AUA Australian Alps
 BBS Brigalow Belt South
 BHC Broken Hill Complex
 CHC Channel Country
 COP Cobar Peneplain
 DRP Darling Riverine Plains
 MDD Murray Darling Depression
 MUL Mulga Lands

Additional Fields : (NB: may retrieve only p

Local Government Authority (LGA) : NAN Nandewar

TEC Act : NET New England Tablelands
 NNC NSW North Coast

TEC Name : NSS NSW South Western Slopes
 RIV Riverina
 SEC South East Corner
 SEH South Eastern Highlands
 SEQ South Eastern Queensland
 SSD Simpson Strzelecki Dunefields
 SYB Sydney Basin

Drop down Fields

or

or

or

or

or

or

and

or

or

or

Interaction when multiple fields used for search

Figure 2 Using the text fields and dropdown menu items to search for PCT

Step 2: Show results by selecting 'Search' button. The system will display the results in the area below the search fields at the bottom of the page. This will also display how many records match your search term(s).



BioNet Vegetation Classification

HOME PCT DATA MANAGE REGISTRATION LOGOUT LOGGED IN AS : VCAPUBLIC (READ ONLY USER)

▶ **Search and Display**
This search facility enables you to search for, and display, all information for one plant community type. [More information](#)

▶ **Search Fields**
Use this page to search for a plant community on predefined parameters. Enter one or more items to search on. [More information](#)

Please Read:
Only a limited number of fields in the BioNet Vegetation Classification have been fully populated for all plant communities. These fields are suitable for state-wide searches, and if used will return a complete list search result. You should search using these fields only if you require a comprehensive list of available plant community types.
Coverage for the remaining fields in the BioNet Vegetation Classification is incomplete and searches may retrieve only partial results. In particular, the data for plant community types along the eastern ranges and coastal areas of NSW is restricted, and there may be no data in any fields other than the state-wide fields referred to above. If this is your area of interest, you are advised to use the State-wide Search above. The coverage for the western portions of the state is good, however, so if your area of interest is in these regions, you can search using the full range of fields available. The [data coverage map](#) illustrates the area covered by the full list of fields.

State-wide Search Fields:

Plant Community Type ID : 25
 VCA ID :
 Type (part) scientific name or click button to search for name
 PCT Scientific Name : OR
 PCT Common Name :
 Authority : --choose--
 Vegetation Formation (Keith, 2004) : --choose--
 Vegetation Class (Keith, 2004) : --choose--
 PCT Definition Status : --choose--
 IBRA Bioregion : --choose--
 IBRA Subregion : --choose--

Additional Fields : (NB: may retrieve only partial results if included)

Local Government Authority (LGA) : --choose--
 TEC Act : --choose--
 TEC Name :

Search results

Plant community ID	common name (community)	scientific name (taxon)	
25	Lignum shrubland wetland on floodplains and depressions of the Mulga Lands Bioregion, Channel Country Bioregion in the arid and semi-arid (hot) climate zones	Muehlenbeckia florulenta / Enchylaena tomentosa / Eragrostis setifolia , Alternanthera nodiflora , Centipeda cunninghamii , Marsilea drummondii	<input type="button" value="View"/>

Your search returned 1 record(s).

Figure 3 Search for Plant Community Type data

The figure shows searching for a PCT record by specifying the 'Plant Community Type ID' (e.g. 25).

4. Select PCT and view Benchmark Information

Step 1: Choose the 'View' option to view the details of the selected PCT.



BioNet Vegetation Classification

HOME
PCT DATA
MANAGE REGISTRATION
LOGOUT
LOGGED IN AS : VCAPUBLIC
(READ ONLY USER)

Search and Display

This search facility enables you to search for, and display, all information for one plant community type. [More information](#)

Search Fields

Use this page to search for a plant community on predefined parameters. Enter one or more items to search on. [More information](#)

Please Read:

Only a limited number of fields in the BioNet Vegetation Classification have been fully populated for all plant communities. These fields are suitable for state-wide searches, and if used will return a complete list search result. You should search using these fields only if you require a comprehensive list of available plant community types.

Coverage for the remaining fields in the BioNet Vegetation Classification is incomplete and searches may retrieve only partial results. In particular, the data for plant community types along the eastern ranges and coastal areas of NSW is restricted, and there may be no data in any fields other than the state-wide fields referred to above. If this is your area of interest, you are advised to use the State-wide Search above. The coverage for the western portions of the state is good, however, so if your area of interest is in these regions, you can search using the full range of fields available. The [data coverage map](#) illustrates the area covered by the full list of fields.

State-wide Search Fields:

Plant Community Type ID :

VCA ID : or

Type (part) scientific name or click button to search for name

PCT Scientific Name : OR or

PCT Common Name : or

Authority : --choose-- or

Vegetation Formation (Keith, 2004) : --choose-- or

Vegetation Class (Keith, 2004) : --choose-- or

PCT Definition Status : --choose-- and

IBRA Bioregion : --choose-- or

IBRA Subregion : --choose-- or

Additional Fields : (NB: may retrieve only partial results if included)

Local Government Authority (LGA) : --choose-- or

TEC Act : --choose-- or

TEC Name : or

Search results

Plant community ID	common name (community)	scientific name (taxon)	
25	Lignum shrubland wetland on floodplains and depressions of the Mulga Lands Bioregion, Channel Country Bioregion in the arid and semi-arid (hot) climate zones	Muehlenbeckia florulenta / Enchylaena tomentosa / Eragrostis setifolia Alternanthera nodiflora , Centipeda cunninghamii , Marsilea drummondii	<input type="button" value="View"/>

Your search returned 1 record(s).

Figure 4 Select the PCT record to view the details

Step 2: Select the 'Threatened Biodiversity, TECs & Benchmarks' tab.

BioNet Vegetation Classification

HOME | PCT DATA | MANAGE REGISTRATION | LOGOUT | LOGGED IN AS : VCAPUBLIC (READ ONLY USER)

Plant community Print PCT

View plant community
Use this page to view a vegetation community.

PCTID : 25 VCAID : 25 **Common name (community) :** Lignum shrubland wetland on floodplains and depressions of the Mulga Lands Bioregion, Channel Country Bioregion in the arid and semi-arid (hot) climate zones

Classification Type : Qualitative
PCT Definition Status : Approved **PCT Benchmark Calculation level :** Class/IBRA **Status :** 0 out of 6 IBRA regions Approved
PCT % Cleared Status : Draft **PCT Threatened Ecological Communities Association Status :** 31/12/2005 **Tool Ready :** No
Classification confidence level : 2 High **Authority :** VCA 1.1 - archive

Vegetation community details | Scientific description | Distribution information | Extent | **Threatened Biodiversity, TECs & Benchmarks** | Spatial information | Image management | Status and lineage

Species by Stratum

Guide to Structural Terms

Species upper stratum : Eucalyptus coolabah subsp. coolabah
 Eucalyptus largiflorens (Black Box)
 Eucalyptus populnea subsp. bimbil (Bimble Box) View

Species middle stratum : Muehlenbeckia florulenta (Lignum)
 Chenopodium nitriaceum (Nitre Goosefoot)
 Eragrostis australasica (Canegrass)
 Atriplex holocarpa (Pop Saltbush)
 Nitraria billardierei (Dillon Bush)
 Sclerolaena tricuspis (Giant Redburr)
 Acacia stenophylla (River Cooba)
 Acacia salicina (Cooba)
 Acacia oswaldii (Miljee)
 Myoporum montanum (Western Bonbilla) View

Species ground stratum : Eragrostis setifolia (Neverfail)
 Alternanthera nodiflora (Common Joyweed)
 Centipeda cunninghamii (Common Sneezeweed)
 Marsilea drummondii (Common Nardoo)
 Marsilea costulifera
 Eleocharis pallens (Pale Spike Sedge)
 Eleocharis acuta
 Fimbristylis dichotoma (Common Fringe-sedge)
 Juncus aridicola (Tussock Rush)
 Lachnagrostis filiformis

See Structural Terms for further information

Community Structure
 Descriptive Attributes
 References

Figure 5 PCT details

Step 3: Choose the 'Community Condition Benchmarks' section to expand the list for Benchmarks for the selected PCT.

BioNet Vegetation Classification

HOME
PCT DATA
MANAGE REGISTRATION
LOGOUT
LOGGED IN AS : VCAPUBLIC
(READ ONLY USER)

Plant community Print PCT

View plant community
Use this page to view a vegetation community.

PCTID : 25 VCAID : 25 **Common name (community) :** Lignum shrubland wetland on floodplains and depressions of the Mulga Lands Bioregion, Channel Country Bioregion in the arid and semi-arid (hot) climate zones

Classification Type : Qualitative
PCT Definition Status : Approved **PCT Benchmark Calculation level :** Class/IBRA **Status :** 0 out of 6 IBRA regions Approved
PCT % Cleared Status : Draft **PCT Threatened Ecological Communities Association Status :** 31/12/2005 **Tool Ready :** No
Classification confidence level : 2 High **Authority :** VCA 1.1 - archive

Vegetation community details	Scientific description	Distribution information	External links	Threatened Biodiversity, TECs & Benchmarks	Spatial information	Image management	Status and lineage
------------------------------	------------------------	--------------------------	----------------	--	---------------------	------------------	--------------------

Threatened Biodiversity

Community Condition Benchmarks

Vegetation Class	Inland Floodplain Shrublands					
IBRA	Channel Country	Simpson Strzelecki Dunefields	Cobar Penepplain	Broken Hill Complex	Brigalow Belt South	Mulga Lands
Benchmark Calculation Level	Class/IBRA	Class/IBRA	Class/IBRA	Class/IBRA	Class/IBRA	Class/IBRA
Tree Richness	1	0	1	0	1	1
Shrub Richness	6	5	5	8	5	5
Grass and Grass Like Richness	6	6	7	6	6	5
Forb Richness	9	10	12	10	8	6
Fern Richness	1	1	2	1	1	1
Other Richness	1	1	1	1	1	0
Tree Cover	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Shrub Cover	35.0	58.0	29.0	149.0	37.0	73.0
Grass and Grass Like Cover	9.0	34.0	5.0	4.0	16.0	4.0
Forb Cover	9.0	11.0	3.0	5.0	6.0	6.0
Fern Cover	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Cover	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total length of fallen logs						
Litter Cover						
Number of Large Trees						
Large Tree Threshold Size						
Benchmark Variation	monthly average, following AVERAGE RAINFALL year					

Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) Listings

Figure 6 View Benchmark information for the PCTs

How to generate a benchmark report or export

1. Select the Reports/Exports interface

Access this function by clicking on the 'Reports/Exports' dropdown menu item on the 'PCT Data' top navigation bar.

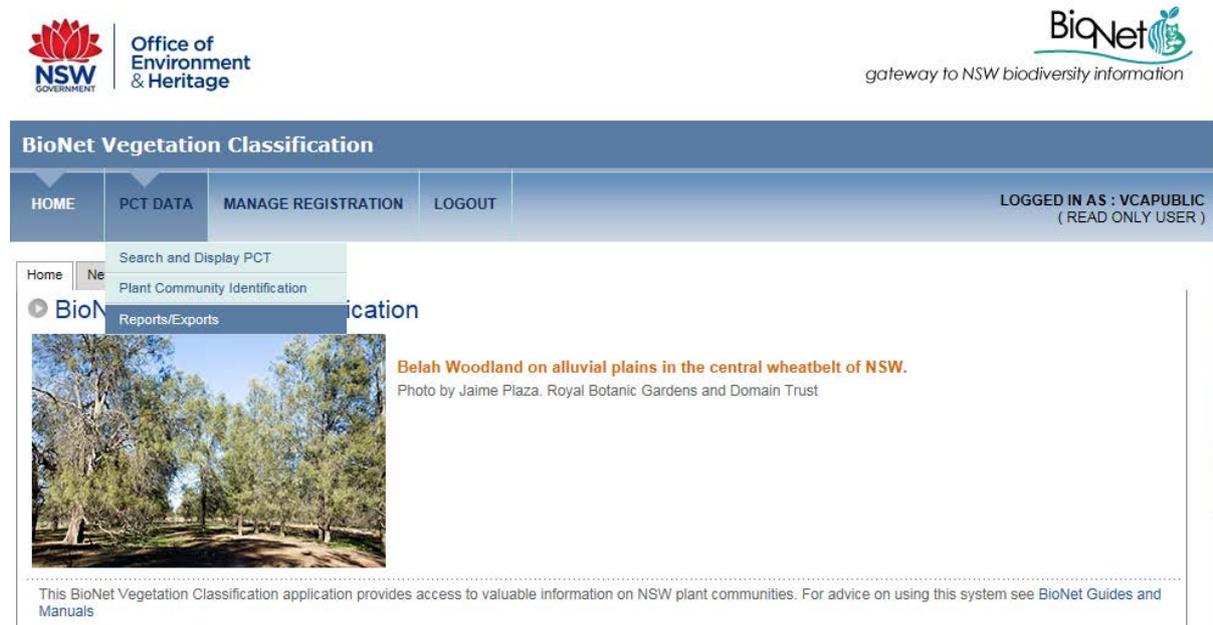


Figure 7 Reports/Exports menu

2. Choose the Search option

Export Reports in Acrobat PDF or MS Word (doc) format:

Step 1: Choose the search option as 'Reports'.

Step 2: Choose 'Search' link to invoke the 'State-wide Advanced Search' screen.

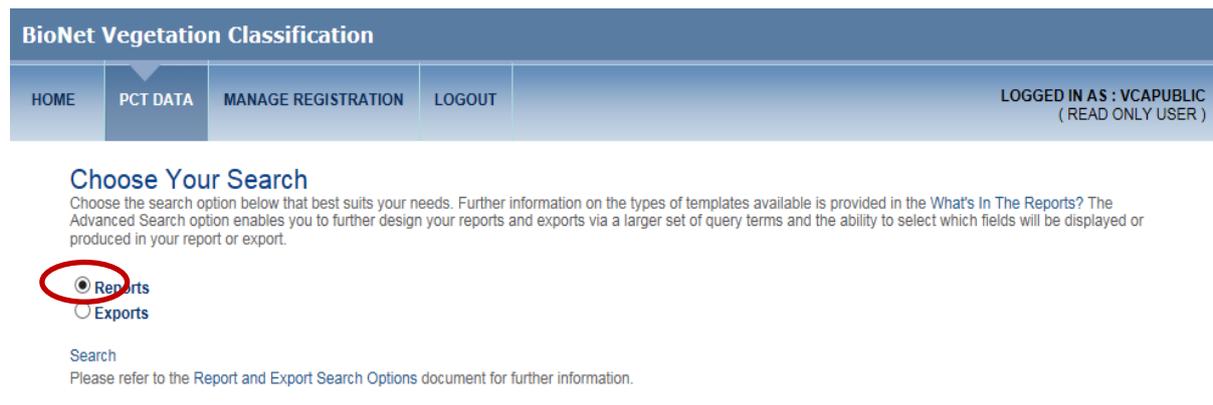


Figure 8 Search for Reports/Exports

Step 3: In the 'Create a new search' section, choose the Report Template as 'PCT Benchmarks report'. The relevant search fields for the template is loaded into the 'Select communities by' query box in Step 4.

Figure 9 Select Communities By – selected based on the chosen report template

Step 4: Choose the first filter criterion for the report, and select 'Add' button. The filter can be chosen from Community Benchmark Information, Community Definition (PCT Data) or Distribution Information (IBRA Bioregion). Repeat for each subsequent criterion.

3. Use the search criteria

How to use the search criteria:

- a. Scroll down the 'Select Communities by' list to see what fields are available.
- b. Check one of the search field boxes. The 'Add' button should now become active (i.e. no longer greyed out).
- c. Click the 'Add' button to open the 'Search condition' window for the selected criterion.

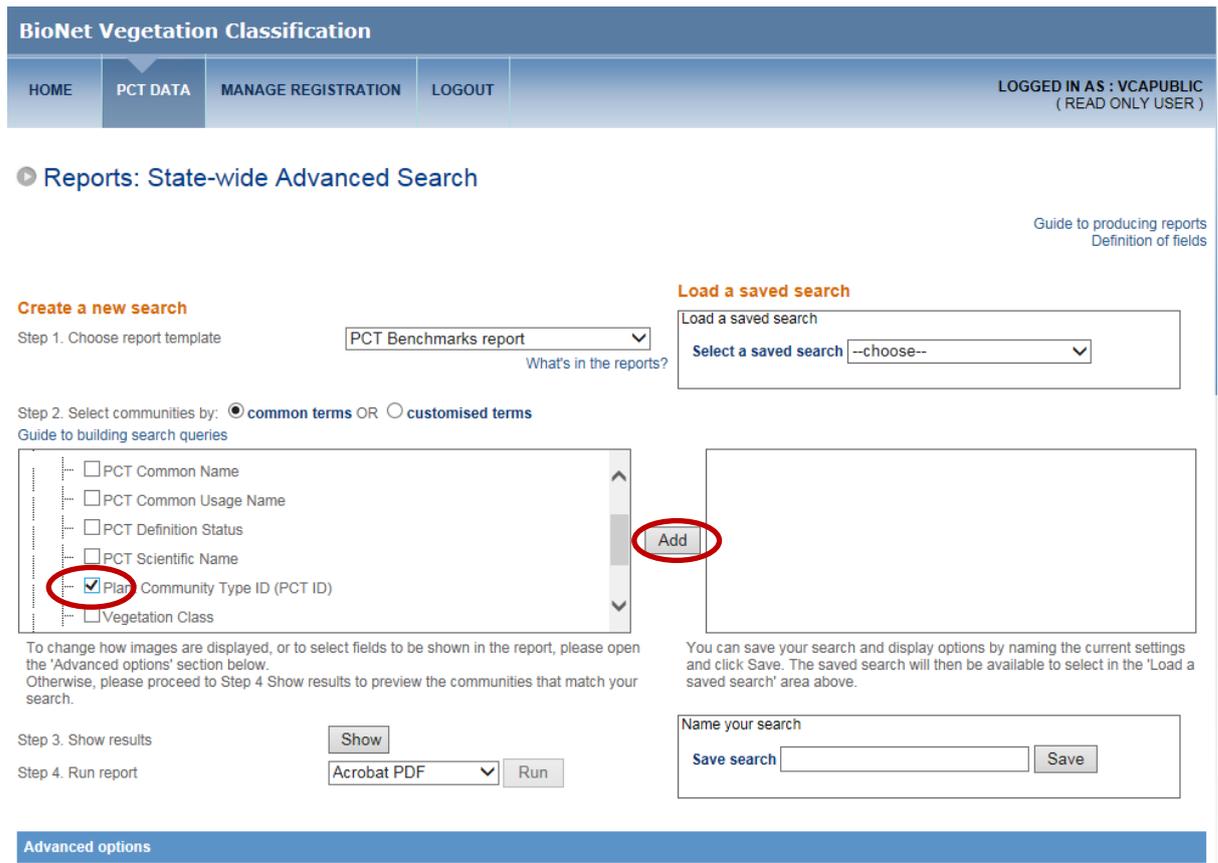


Figure 10 'PCT Benchmarks report'

- d. Click on the 'Operator' dropdown menu to view and select the options. These will vary according to the type of data in the relevant field.
- e. When you have selected the 'Operator', select the 'Attribute value' from the dropdown menu next to the field.
- f. Select the term you want by clicking once on the relevant entry. The 'Search condition' window should now show your choices.
- g. Select the type of operator you want applied for this criterion, either 'Any (Or)' or 'All (And)'. If you are using only one criterion, this term is not relevant. The 'Select records for' terms operate between the criteria, so that selecting 'Any (or)' will include communities that meet either of the criteria, while 'All (And)' will include only communities that meet both criteria simultaneously.
- h. The order of criteria is crucial to getting the result you want, as the first criteria creates a subset that the second criteria is matched to. Using the same criteria and swapping their order can therefore produce different results.

- i. Click 'OK' to retain the criteria. The selected criteria should now appear in the Search query build box to the right.

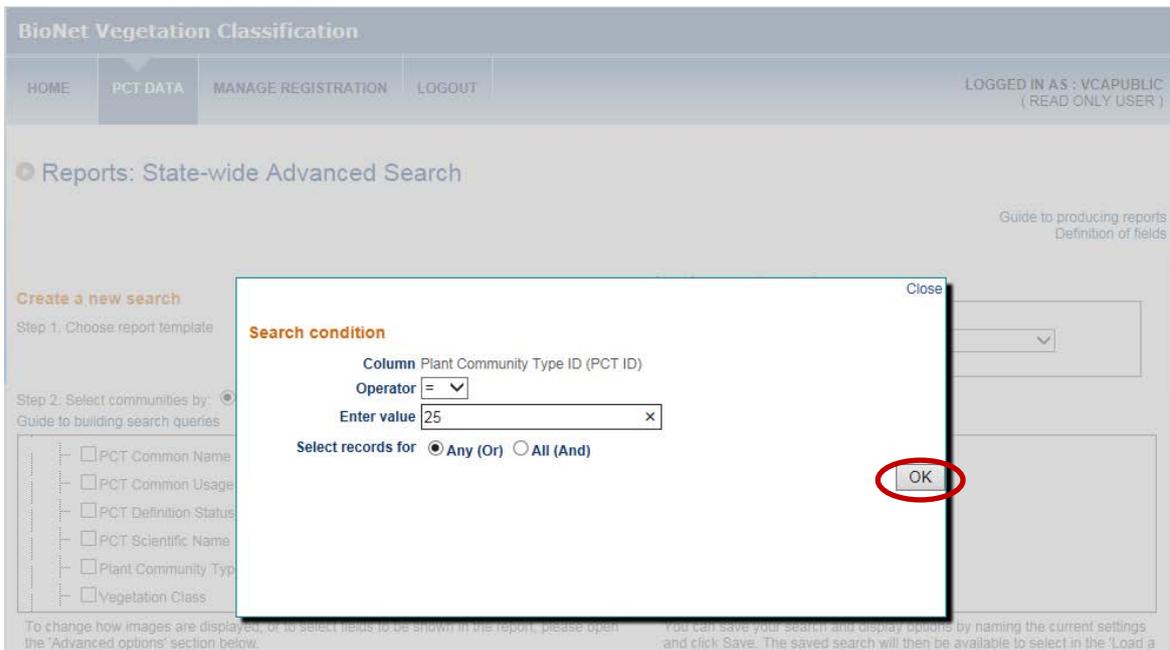


Figure 11 PCT Benchmark Report - Specify Search Condition

Step 5: Specify the required search criterion in the Search condition popup. Delete or edit the criteria in this compiling area by clicking on the 'Edit criteria' or 'Delete criteria' text separately for each criterion.

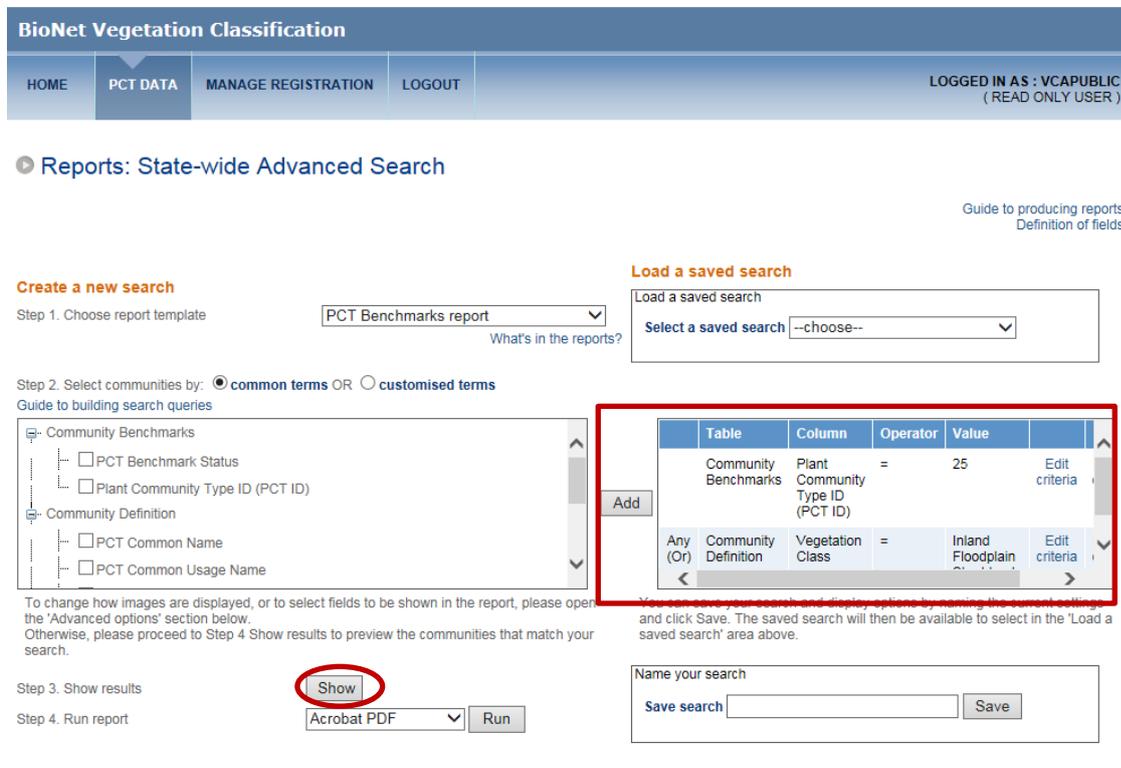


Figure 12 PCT Benchmark Report – Selected search criterion

Step 6: Show results by selecting **Show**. This opens a list of the PCTs that meet your criteria

The results can be refined by deselecting the check box to the left of each 'Benchmark ID'. Select **OK** to close the display window.

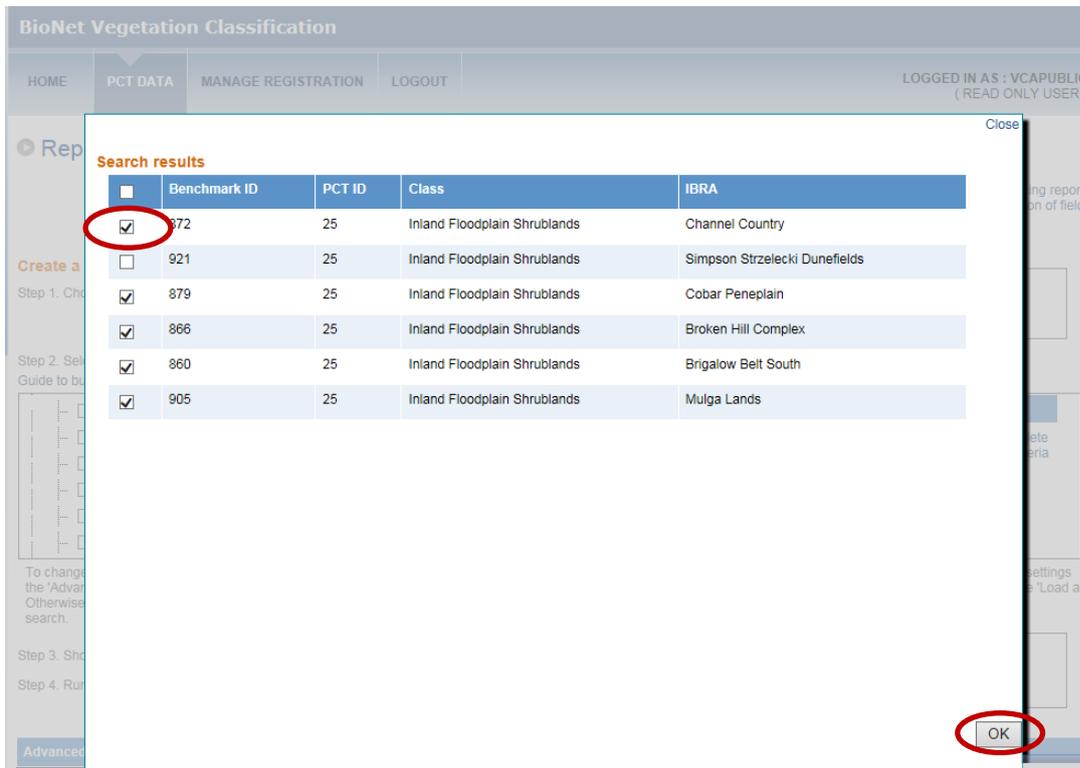


Figure 13 PCT Benchmark Report - Refine Search Results

Step 7: Run report by selecting the Report option as 'Acrobat PDF' or MS Word (Doc) and invoke **Run**. Depending on the size of the report/export (i.e. number of PCTs selected and number of fields/columns to be displayed), this may take a few minutes.

You will have the choice of Open/Save/Cancel the report after the server has processed the request.

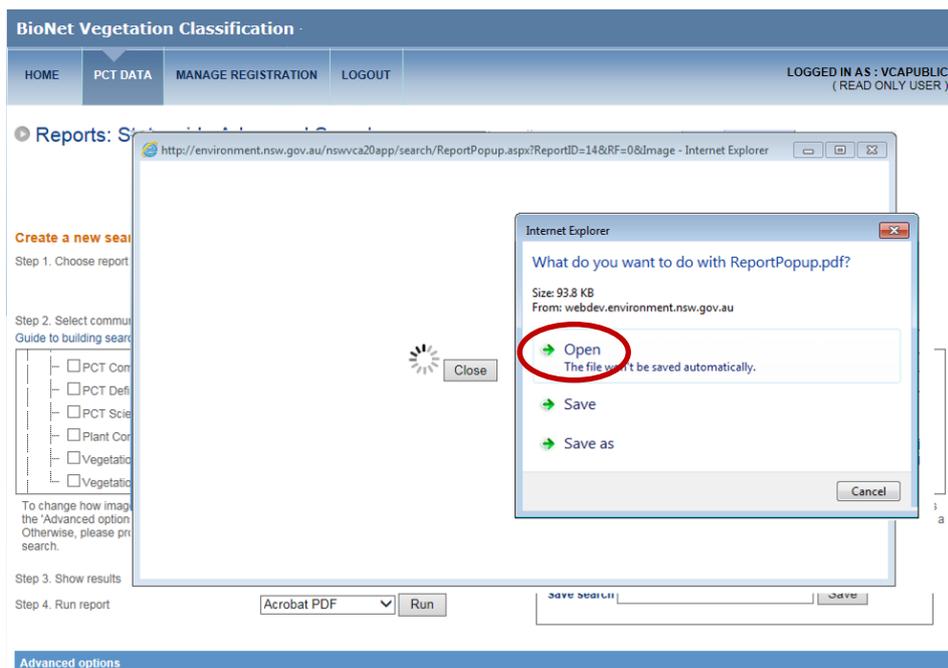


Figure 14 Download Benchmarks by PCT report

Export Reports in CSV format:

Step 8: At Step 1, select the option as 'Export' and proceed to 'Search'.

Step 9: After specifying the search criterion (as defined in Step 4), invoke the 'Run' option to download the report in CSV format.

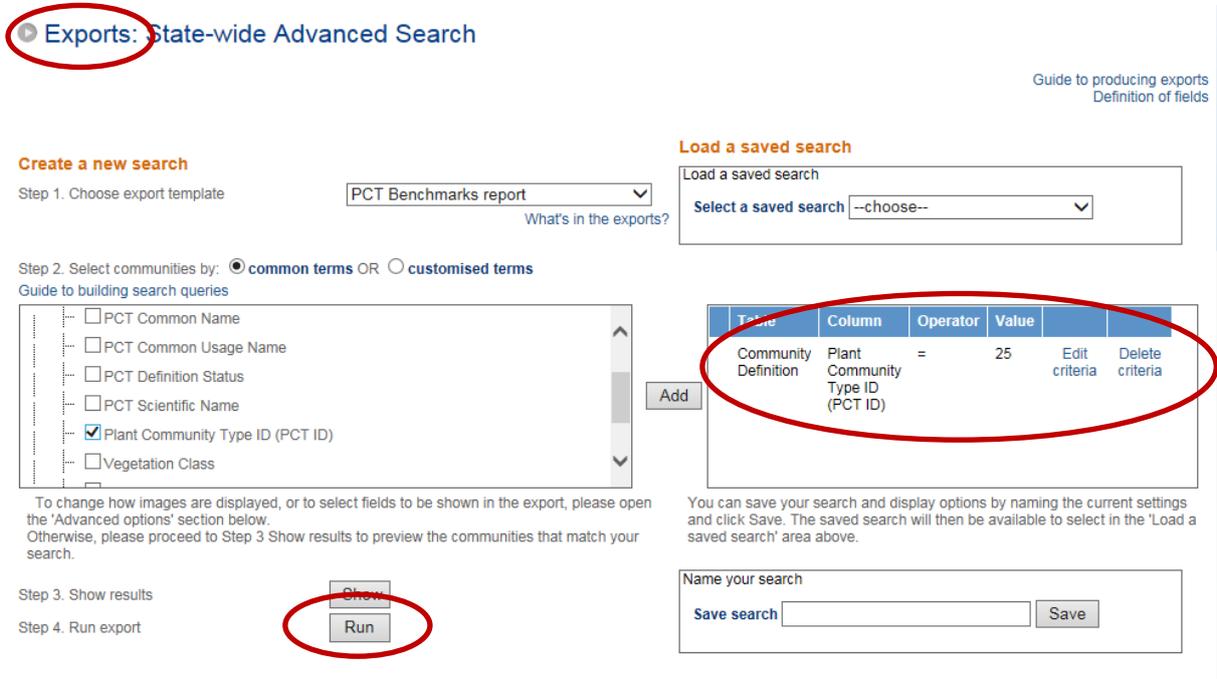


Figure 15 Export PCT Benchmark - Specify filter criterion

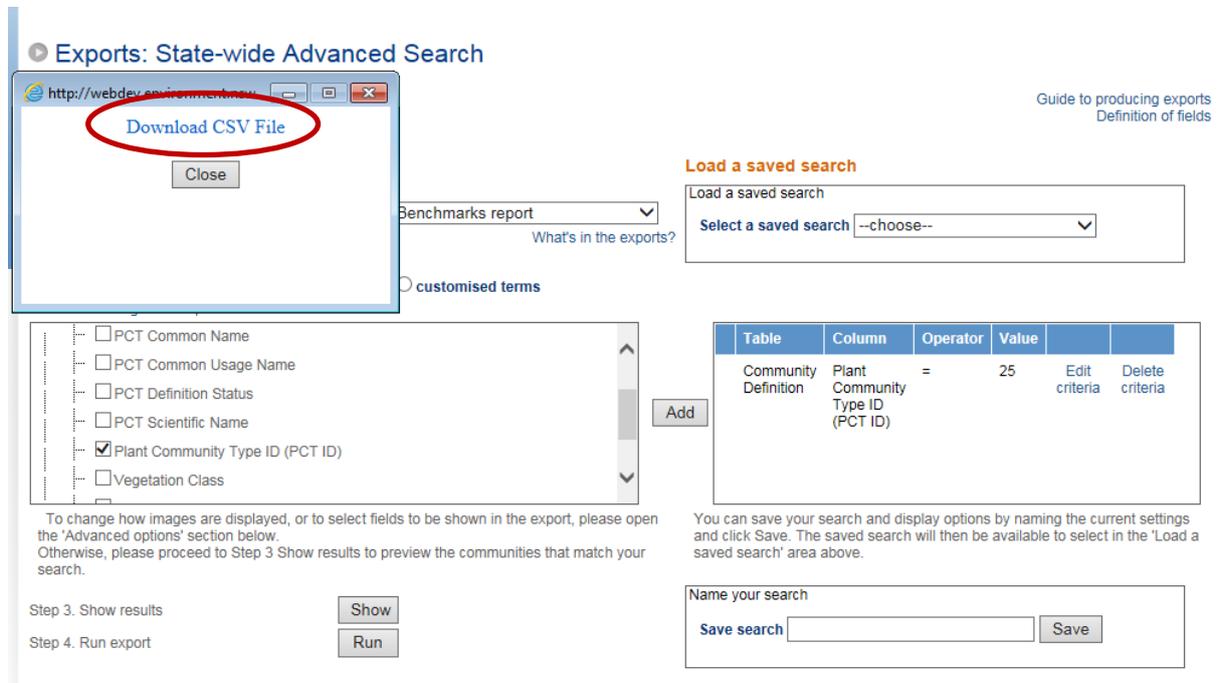


Figure 16 Export PCT Benchmark - Choose the 'Download CSV File' option

Exports: State-wide Advanced Search

Guide to producing exports
Definition of fields

Download CSV File

Close

CSVExport_PCT_B.....csv (1.55 KB) webdev. x

View downloads

benchmarks report

What's in the exports?

customised terms

PCT Common Name

PCT Common Usage Name

PCT Definition Status

PCT Scientific Name

Plant Community Type ID (PCT ID)

Vegetation Class

To change how images are displayed, or to select fields to be shown in the export, please open the 'Advanced options' section below. Otherwise, please proceed to Step 3 Show results to preview the communities that match your search.

Step 3. Show results

Step 4. Run export

Load a saved search

Load a saved search

Select a saved search --choose--

Table	Column	Operator	Value	Edit criteria	Delete criteria
Community Definition	Plant Community Type ID (PCT ID)	=	25	Edit criteria	Delete criteria

Add

Name your search

Save search

Figure 17 Export PCT Benchmark - Choose the 'View downloads' option to view the CSV File

How to Access Benchmark Data using BioNet Web service

1. How to connect to BioNet Web service

Step 1: Open Microsoft Excel (version 2010 or higher) running on a Windows based PC.

Step 2: Open the Power query tab in Excel (or Data Tab and then New Query).

Step 3: In the 'Get External Data' (or New Query) section of the Power Query ribbon, select 'From Other Sources' and click on 'From OData Feed'.

Note: For more information on how to access the BioNet web service using Excel and power query visit the below link.

<https://data.bionet.nsw.gov.au/resources/bionet/bionet-access-excel-power-query-160403.pdf>

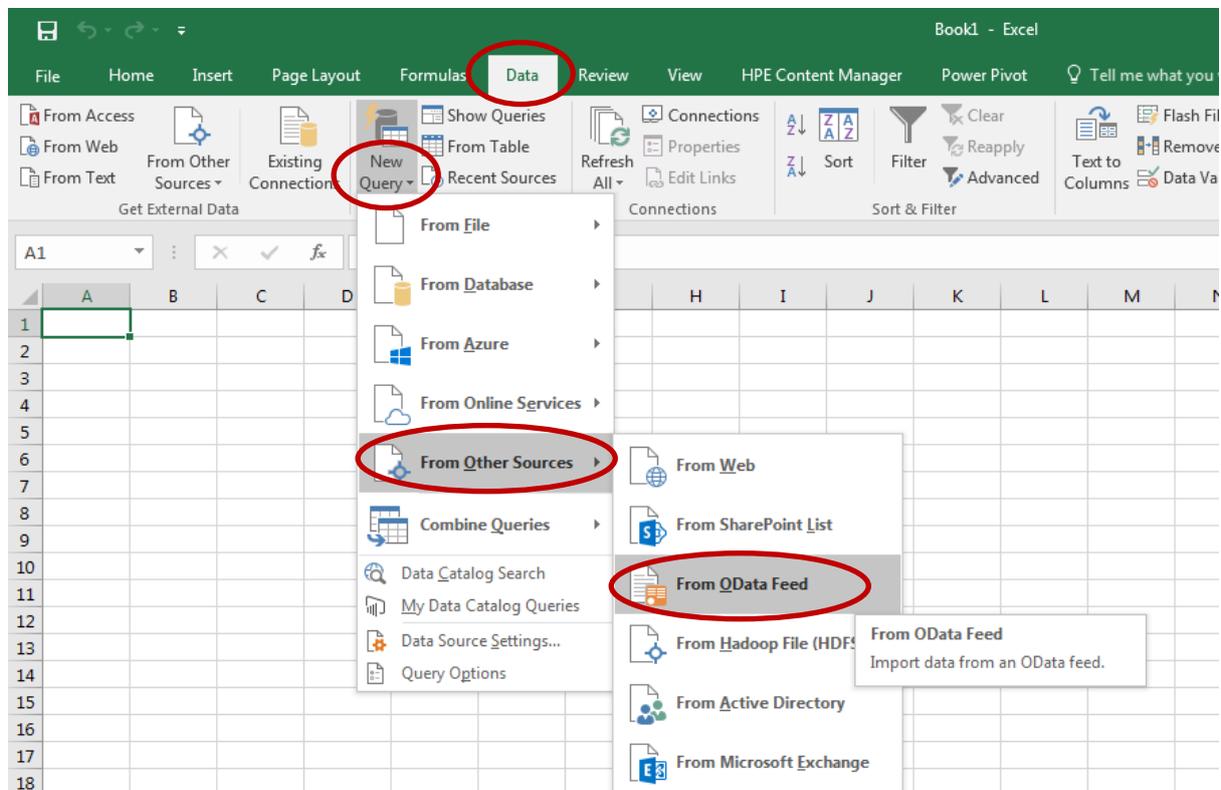


Figure 18 OData feed in Excel

Step 4: In the OData Feed URL dialogue box enter

<https://data.bionet.nsw.gov.au/biosvcapp/odata> and click OK.

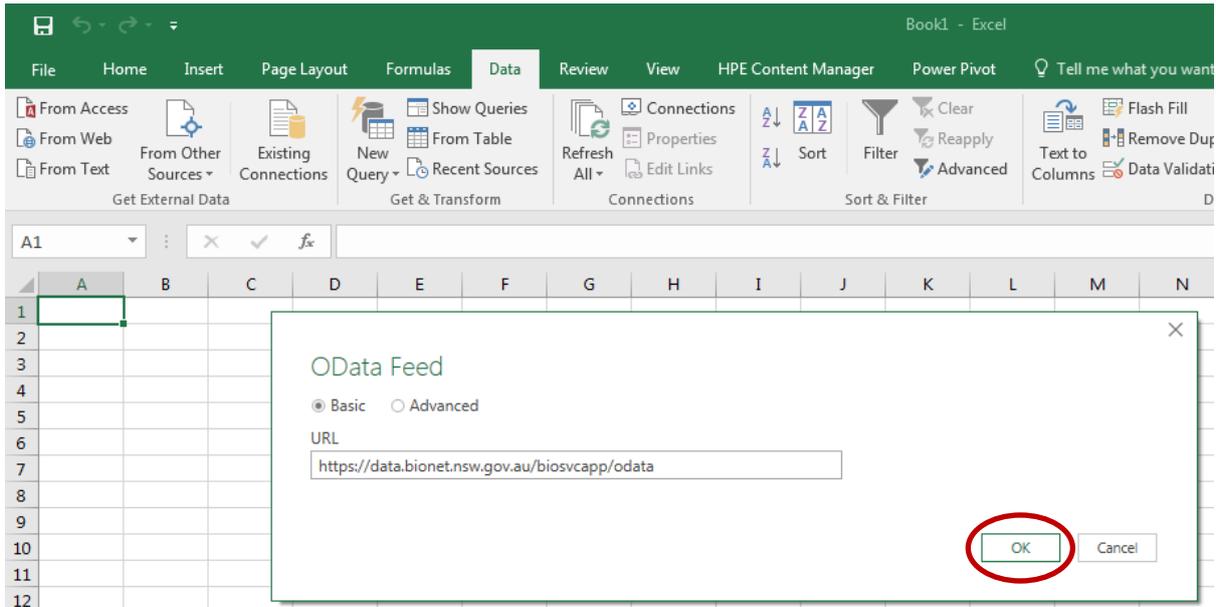


Figure 19 Specify BioNet Web service URL

2. Selecting the PCT Benchmark function in BioNet Web service

Step 1: Select the option 'VegetationClassification_PCTBenchmarks' in the 'Navigator' popup.

Step 2: Select Edit to view full details.

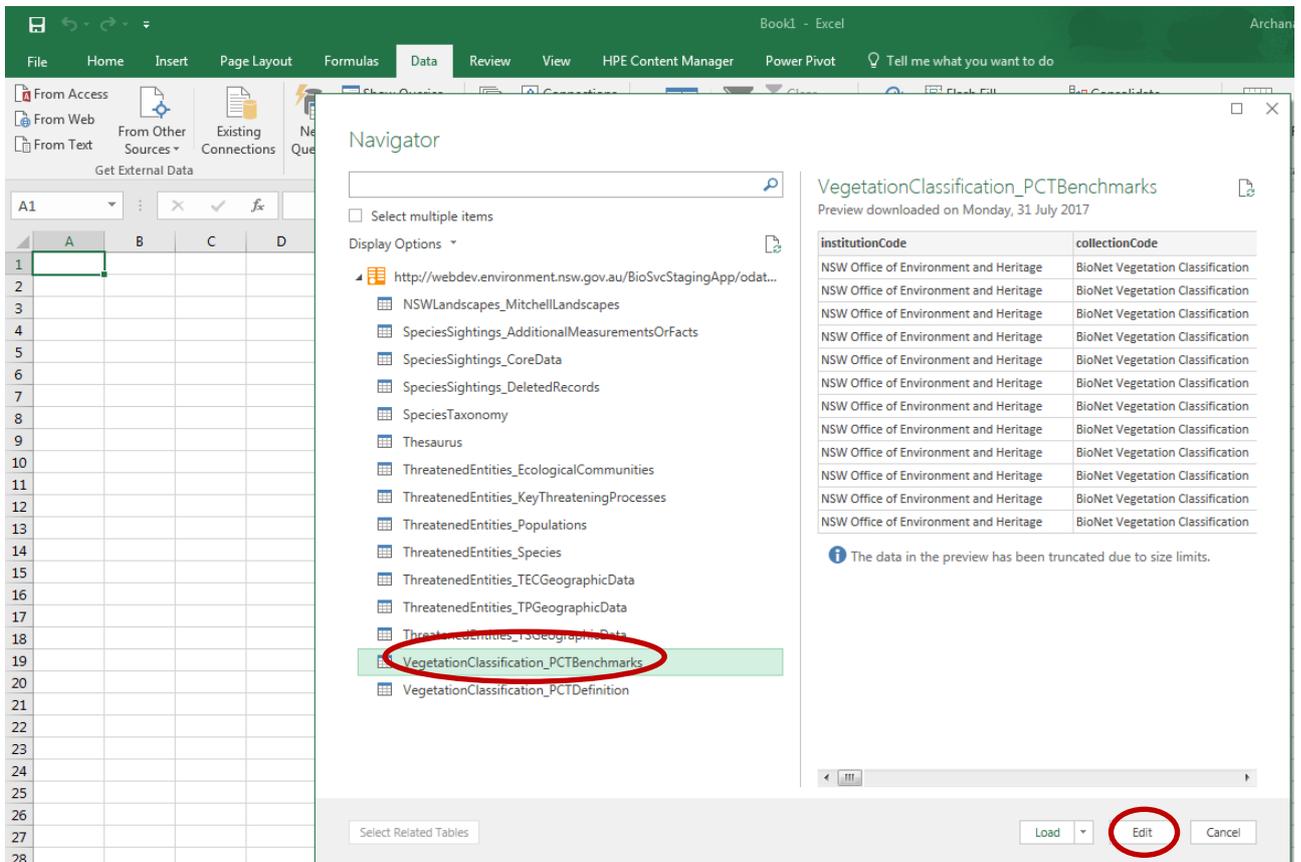


Figure 20 Select PCT Benchmarks Service

Step 3: Benchmarks by PCT will be displayed in the Query Editor.

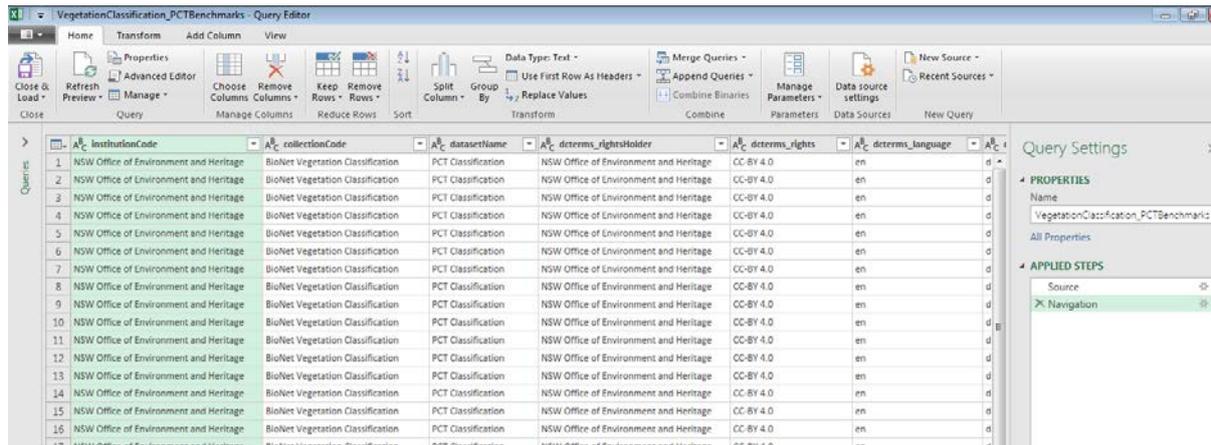


Figure 21 Benchmarks by PCT data displayed in Query Editor

Step 4: Selecting only the columns of data you are interested in makes the download quicker and more efficient. This is not a mandatory step.

Choose your columns from the choose columns window that appears, and click **OK**.

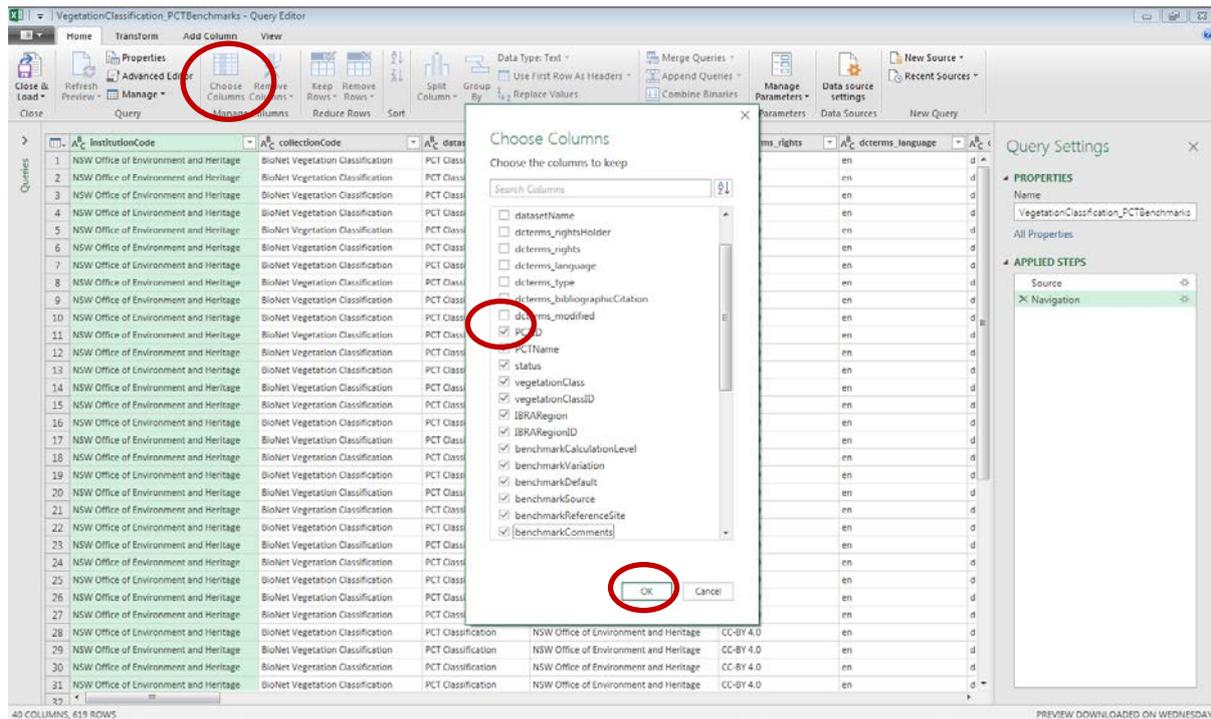


Figure 22 Benchmarks by PCT data – Choosing the desired columns

Quick guide: How to access Vegetation Condition Benchmark data from BioNet

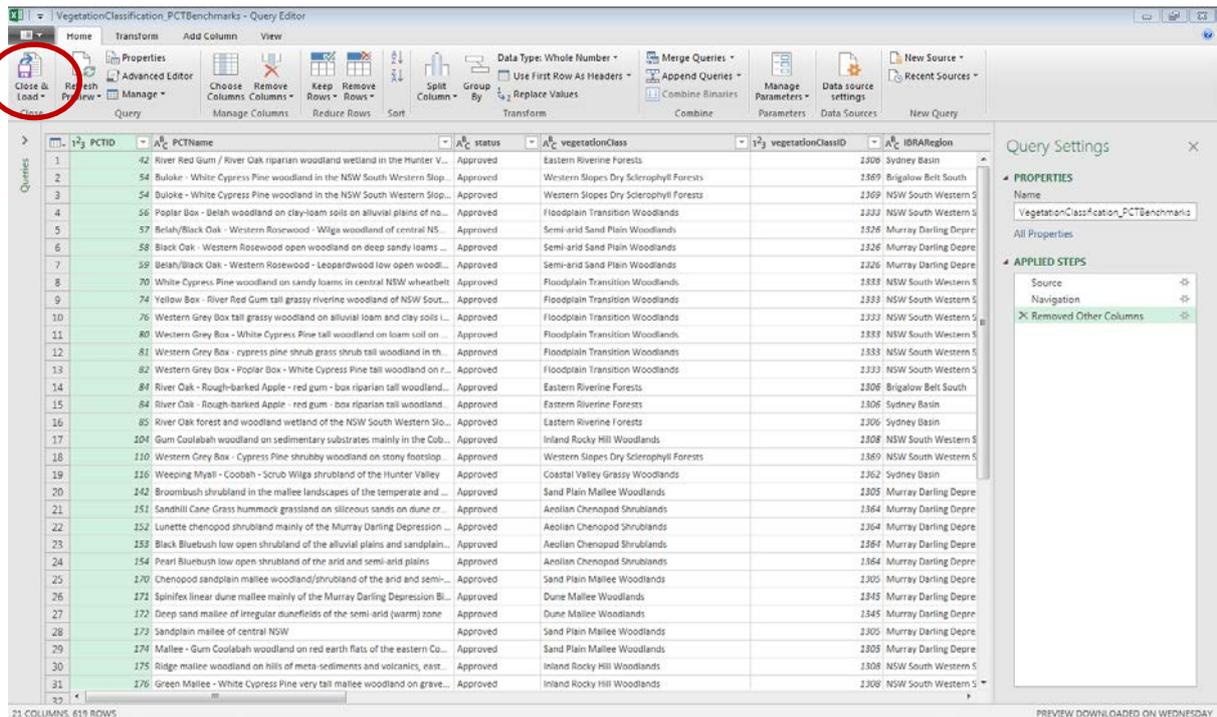


Figure 23 Benchmarks by PCT data – Selected columns displayed in Query Editor

Step 5: Click on the 'Close and Load' button to load your data to your spreadsheet.

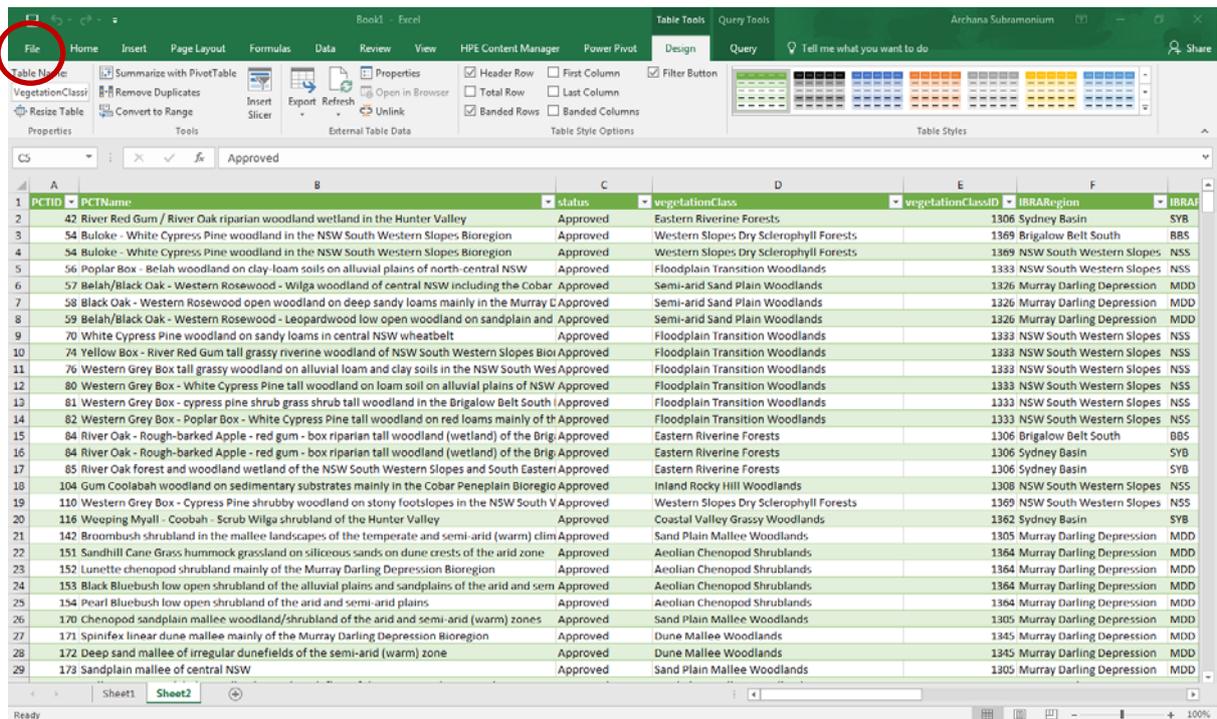


Figure 24 Benchmarks by PCT data – Populate spreadsheet with Benchmark data

Step 6: Save the excel spreadsheet to your machine using the File and then Save option.

For further information:

Refer to the BioNet Vegetation Classification user manual

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/bionet/bionet-vegetation-classification-user-manual-170340.pdf>

Contact the Biodiversity Information Systems Team email bionet@environment.nsw.gov.au.