



NSW State Vegetation Type Map

Technical notes – release C2.0M2.2 (2025)

Department of Climate Change,
Energy, the Environment and Water



Acknowledgement of Country

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we work and live.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

This resource may contain images or names of deceased persons in photographs or historical content.

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Artist and designer Nikita Ridgeway from Aboriginal design agency Boss Lady Creative Designs created the People and Community symbol.

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1. Background

The State Vegetation Type Map (SVTM) was first published in June 2022 (version C1.1M1.0, see DPE 2022). It is revised and updated annually to include new sources of information, including survey sites, expert opinions, revisions, corrections and new mapping.

Version C1.1M1.1 was published in December 2022 (DPE 2022), version C2.0M2.0 in December 2023 (DPE 2023) and version C2.0M2.1 in November 2024 (DCCEEW 2024a).

These technical notes describe the 2025 update to the SVTM – version C2.0M2.2, which includes feedback received from the beginning of July 2024 to the end of June 2025.

The extent of revisions to C2.0M2.1 are shown on Figure 1.

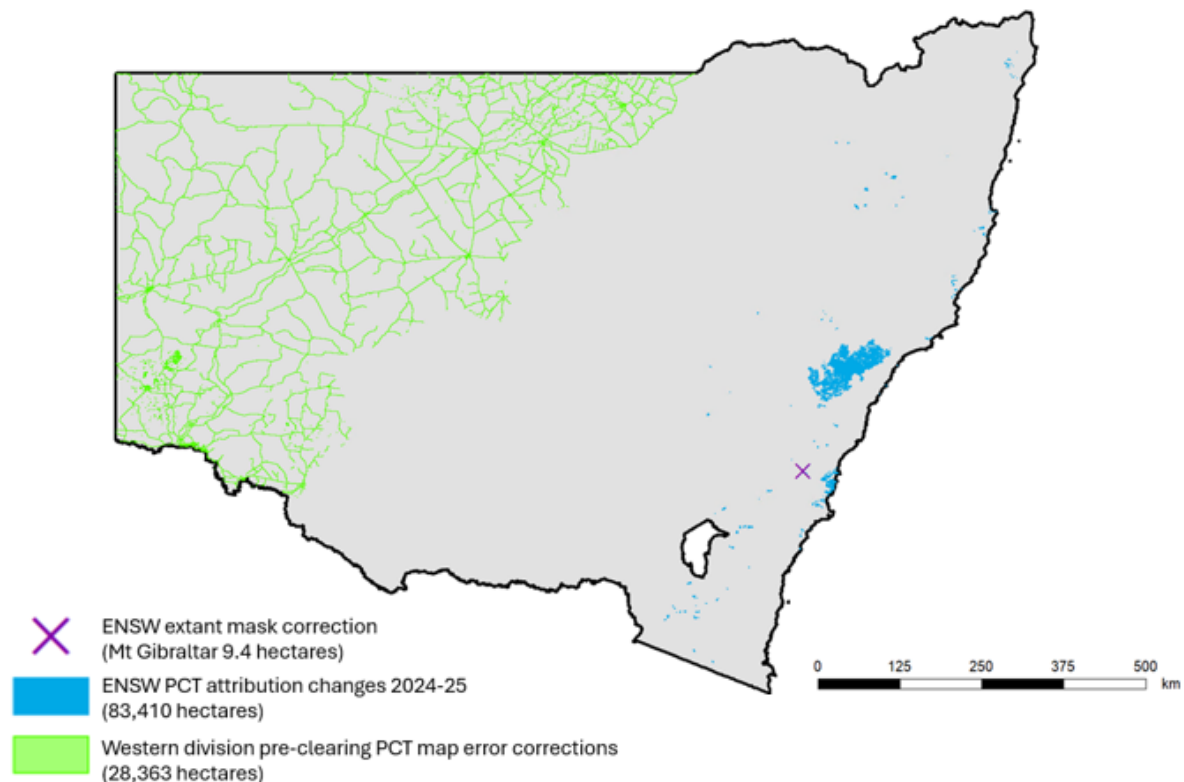


Figure 1 **Location of revisions to the State Vegetation Type Map between C2.0M2.1 and C2.0M2.2**

2. Revising the State Vegetation Type Map

Revisions to C2.0M2.1 were undertaken in September and October 2025 based on feedback and new data relevant to plant community type (PCT) mapping provided to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water from the beginning of July 2024 to the end of June 2025.

PCT attribution editing was undertaken on one master copy ArcGIS geodatabase of the C2.0M2.1 pre-clearing PCT coverage. This approach ensures that when the Native Vegetation Extent mask is applied, both the SVTM pre-clearing and the SVTM extant map are spatially identical. Attribution changes are identified in the GIS file to include a reference to the source of change.

2.1 Uplifting new plant community type mapping

Objective

To add new fine scale map coverages received from the beginning of July 2024 to the end of June 2025.

Process

The following new mapping, available on SEED was ‘uplifted’ into the SVTM and ‘edge matched’ where required:

- Vegetation Mapping Mosaic – Cessnock LGA. VIS ID 5122 | Dataset | SEED (DCCEEW 2024b)
- Kuluwan Flora Reserve Vegetation 2025. VIS_ID 5233 | Dataset | SEED (DCCEEW 2025)

If the new mapping attribution conflicted with the PCT identification of a BioNet PCT member plot, that information (and related polygons) was excluded from the uplift.

2.2 Including user feedback

Objective

Revise the SVTM based on new PCT information provided from user feedback.

Process

The department has widely publicised invitations to users to provide feedback through the SEED, Trees Near Me NSW and Restore Trees NSW app feedback functions.

Initial feedback information was triaged according to the plausibility and relevance of the information, the availability of georeferencing and follow up contact. A reply was provided in all instances where contact information was provided.

Appendix 1 lists 29 instances where feedback information was used to revise the SVTM.

Revisions based on user feedback were only applied to eastern New South Wales. No user feedback was received relating to central or western New South Wales.

2.3 Other map revisions

2.3.1 Western New South Wales

A minor revision was undertaken in western New South Wales to address 2 issues:

- Some 'road errors' and other attribution gaps appearing in the 1750 layer
- Some unattributed polygons related to a water layer used in map compilation.

Road errors were addressed by infilling attribution using 'Distance Allocation' routine with the nearest vegetation class, using default planar distance settings. These settings use a straight-line distance. This process effectively removed road-related errors and replaced them with vegetation values consistent with surrounding context.

Some further work was undertaken to make corrections to unattributed areas resulting from the process of identifying roads. For this purpose, natural water features were extracted from the NSW Hydrological layer and any original vegetation attribution was reassigned.

2.3.2 Eastern New South Wales

PCT 3128, which was Decommissioned in 2023 in PCT Master List C2.0, was removed from the SVTM.

2.3.3 Ongoing quality assurance testing

As part of routine quality assurance checking before maps were published in 2022, systematic modelling errors (allocation of PCTs outside of their likely natural distribution) were identified and most of the larger and obvious errors corrected at that time, prior to publication.

As part of ongoing quality assurance testing new spatial tools have been used to detect any residual systematic errors in the mapping. As a result, a further 226 PCTs were found to have minor residual instances outside of their expected distributions. These instances tended to be isolated clumps and single polygons.

Where instances were found they were corrected either by expert manual editing or using an automated 'Nearest Neighbour' substitution similar to that reported in NSW State Vegetation Type Map Technical notes – release C2.0M2.0 (2023), (DPE 2023).

3. Revising the Native Vegetation Extent raster

Edits to the Native Vegetation Extent mask are undertaken on one master ArcGIS 5 metre raster file. This file is version controlled and all edits recorded. All edits resulted in version 1.7 of the Native Vegetation Extent mask that was then applied to SVTM C2.0M2.1 to create C2.0M2.2.

As part of the 2024–25 edits to the SVTM, a minor update was made in eastern New South Wales on Mount Gibraltar (Figure 1), where 9.4 hectares were added to the Native Vegetation Extent mask. These areas were previously mapped as ‘Not native vegetation’ due to their interpretation as bare rock face and have now been reclassified as native vegetation following user feedback.

No additional SLATS (Statewide Landcover and Tree Study) pixels were added during this round of edits, and version 1.7 of the native mask is current with SLATS data up to 2021.

4. Plant community type per cent cleared values

There is no change to BioNet PCT per cent cleared statistics in this 2025 release.

PCT per cent cleared statistics and an associated technical report will accompany a future SVTM mapping release.

References

DCCEEW (2024a) (Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water) *NSW State Vegetation Type Map: Technical notes- release C2.0M2.1 (2024)*

DCCEEW (2024b) *Vegetation Mapping Mosaic – Cessnock LGA- VIS ID 5122. Vegetation Mapping Mosaic – Cessnock LGA. VIS ID 5122 | Dataset | SEED*

DCCEEW (2025) *Kuluwan Flora Reserve Vegetation VIS_ID 5233. Kuluwan Flora Reserve Vegetation 2025. VIS_ID 5233 | Dataset | SEED*

DPE (2022) (Department of Planning and Environment) *NSW State Vegetation Type Map: Technical notes – release C1.1M1.1 (2022)*

DPE (2023) *NSW State Vegetation Type Map: Technical notes – release C2.0M2.0 (2023)*

Appendix 1

Table 1 Feedback received on version C2.0M2.1 and general location of comments

Source	Locality in NSW
Correspondence	Menangle
Correspondence	Parr State Conservation Area
Correspondence	Port Kembla
Correspondence	Eastern NSW – 615 new sites
Correspondence	Bega region – local government area mapping 164 sites and polygons
Correspondence	Illawarra Melaleuca Scrub PCT 3872
Correspondence	Thirlmere Lakes
Correspondence	Koala Tree data
Correspondence	Mount Bowen
INC0974972	Prospect Dam, Cumberland Plain
INC0976020	Black Mountain near Armidale
INC0957688	Ulan
INC0957690	Ulan
INC0957689	Ulan
Correspondence	East Coast
INC0991683	Goulburn
Correspondence	BCT BAM Vegetation ‘plots’ (vectors only)
INC0961951	Armidale
INC0961952	Armidale
INC0961954	Armidale
INC0961953	Armidale
INC1137215	Armidale
INC1138223	Armidale
Correspondence	Illawarra ILGW TEC mapping
Correspondence	Mount Gibraltar
Correspondence	Central Coast Wallum
INC1161846	Bruxner Highway