

vegetation

NSW Native Vegetation REPORT CARD

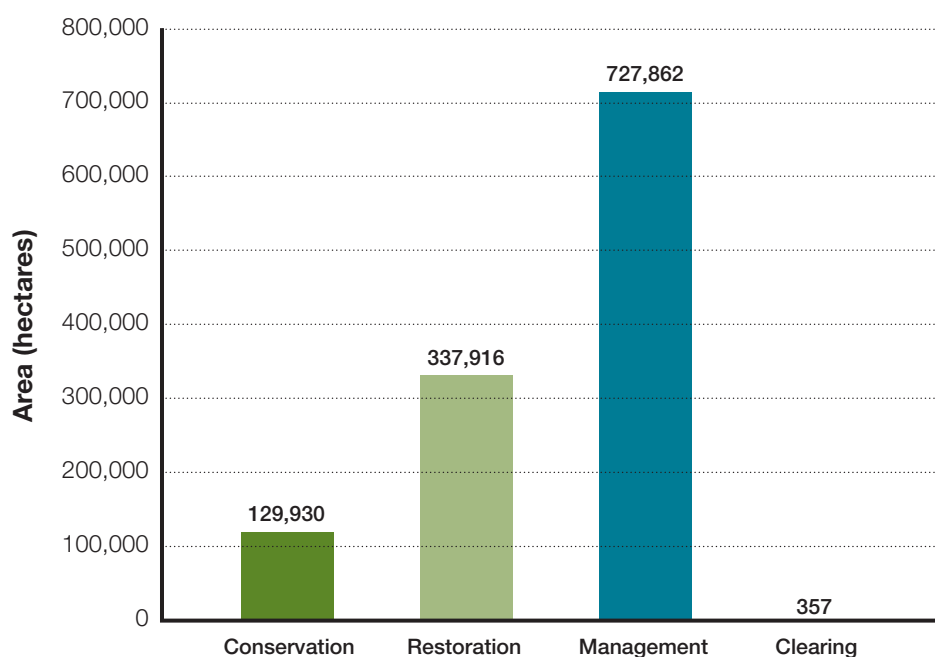
1 January to 30 June 2007

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 third under the new Native Vegetation Act 2003 and covers the period from 1 January to 30 June 2007. Also shown is the data from the two 2006 Native Vegetation Report Cards for comparison. Further reports will be released every six months. It helps build a picture of what's 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 January to 30 June 2007



Categories

Conservation areas	Area (hectares)		
	Jan-Jun 2006	Jul-Dec 2006	Jan-Jun 2007
Public reserve system – national park estate	26,606	25,549	129,706
Public reserve system – flora reserves	0	0	0
Private conservation areas – conservation agreements	3,034	3,764	59
Private conservation areas – wildlife refuges (habitat retained)	69,786	90	166
Private conservation areas – management agreements	0	0	0
TOTAL	99,426	29,403	129,930

Restoration/revegetation of native vegetation

Restoration/revegetation – incentive PVPs	19,374	12,216	44,942
Restoration/revegetation – PVP offsets	1,078	2,830	2,101
Plantations – native only	4,787	3,506	12,384
Revegetation through other NHT and NAP incentives	76,165	54,038	185,629
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
Wildlife refuges – habitat restored	127,975	0	3,807
Other revegetation	no data	5,499	68,385
Natural regeneration – excluding invasive native scrub	no data	1,500	16,766
TOTAL	232,767	82,615	337,916

Management of native vegetation

Invasive native scrub management	41,145	77,750	446,365
Thinning to benchmark	7	584	264
Public forest estate	1,115	-720	-2,550
Private native forestry on state protected land	7,699	9,441	7,142
Improved rangeland management	no data	286,733	no data
Weed removal programs	940	28,271	276,642
TOTAL	50,906	402,059	727,862

Clearing of native vegetation

Clearing approvals under <i>Native Vegetation Act 2003</i> — environmental outcomes are improved or maintained	36	257	119
Clearing approvals under <i>Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997</i>	2,011	504	0
Clearing approvals under <i>Plantations and Reafforestation Act 1999</i>	153	98	238
TOTAL	2,200	860	357

Category description

Conservation areas

- **Public reserve system – national park estate.** New national parks, nature reserves and state conservation areas, or additions to national parks, nature reserves and state conservation areas. Data from DECC.
- **Public reserve system – flora reserves.** Data from Forests NSW.
- **Private conservation areas – conservation agreements.** Areas of new conservation agreements under the National Parks and Wildlife Act. Program is managed by DECC.
- **Private conservation areas – wildlife refuges (habitat retained).** Areas of new wildlife refuges under the National Parks and Wildlife Act. These areas are managed exclusively for conservation of wildlife habitat. Program is managed by DECC.
- **Private conservation areas – management agreements.** Areas of new management agreements or community conservation area. Program is managed by DECC.

Restoration/revegetation of native vegetation

- **Restoration/revegetation – incentive PVPs.** Area of revegetation or restoration of native vegetation as set out in an incentive PVP.
- **Restoration/revegetation – PVP offsets.** Area of offsets negotiated in a PVP. Offsets are actions that a landholder agrees to in order to balance any negative impacts of clearing.
- **Plantations – native only.** Plantable area includes plantations of native species only. Sourced from DPI.
- **Revegetation through other NHT and NAP incentives – restoration, revegetation, and/or native vegetation management through other National Heritage Trust (NHT) and National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality (NAP) incentives.**
- **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. Sourced from DECC and DPI.
- **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.
- **Other revegetation –** could include programs such as catchment protection schemes, riverbank restoration programs, State Sustainability Fund work or National Landcare Program (NLP) funding.
- **Natural regeneration – excluding invasive native scrub.**

Management of native vegetation

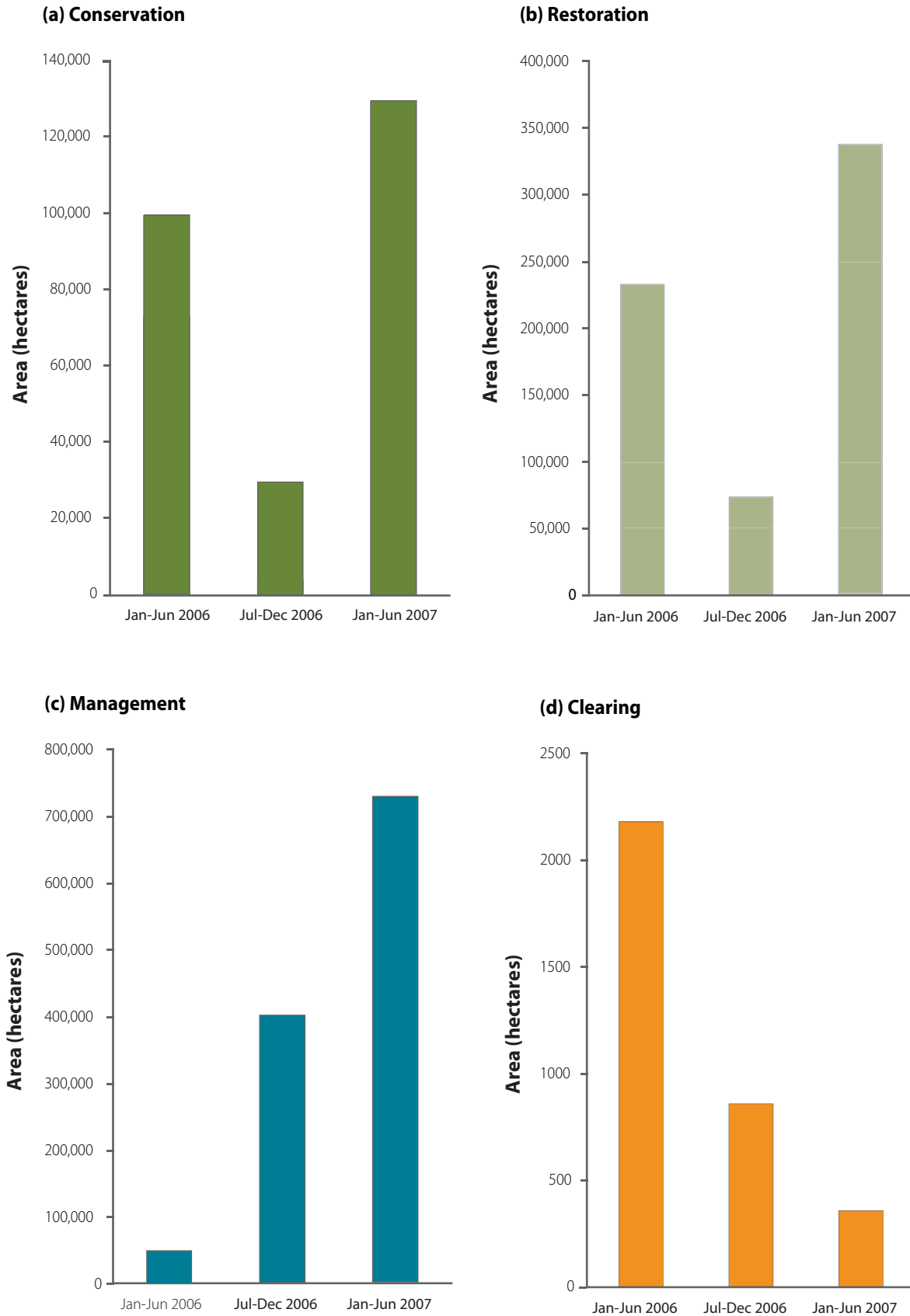
- **Invasive native scrub management –** area authorised under a PVP to manage invasive native scrub. Invasive native scrub is the term used to describe native plant species that have spread rapidly within their natural range.
- **Thinning to benchmark –** area of land approved for thinning to benchmark under a PVP. Thinning to benchmark improves the condition of the vegetation.
- **Public forest estate –** area of new state forest. Data supplied by Forests NSW.
- **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.
- **Improved rangeland management –** improvement of native vegetation through management and incentive projects involving the control of grazing pressure by feral goats and domestic stock either through fencing or controlling access to water.
- **Weed removal programs –** area of land to be cleared of exotic weeds for environmental improvement.

Clearing of native vegetation

- **Clearing approvals under *Native Vegetation Act 2003* –** environmental outcomes are improved or maintained. Area of clearing approved which meets the improve or maintain environmental outcomes test. The impact of clearing and the benefit of any offsets are measured against four environmental values: water quality, soils, salinity and biodiversity (including threatened species).
- **Clearing approvals under the *Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997* –** area of land approved for clearing from outstanding applications under the old *Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997*.
- **Clearing under the *Plantations and Reafforestation Act 1999* –** area of land approved for clearing 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 30 June 2007

(Note: The scale differs for each graph)



DATA SOURCES

Forests NSW provided data on 3 July 2007, DPI provided information on plantations on 4 July 2007, and information was collected from DECC for public reserve system on 4 July 2007 and private conservation areas on 12 July 2007. Data was taken from DECC's *Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997* application database 'VegNet2' and from the PVP Administration and Management Systems database on 18 July 2007. CMAs provided data from 20 July to 29 August 2007.

DATA LIMITATIONS AND EXCLUSIONS

- The statistics do not include clearing carried out under exemptions.
- The statistics only include DECC, DPI, CMA and Forests NSW data. It does not include other agencies' or external organisation's data.

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