

vegetation

# NSW Native Vegetation REPORT CARD

1 January to 30 June 2008

The *Native Vegetation Report Card* is a regular report that provides the latest information on the conservation, restoration/revegetation, management and clearing of our native vegetation within NSW. The release of the *Native Vegetation Report Card* is required by Milestone 35 of the Priority Delivery Plan for priority E4 of the NSW State Plan.

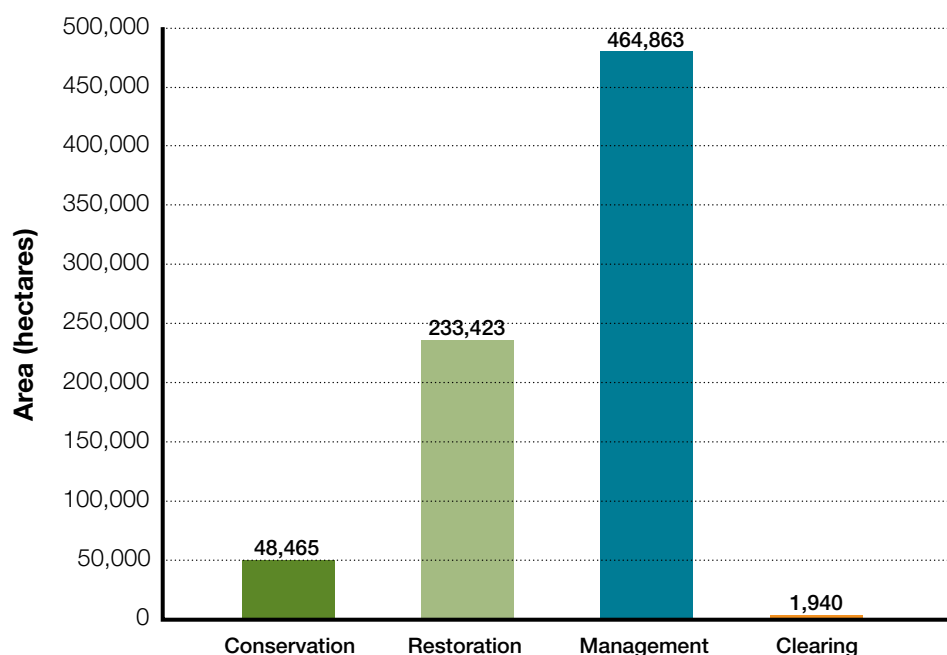
The data has been routinely released in the form of the *Native Vegetation Report Card*, which is available at: [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/vegetation/publications.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/vegetation/publications.htm)

This report card is the fifth since the commencement of the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*, and provides information about native vegetation activities in NSW covering the period from 1 January to 30 June 2008. Figure 1 shows the area of native vegetation that has been conserved, restored/revegetated, managed and approved for clearing from 1 January 2008 to 30 June 2008. Figures 2 and 3 show detailed data in six-monthly intervals over the period from 1 January 2006 to 30 June 2008.

The activities presented include new licenses, agreements and declarations, but *not* on-ground extent change. On-ground extent change is monitored in parallel via satellites. Both activities and on-ground extent changes, when viewed together, help build a picture of what is happening with native vegetation across the state

The latest statistics have been gathered through a collaborative effort between the Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW (DECC), catchment management authorities (CMAs), the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI), the NSW Department of Lands (DoL) and Forests NSW. The majority of data is taken from DECC's databases. It should be noted that individual CMAs collect revegetation and management data in different formats. Compiling this data across all CMAs to produce state-wide figures has limitations and should only be considered an estimate. A data quality statement is included in the Data Notes.

**Figure 1** Area of native vegetation that has been conserved, restored/revegetated, managed and approved for clearing from 1 January 2008 to 30 June 2008.



# Categories

**Figure 2** Six-monthly records of native vegetation activities in NSW from January 2006 to June 2008.

	Area (hectares)				
	Jan–Jun 2006	Jul–Dec 2006	Jan–Jun 2007	Jul–Dec 2007	Jan–Jun 2008
<b>New conservation areas</b>					
Public reserve system – national park estate	26,606	25,549	129,706	35,070	18,357
Public reserve system – flora reserves	0	0	0	2,726	0
Private conservation areas – conservation agreements	3,034	3,764	59	790	1,312
Private conservation areas – conservation covenants	4,201	910	6,914	484	26,980
Private conservation areas – wildlife refuges (habitat retained)	69,786	90	166	121	62
Private conservation areas – PVPs in perpetuity	not available	not available	not available	1,229	1,755
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>103,627</b>	<b>30,313</b>	<b>136,844</b>	<b>40,419</b>	<b>48,465</b>

## New restoration/revegetation of native vegetation

Incentive PVPs	19,374	12,216	44,942	52,075	95,497
PVP offsets	1,078	2,830	2,101	7,376	4,836
Native plantations	4,787	3,506	12,384	7,194	25,061
Revegetation through other Incentives (non-PVP)	76,165	59,538*	254,013*	54,946	98,954
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	5,260	8,093
Wildlife refuges – habitat restored	127,975	0	3,807	131	12
Natural regeneration – excluding invasive native scrub	not available	1,500	16,766	106	970
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>232,767</b>	<b>82,615</b>	<b>337,916</b>	<b>127,088</b>	<b>233,423</b>

## New management of native vegetation

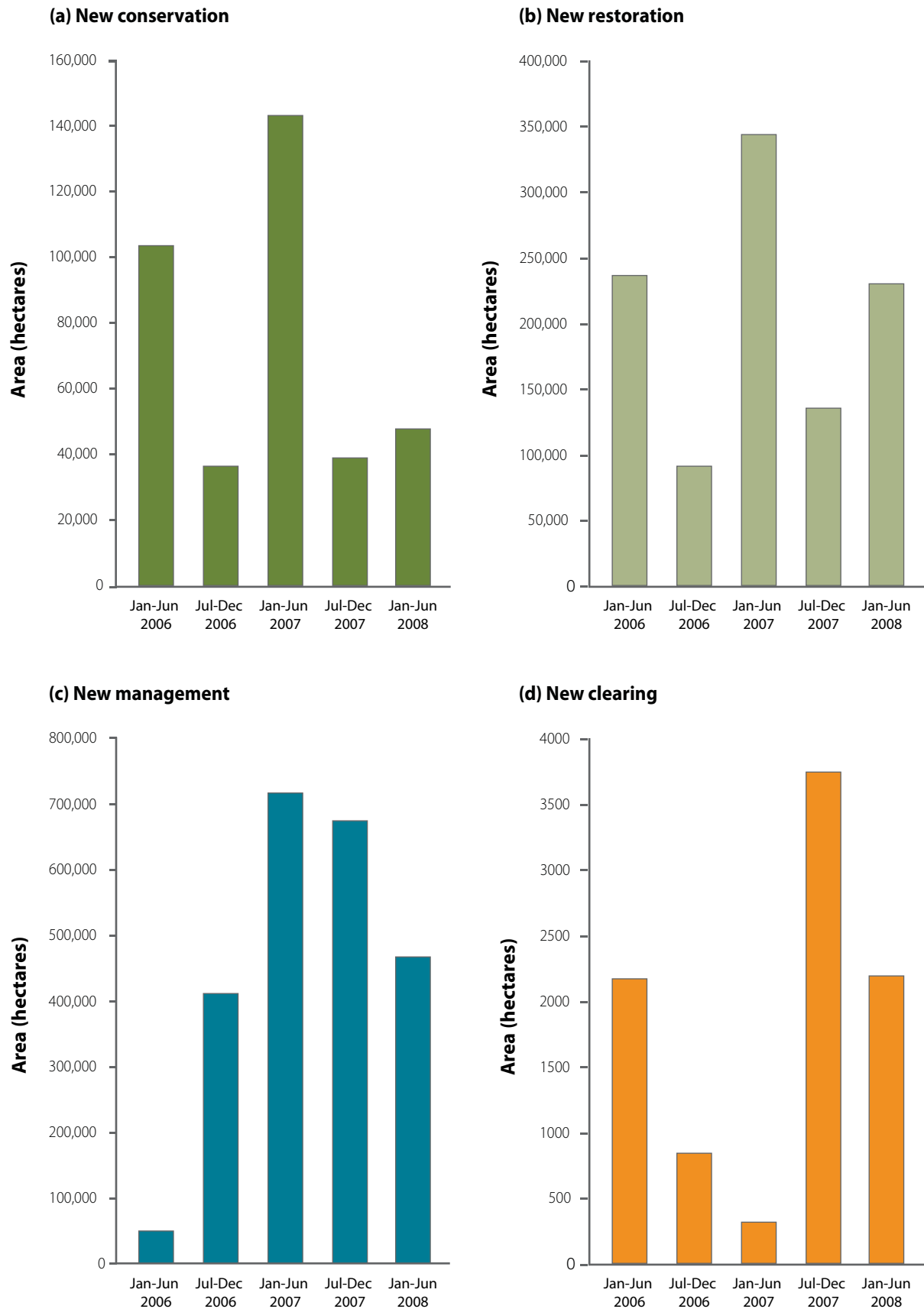
Invasive native scrub PVPs	41,145	77,750	446,365	357,250	286,686
Thinning to benchmark PVPs	7	584	264	74	285
Public forest estate	1,115	-720	-2,550	-11,848	468
Private native forestry on state protected land	7,699	9,441	7,142	5,435	0
Private native forestry PVPs	-	-	-	38,415	38,953
Improved rangeland management	not available	286,733	not available	119,870	109,083
Weed removal programs	940	28,271	276,642	126,261	29,388
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50,906</b>	<b>402,059</b>	<b>727,862</b>	<b>635,457</b>	<b>464,863</b>

## New clearing of native vegetation

Clearing PVPs approved where environmental outcomes maintained or improved	36	257	119	3,374	1,635
Clearing under <i>Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997</i>	2,011	504	0	7	0
Clearing under <i>Plantations and Reafforestation Act 1999</i>	153	98	238	185	305
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>3,566</b>	<b>1,940</b>

\* The NSW Native Vegetation Report Card for 1 July to 31 December 2007 gave figures for 'Revegetation through other incentives (non-PVP)' in Jul–Dec 2006 and Jan–Jun 2007 that included 'Revegetation through other NHT and NAP incentives', but not 'Other revegetation'. 'Other revegetation' has now been included in these figures.

**Figure 3** Area of native vegetation that has been (a) conserved, (b) restored, (c) managed and (d) approved for clearing, from 1 January 2006 to 30 June 2008.



**Note:** The graphs have different scales. For detailed breakdown of the figures contributing to the cumulative data above, refer to Figure 2.

# Category descriptions

## New 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 voluntary conservation agreements under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, managed by DECC.
- **Private conservation areas – conservation covenants.** Areas of new conservation agreements imposed during the conversion of leasehold land in the Western Division, to freehold land and managed by the Department of Lands (DoL).
- **Private conservation areas – wildlife refuges – habitat retained.** Areas of new wildlife refuges under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. These areas are managed exclusively for conservation of wildlife habitat. Program is managed by DECC.
- **Private conservation areas – PVPs in perpetuity.** Incentive property vegetation plan (PVP) areas in perpetuity, managed by DECC.

## New restoration/revegetation of native vegetation

- **Incentive PVPs.** Area of revegetation or restoration of native vegetation as set out in an incentive PVP.
- **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.
- **Native plantations.** New areas of native species plantations. Sourced from DPI.
- **Revegetation through other incentives.** Revegetation activities conducted by CMAs through funding sources other than PVPs.
- **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.
- **Natural regeneration – excluding invasive native species.**

## New management of native vegetation

- **Invasive native scrub PVPs.** Area authorised under a PVP to manage invasive native scrub, the term used to describe native plant species that have spread rapidly within their natural range.
- **Thinning to benchmark.** Area of land to be cleared using thinning provisions of the Environmental Outcomes Assessment Methodology.
- **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.
- **Private native forestry PVPs.** Area under a PVP for timber harvesting and often silviculture within a native forest. The Private Native Forestry (PNF) Code of Practice commenced operation in August 2007.
- **Weed removal programs.** Area of land to be cleared of exotic weeds for environmental improvement.

## New clearing of native vegetation

- **Clearing PVPs approved where environmental outcomes maintained or improved.** Area of land where clearing approved under a PVP that will 'improve or maintain' environmental outcomes. The impact of clearing is measured against four environmental values: water quality, soils, salinity and biodiversity (including threatened species).
- **Clearing approvals – isolated paddock tree PVPs.** Estimated area of total paddock trees removed under a PVP.
- **Clearing under *Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997*.** Area of outstanding applications to be cleared under the *Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997*.
- **Clearing under *Plantations and Reafforestation Act 1999*.** Area of land to be cleared under the *Plantations and Reafforestation Act 1999*.

## Data sources

Forests NSW provided data on 12 August 2008, DPI provided information on plantations on 13 August 2008, and information was collected from DECC for the public reserve system on 13 August 2008, private conservation areas (voluntary conservation agreements and wildlife refuges) on 2 July 2008, and PNF PVPs on 18 August 2008. DoL provided information on conservation covenants on 8 September 2008. Data was taken from DECC's *Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997* application database 'VegNet2' on 23 June 2008 and 21 July to 27 August 2008.

## Data limitations or exclusions

- The statistics do not include clearing carried out under exemptions or alleged illegal clearing.
- The statistics only include DECC, DPI, CMA, DoL and Forests NSW data. They do not include data from other agencies or external organisations.

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