The NSW Atlas of Wildlife

The NSW Atlas of Wildlife records sightings of flora and fauna. Landholders can both use and contribute to the Atlas. This note describes the Atlas and provides advice about contributing.

The NSW Atlas of Wildlife is a database of fauna and flora records, managed by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH). It contains over four million recorded sightings and is the main repository of information and knowledge about biodiversity in NSW.

Sugar glider. Photo: OEH/H Matthews

Why is the Atlas so important?

The records within the Atlas are used for a variety of purposes, by many different people such as:

- private individuals who may wish to know about species on and around their property
- academics and researchers working on particular areas or species
- students working on school projects
- OEH staff to assist in better management and conservation of species, both on and off reserves
- Commonwealth and NSW Government departments for conservation planning and land management
- local government agencies for environmental impact assessments
- consultants and landholders looking at activities which may include clearing of native vegetation for development or agriculture.

The Atlas plays an important role in the conservation and planning system in NSW. When assessing the environmental impacts of developments and land clearing applications, government authorities and environmental consultants use the information contained in the Atlas to determine which fauna and flora species will be affected and whether this impact is acceptable. Any new surveys undertaken are subsequently entered into the Atlas to help build a more complete picture of our biodiversity.

What type of information is available from the Atlas?

The Atlas contains sightings of plants, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and endangered invertebrates (such as insects and snails). It generally does not contain records of fish, or invertebrates unless they are listed under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*. Data in the Atlas, while extensive, is by definition incomplete. It will not show the full distribution of a species and is intended to be used as a guide, or indicator only.

Hibbertia superans, an endangered plant with two separate populations — in northern Sydney and near Kempsey. Photo: V.Bear

Where does the information come from?

Records come from various sources, including historical reports, OEH staff, survey data from major projects, consultants (as part of the Scientific Licence procedure), landholders and the general public.

How can landholders use the Atlas?

Anyone can search the Atlas website at *www.bionet.nsw.gov.au*

Completing record sheets

Use the record sheets which follow to record information (use these as a master to make photocopies, or access aditional record sheets from *www.environment.nsw.gov.au/cpp/conservationpartners.htm*). Completed record sheets may be posted to the Conservation Partners Program (CPP) or you may email PDFs or JPEGs of completed sheets to CPP at *conservation.partners@environment.nsw.gov.au*

Please provide your contact details including email address where possible, to allow easy contact if any clarification or discussion about record data is needed.

In the record sheet, there is space for a first and last date. Please fill in both dates if the observations have been made over a range of dates. If the observations are only made on one day then please put the same date in the first and last date fields.

The location should be a concise description of the relevant area of your conservation agreement (CA) or wildlife refuge (WR). Please include the name of your CA or WR. If you are able to accurately locate the position on a detailed topographic map, the number of the map should be entered in the map number field (for example 9435-3S is the identifying number for the Wauchope 1:25 000 sheet). The Reserve/forest field may be relevant if you are recording data from outside your agreement property area.

It will be quite helpful if you are able to record locations using a GPS. However, if you do it is important to also record the datum that the GPS is using to record locations. For example, two of the common datums in use are GDA94 and the older AGD66. If locations are not allocated to the correct datum it can produce an apparent location error of about 200m. For more information about the Geocentric Datum of Australia and related GPS issues, see *www.icsm.gov.au/gda/index.html*

There is provision for noting the accuracy of the location information. For example if you enter 100 in the accuracy field, this signifies that the location is only accurate to the nearest 100m. If you are using a modern handheld GPS, it may display a typical best accuracy of three to five metres. You may also be able to enter the altitude in the altitude field. Geology and vegetation information may be entered in the relevant fields if you know it.

The common name or scientific name may be entered under species. When known, the number of individuals present should be entered for the species in the count column. The other columns should not be used.

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Atlas of NSW Wildlife — Flora Record Sheet

Send completed records to:

Office of Environment and Heritage, Conservation Partners Program
PO BOX A290 Sydney South NSW 1232
conservation.partners@environment.nsw.gov.au

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

First date: day ____ month _____ year _____ Last date: day ____ month _____ year _____

Location: _____

_____

Reserve/forest: _____ Map number: _____

Please indicate which datum you are using: ☐ AGD66 ☐ GDA94 (or WGS84)

Zone: _____ Easting: _____ Northing: _____ GPS: ☐ Yes ☐ No Accuracy: _____ (metres)

Geology: _____ Vegetation: _____ Altitude: _____

No.	Species	Code	Count	Breeding	Height	
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
15						
17						
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19						

No.	Species	Code	Count	Breeding	Height	
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21						
22						
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24						
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44						

Scheduled species / ROTAP field data card

Site location details

Aspect: _____ Slope: _____

Soil type: _____ Habitat: _____

Population details

Area: _____ Number of seedlings: _____

Population age structure: seedling ☐ immature ☐ mature ☐ senescent ☐

Threats / disurbance regime: _____

_____

Population status: _____ Community status: _____

Specimen location: _____ Specimen number: _____

Atlas of NSW Wildlife — Fauna Record Sheet

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conservation.partners@environment.nsw.gov.au

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

First date: day ____ month _____ year _____ Last date: day ____ month _____ year _____

Location: _____

_____

Reserve/forest: _____ Map number: _____

Please indicate which datum you are using: ☐ AGD66 ☐ GDA94 (or WGS84)

Zone: _____ Easting: _____ Northing: _____ GPS: ☐ Yes ☐ No Accuracy: _____ (metres)

Geology: _____ Vegetation: _____ Altitude: _____

No.	Species	Code	Obs. Type	Count	M/Habitat	Breeding	Sex	
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
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8								
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10								
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19								

No.	Species	Code	Obs. Type	Count	M/Habitat	Breeding	Sex	
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Notes: