Changes and enhancements to the YETI client application in YETI 3.2

(29 September 2009)

Version 3.2 of the database includes changes to the front-end client to make maintenance of vegetation datasets easier.

Survey Permissions (when connected to a SQL Server back-end database)

Survey Permissions have now been fully integrated into the SQL Server version of the database.

Edit permissions can be allocated only to individual users.

Permission to View a survey can be allocated to individual users or groups of users.

Initially there are only two groups of users referred to as DECCW for staff of the DECCW and External for data supplied by the Wildlife Data Unit to external clients.

If you have permission to view a survey, you can also view its Edit and View permissions by going into the Survey register, selecting the survey, and clicking on the Permissions tab.

Note that by default, all surveys created (or imported from a .tfv file) in the SQL Server database will have View permission granted to both DECCW and External groups, and Edit permission granted to the user that created or imported the survey record.

Important Note:

The granting or revoking of permissions to view and edit datasets can only be performed by members of the maintenance group in the Wildlife Data Unit.

If you create or manage data in a survey, it is your responsibility to ensure that the survey permissions are correct, and notify any required changes to permissions to the Wildlife Data Unit.

It has been very time consuming for the Wildlife Data Unit to service requests for YETI data, so they will be using the permissions granted within the database to decide whether or not data can be distributed to third parties.

The following ad hoc procedures, which were followed in the past (at considerable expense in time and effort) will no longer operate:

- contacting custodians of datasets, or DECCW staff noted as contacts for external datasets on a request by request basis
- reviewing the content of the Custodian notes fields to determine access.

Analysis Surveys

The new data model for SQL Server includes the possibility for storing analysis sets as lists of selected sites. However, this functionality is new and will probably need more testing.

On the Survey Details form – can specify that a dataset is an analysis survey dataset. If you do this you will be adding sites to the survey virtually without copying the raw data.

Backward Compatibility
The new client can connect to both old and new back-end files. However, if you connect to an old back-end file, support is limited to using the client to export a .tfv file. No other functions are supported. They may work, but you use them at your own risk. Don't do it!

The import function can accept .tfv files in both the old and new schema. .tfv files in the old schema will be mapped to the new schema. This is the only way to upgrade an old database. (For detailed instructions see the document Version_3_2_Upgrade_Instructions.doc)

Export Functionality
For PATN exports Transformations are now available for both MS Access and SQL Versions. This includes the option to export Presence Absence values for any dataset.

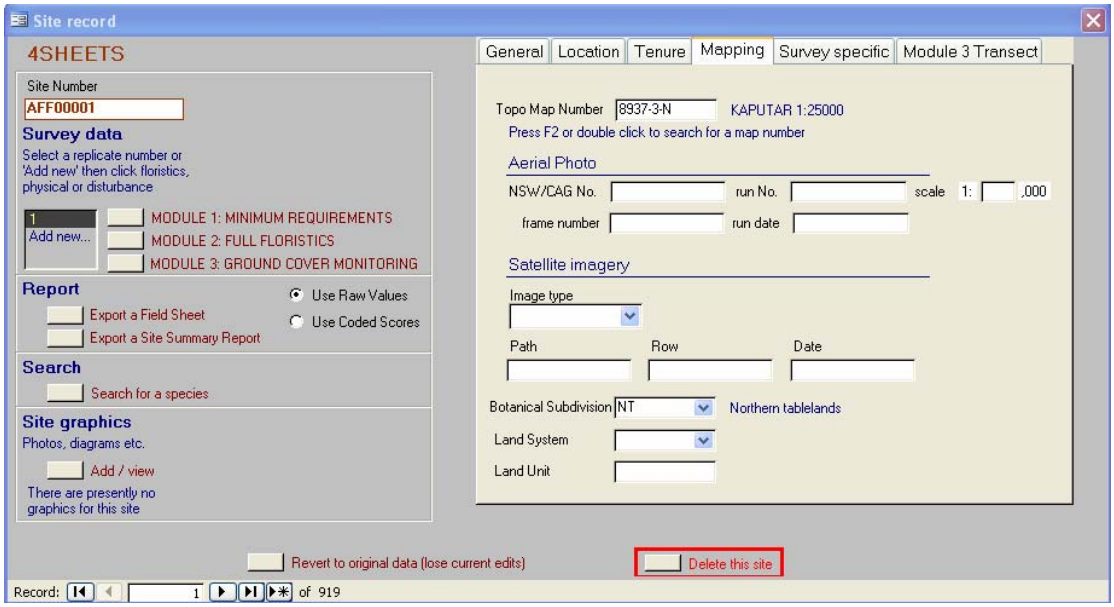
The option Exclude Additional Overstorey species allows you to choose whether or not to include these species from the new veg standard into the analysis. The Default is to exclude them as they were not recorded on the actual plot.

The Taxonomy Select tab now includes the ability to show species simply as they were recorded, without applying any taxonomic amelioration.

Site Report
The new client includes the option to export raw field sheet data or a summary report. For these you will need the template files stored in the folder specified on the Graphics page. You can choose whether or not to use the actual values entered into the Cover actual and Abundance actual boxes, or alternatively use Coded scores entered into the Cover Score and Abundance Score fields.

Site Data entry
The major change in this upgrade of the database client has been in the alignment of data entry forms and screens to the new Vegetation Standard.

Site Record form



The buttons to go to subsidiary forms now directly reference the Vegetation Standard with the three options:
MODULE 1: MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS
MODULE 2: FULL FLORISTICS
MODULE 3: GROUND COVER MONITORING

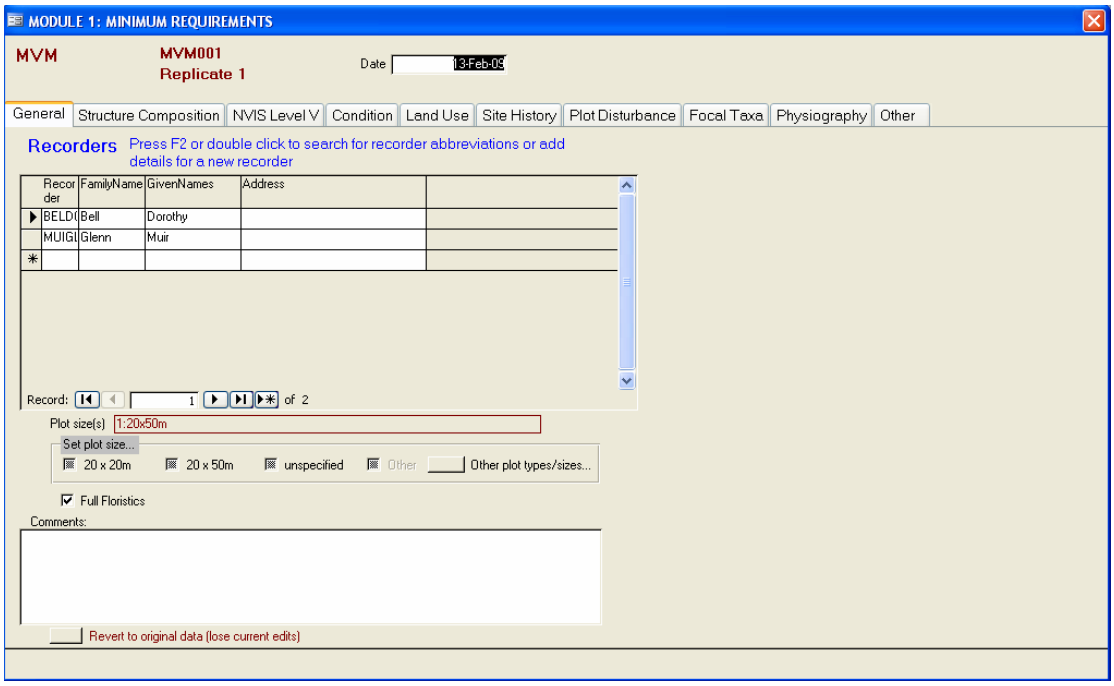
The option has been added to produce a Field Sheet or a Site Summary Report for the nominated SiteSample replicate. The user can nominate whether they wish to export Raw Values or Coded Scores for the Cover and Abundance data.

The controls of the Mapping and Remote Sensing tabs have been consolidated into a single Tab labelled Mapping

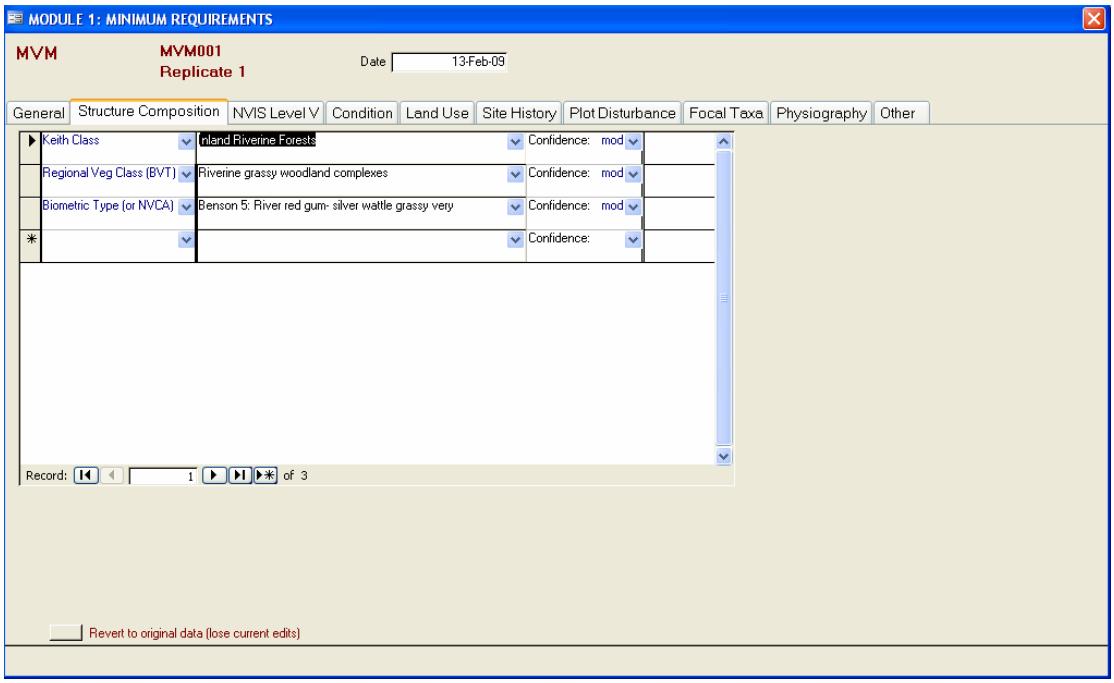
An additional tab Module 3 Transect allows the recording of Transect location data for Ground Cover Monitoring.

MODULE 1: MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

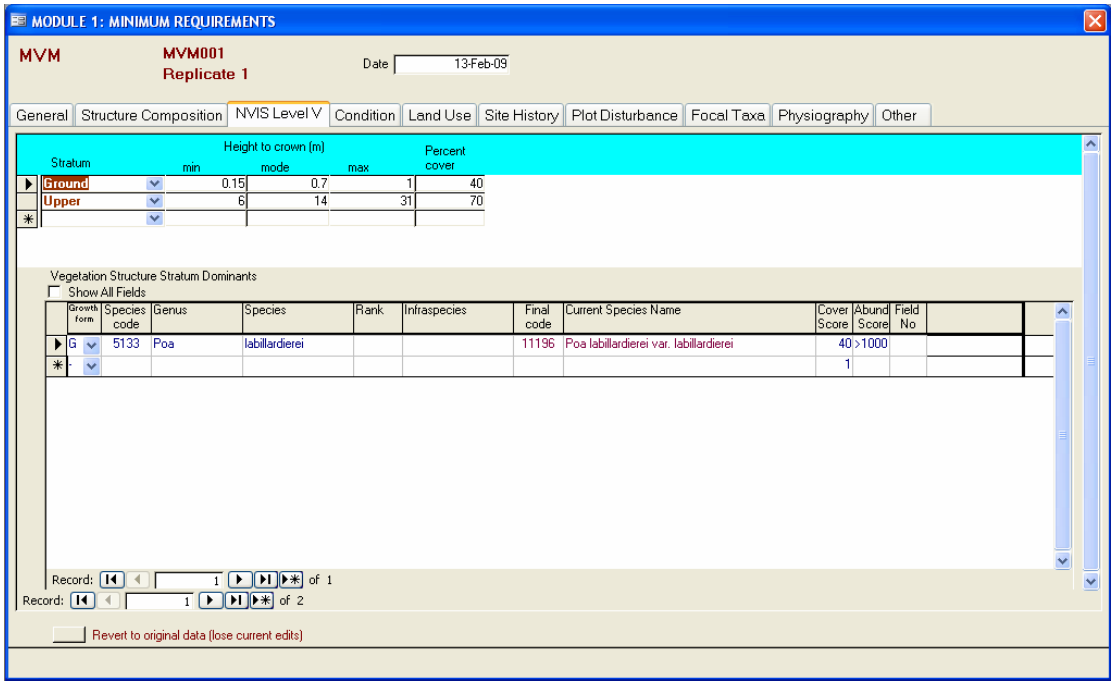
The General Tab includes information on the Site Recorders, the Quadrat plot size, and a location for comments. Note that the concept of Floristics and Physical Recorder have been merged, since the same people generally do both at the same time.



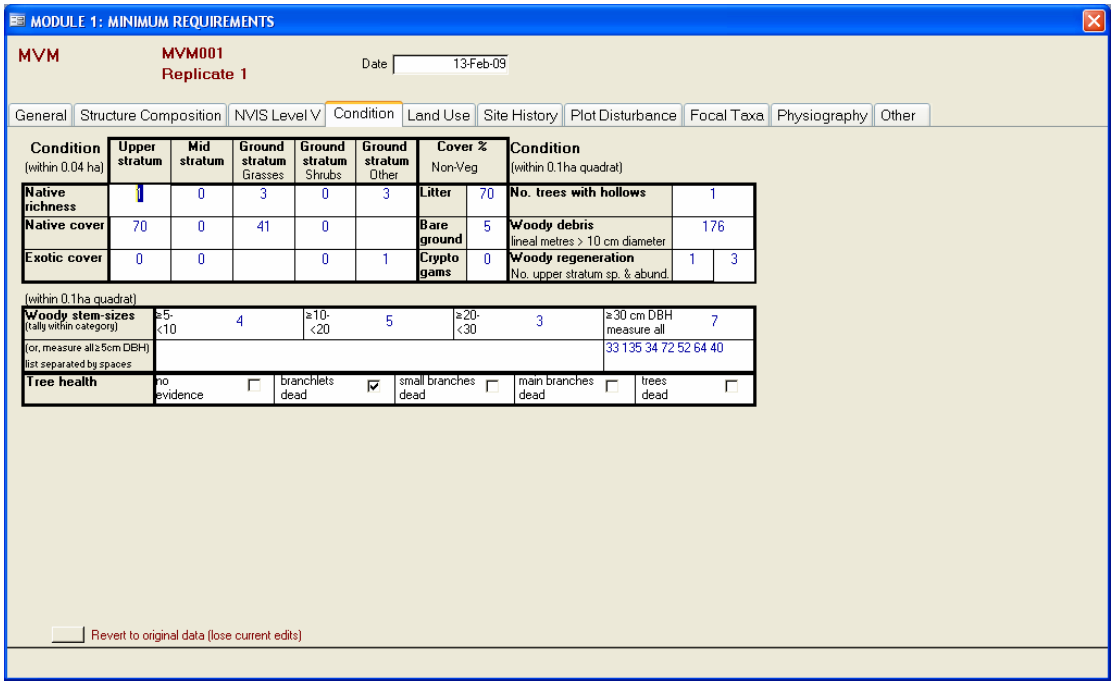
The Structure Composition tab includes data on the community classification of the site.



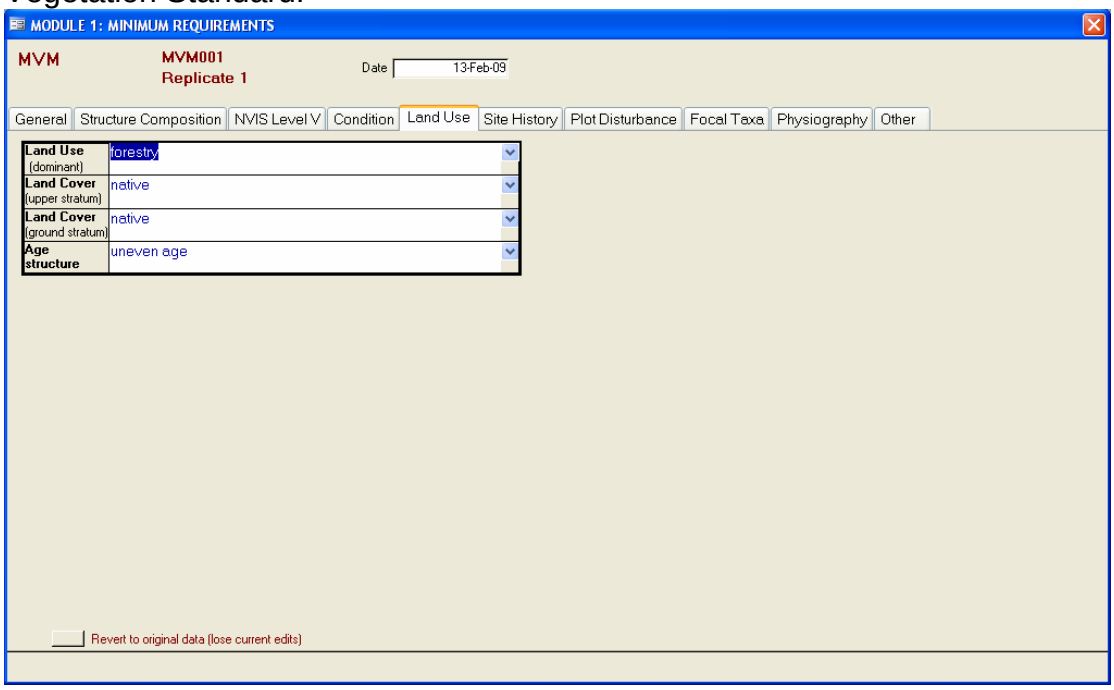
The NVIS Level V allows the recording of NVIS Level V structural data, and also displays data previously entered in the Structure Tab of the Floristics form.



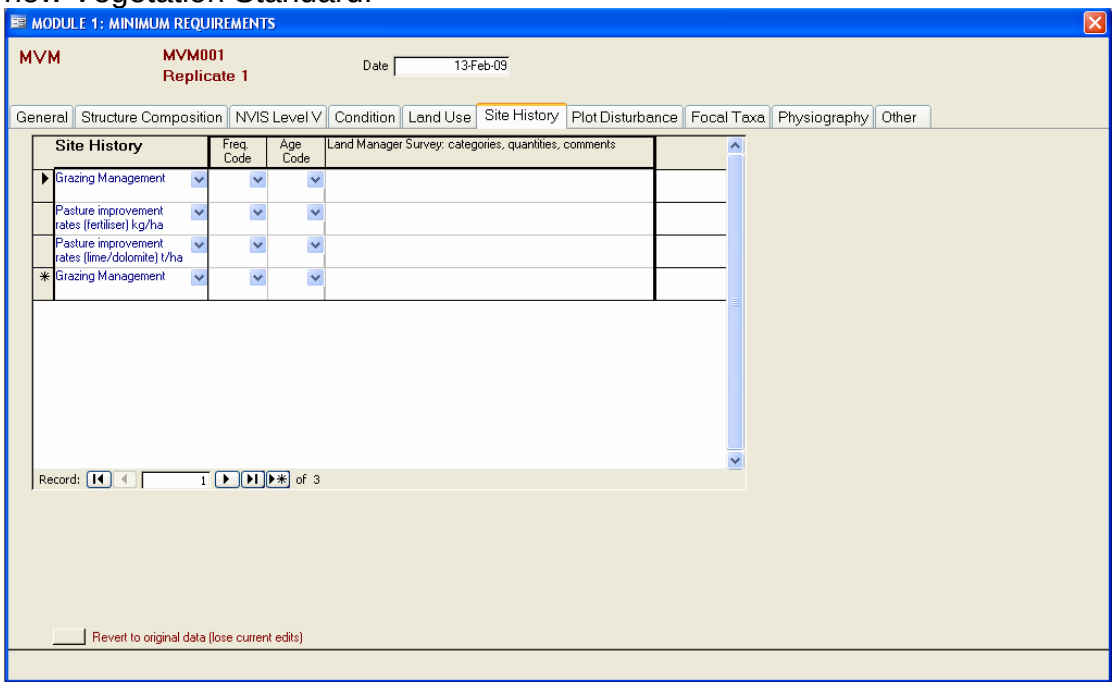
The Condition Tab records condition information following the new Vegetation Standard.



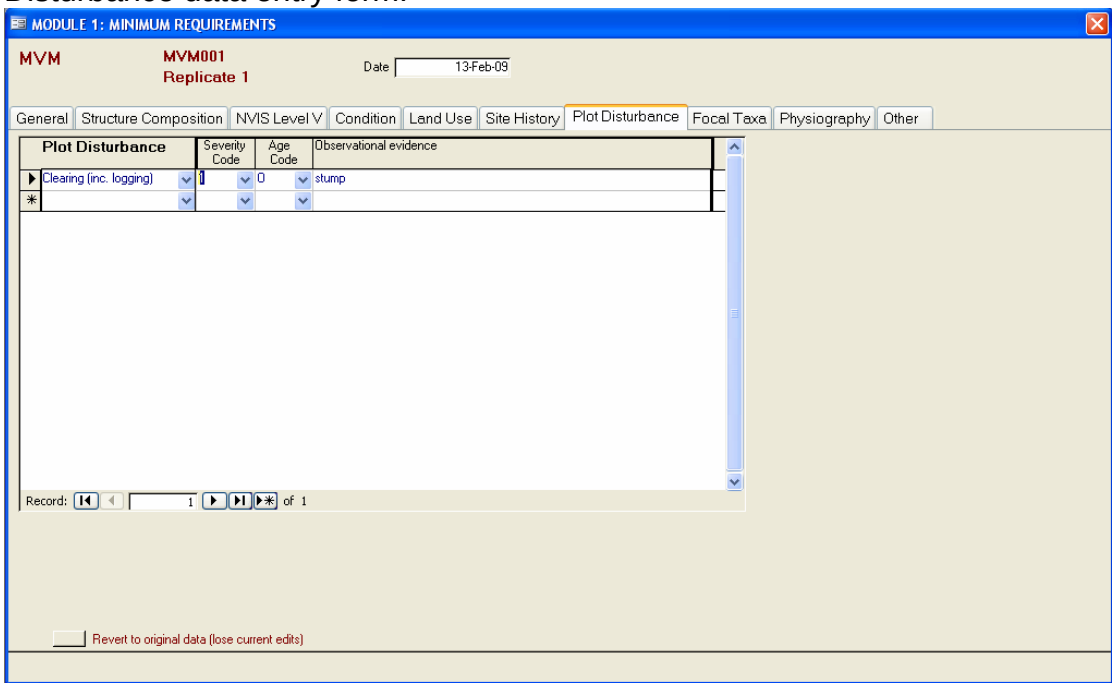
The Land Use tab records information on land use following the new Vegetation Standard.



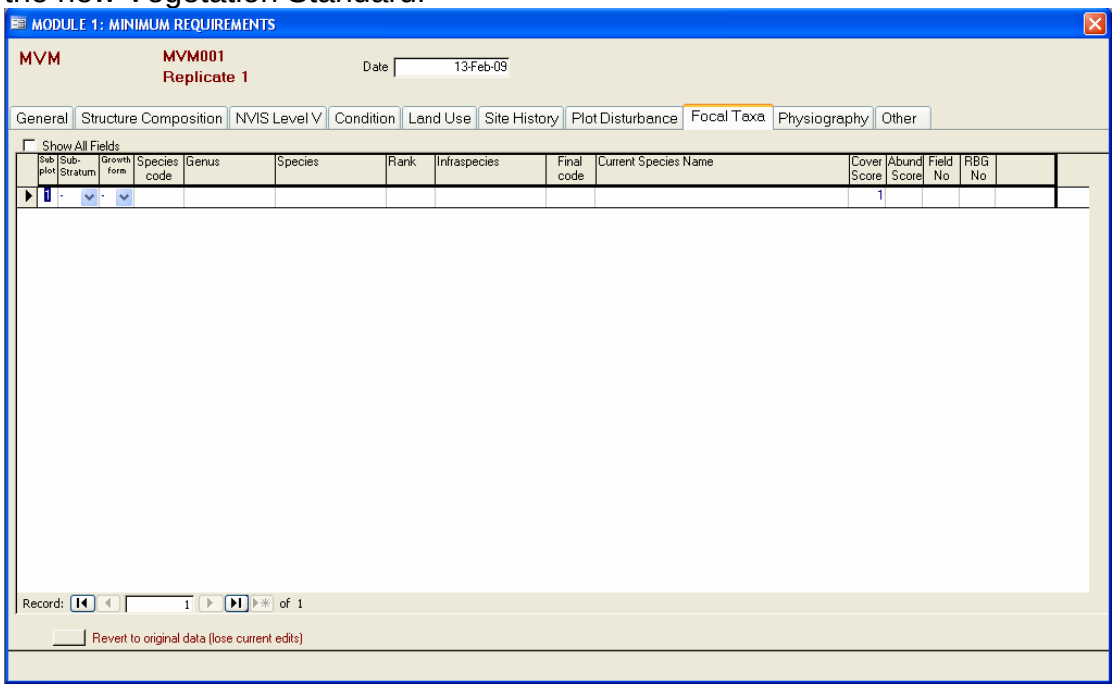
The Site History tab records information on the history of the site following the new Vegetation Standard.



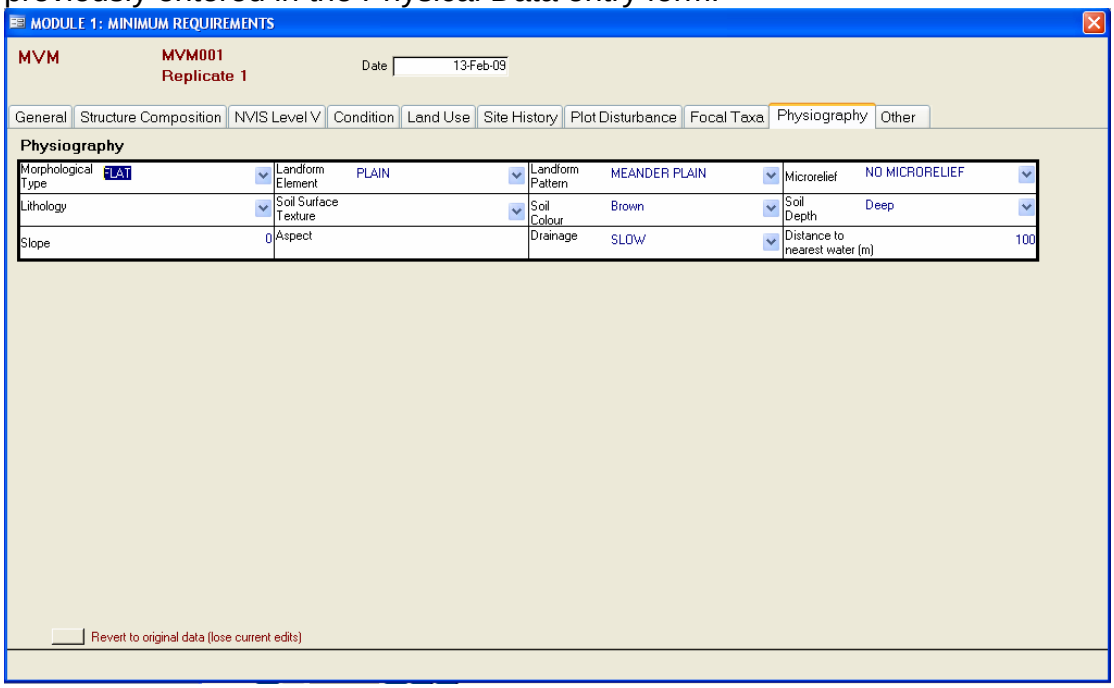
The Plot Disturbance tab records information on disturbance following the new Vegetation Standard and includes data previously recorded on the Disturbance data entry form.



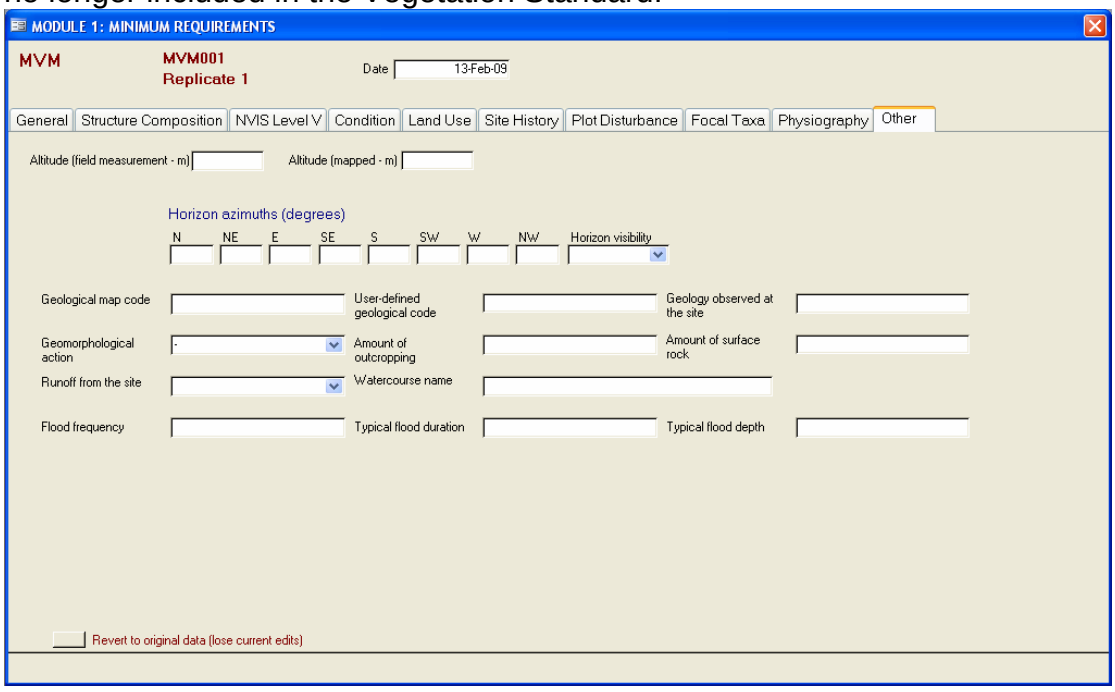
The Focal Taxa tab allows the recording of individual taxa of interest following the new Vegetation Standard.



The Physiography tab allows the recording of Physiography information following the new Vegetation Standard and incorporates information previously entered in the Physical Data entry form.

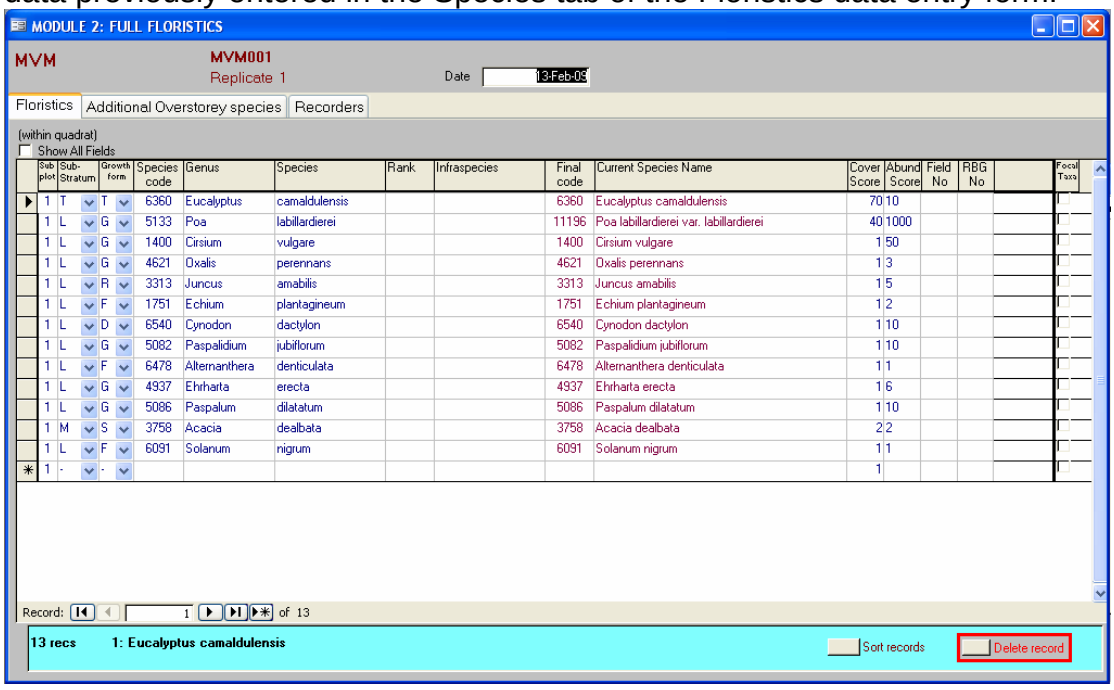


The last tab, labelled Other, provides access to legacy data for fields that are no longer included in the Vegetation Standard.

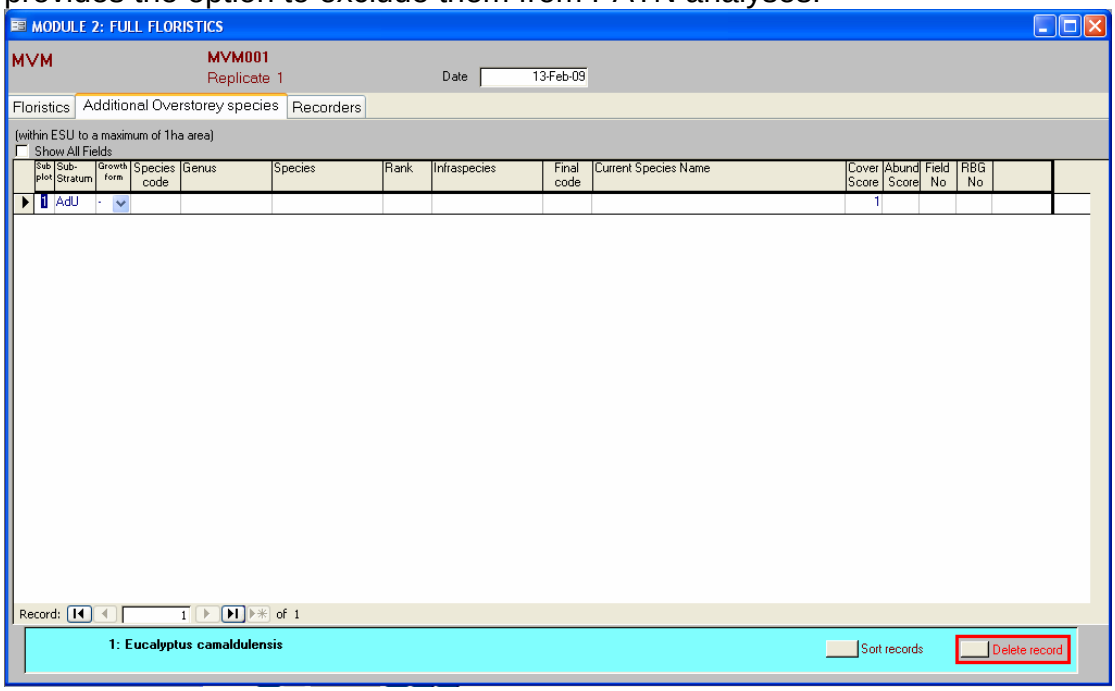


MODULE 2: FULL FLORISTICS

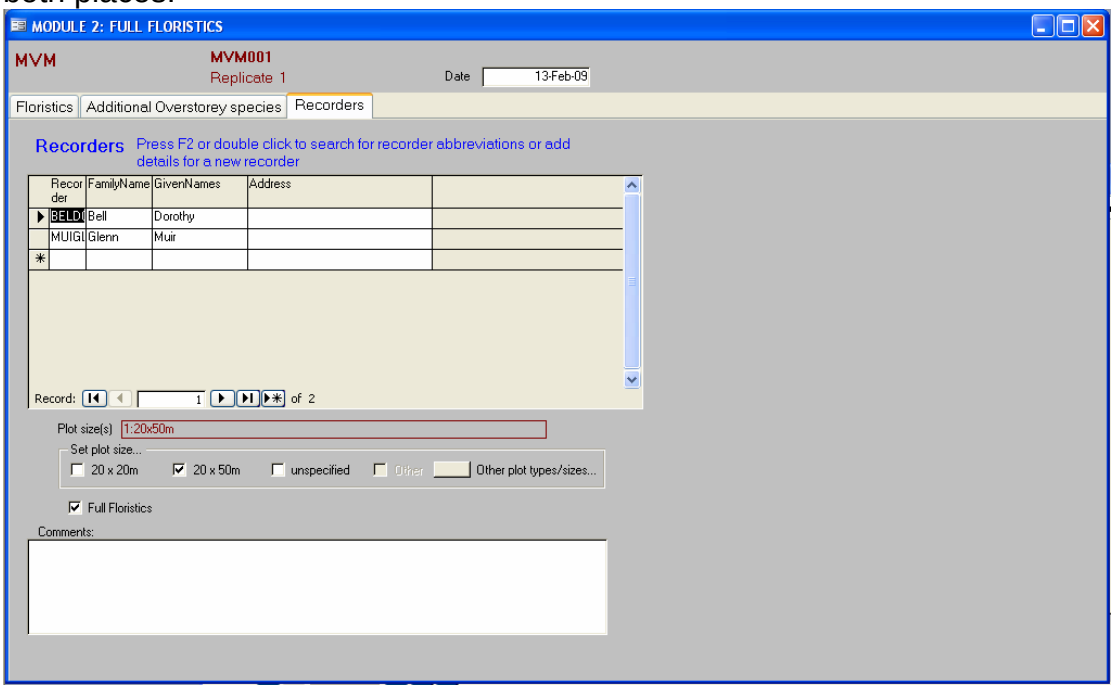
The Floristics Tab allows the recording of floristics information and includes data previously entered in the Species tab of the Floristics data entry form.



The Additional Overstorey species tab allows the recording of additional species of interest found beyond the plot, following the new Vegetation Standard. These are recorded with Sub-stratum AdU and the application provides the option to exclude them from PATN analyses.

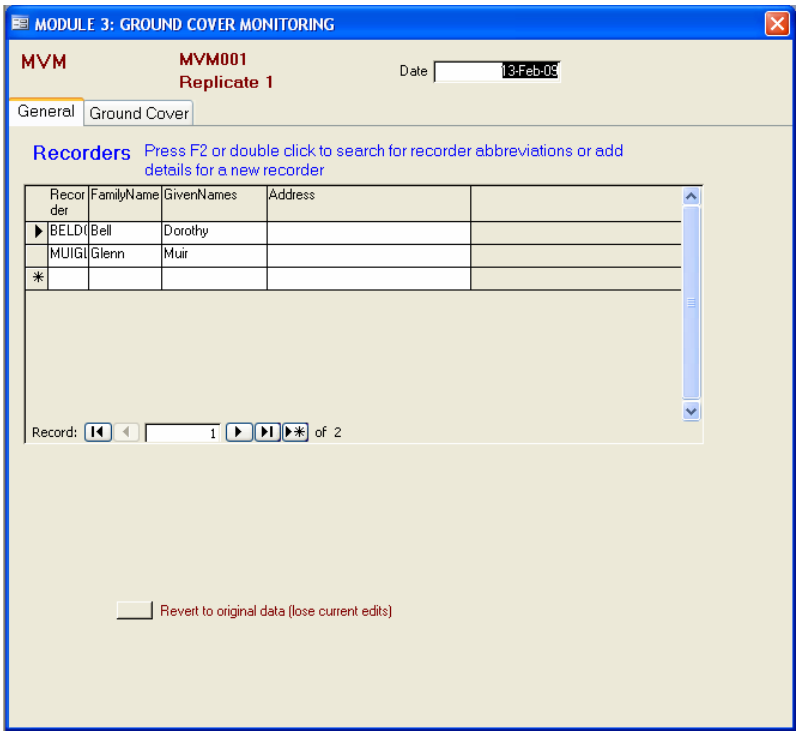


The Recorders tab allows the recording of information on who recorded a site and the floristics quadrat information. This tab duplicates the General tab on MODULE 1: MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS with the same data showing up in both places.

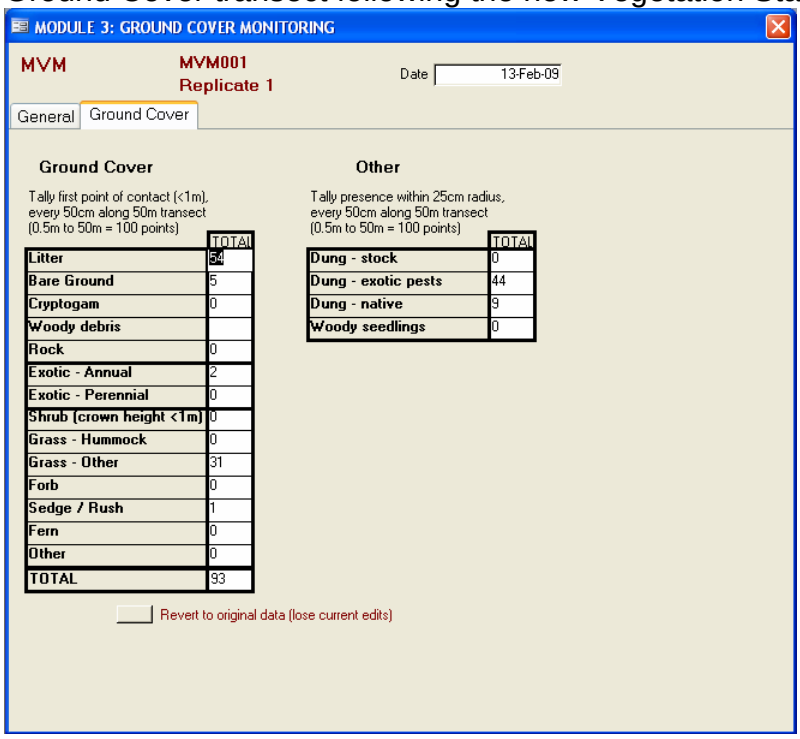


MODULE 3: GROUND COVER MONITORING

The General tab allows the viewing of Recorders of the survey information. This tab duplicates the General tab on MODULE 1: MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS and the Recorders tab on MODULE 2: FULL FLORISTICS with the same data on recorders showing up in all three places.



The Ground Cover tab allows the recording of information from a 100 point Ground Cover transect following the new Vegetation Standard.



Where to get help, complain, sing its praises etc.

You can contact the Wildlife Data Unit on vis@environment.nsw.gov.au