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MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 31 August 2015

ONLINE SERVICE PUTS NSW BIODIVERSITY DATA AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

A new biodiversity web service launched today by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage will provide easy and direct access to information on species sightings held within the BioNet Atlas of NSW Wildlife.

Environment Minister Mark Speakman said anyone from government, ecological consultants and app developers would now be able to access more than seven million NSW biodiversity data records and integrate them into their own systems.

“The new BioNet web service was the first of a series of open data standard web services that would progressively make NSW biodiversity data more easily accessible,” Mr Speakman said.

“This service would enable better decision making by allowing planning and assessment tools used by local and state government agencies to automatically draw upon the latest NSW biodiversity information for NSW.

“In the past, users relied on data requests and manual downloads to keep up-to-date but now they have a trusted source of truth for their biodiversity data.”

Mr Speakman said it would reduce barriers for non-developers as well by adopting an international open data standard called OData.

“Anyone with access to Microsoft Excel could easily create their own visual maps and ‘mash up’ the biodiversity data with other information sources,” Mr Speakman said.

Businesses and app developers which create web based tools can now create applications using the biodiversity data to meet user needs.

The BioNet Web Service project is part of a wider OEH Native Vegetation Information Strategy aimed at making data more open and more accessible.

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