

vegetation

# NSW Native Vegetation REPORT CARD

July to December 2008

The *Native Vegetation Report Card* is a regularly published report that contains the latest information about conservation, restoration or revegetation, management and clearing of native vegetation in NSW. Release of the *Native Vegetation Report Card* is required under Milestone 35 of the Priority Delivery Plan for priority E4 of the NSW State Plan.

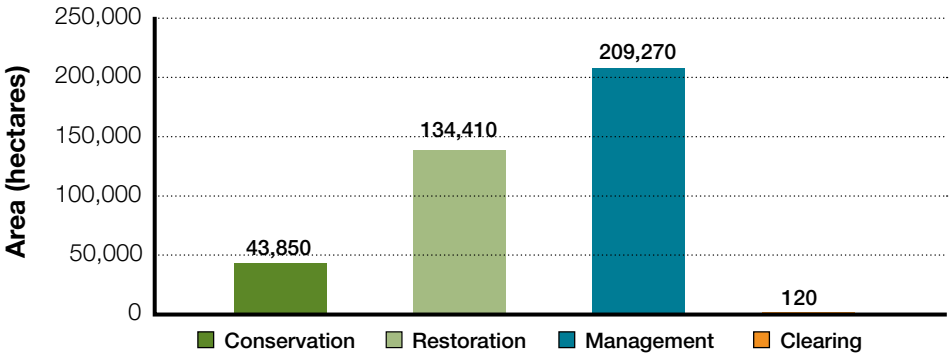
The data has been routinely released in the form of the *Native Vegetation Report Card*, which is available at [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/vegetation/publications.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/vegetation/publications.htm).

This report card is the sixth since commencement of the *Native Vegetation Act 2003* and contains information about native-vegetation activities in NSW from July to December 2008. Figure 1 is a graph of the area of native vegetation that has been conserved, restored or revegetated, managed and approved for clearing between July and December 2008. The detailed data in Table 1 and Figure 2 is itemised in six-monthly intervals from January 2006 to December 2008.

The activities presented include new licences, agreements and declarations but *not* change in on-ground extent. Change in on-ground extent is monitored in parallel by way of satellite monitoring. When studied together, both the activities and the change in on-ground extent constitute a picture of what is happening in relation to native vegetation throughout NSW.

The latest statistics have been gathered collaboratively 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. Most of the data is taken from DECC's databases. Please note that individual CMAs collect revegetation and management data in varying formats. Compiling this data across all CMAs to produce state-wide figures entails limitations, so please consider the data to be an estimate only. Category descriptions are set out at the end of this report card.

**Figure 1** Area of native vegetation that has been conserved, restored or revegetated, managed and approved for clearing from July to December 2008. *Note:* The data in Figure 1 has been rounded up or down to the nearest 10 hectares.



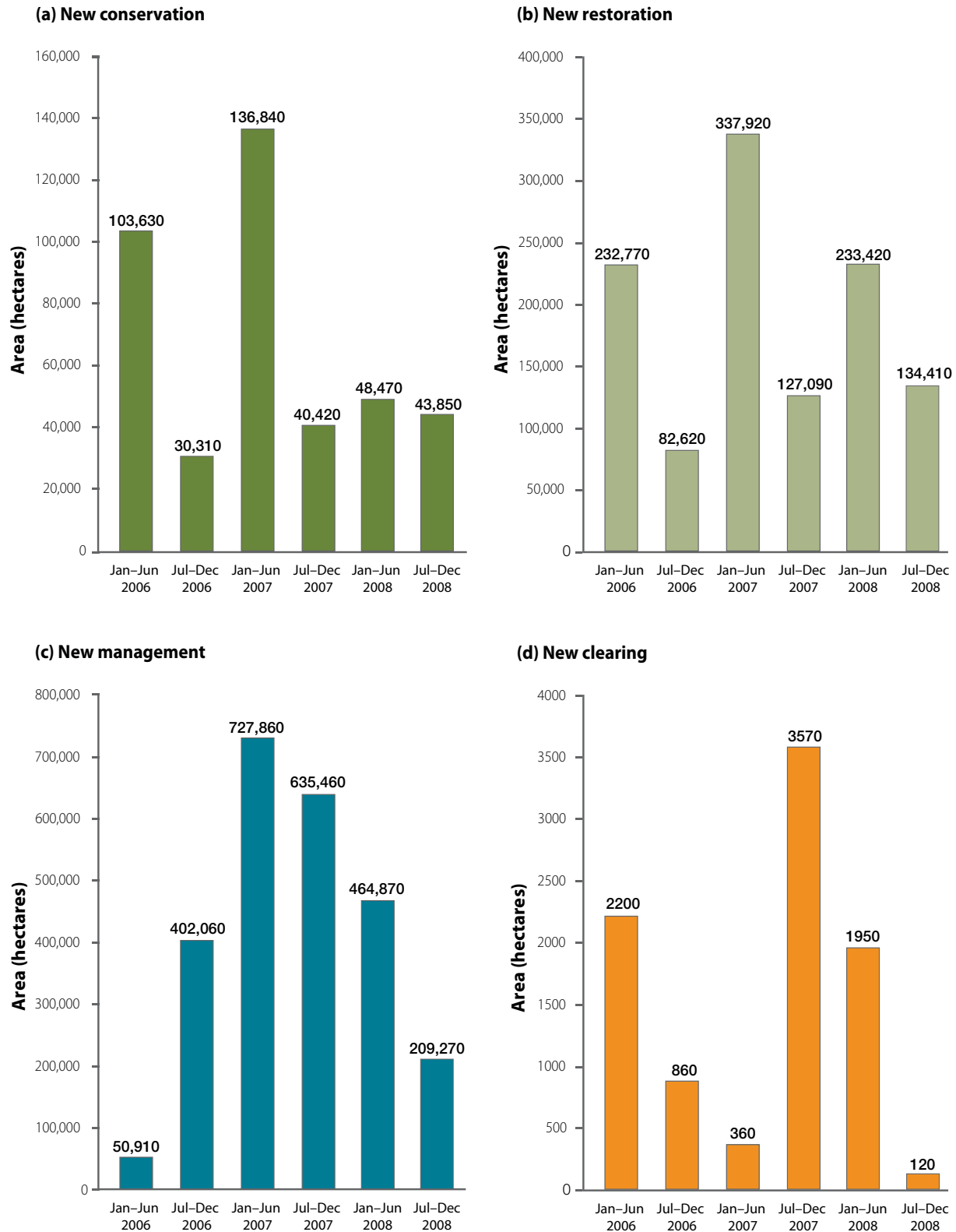
# Categories

**Table 1** Six-monthly records of native-vegetation activities in NSW from January 2006 to December 2008.  
*Note:* The figures in Table 1 have been rounded up or down to the nearest 10 hectares.

		Area (hectares)					
		Jan-Jun 2006	Jul-Dec 2006	Jan-Jun 2007	Jul-Dec 2007	Jan-Jun 2008	Jul-Dec 2008
<b>New conservation areas</b>							
	Public-reserve system: national-park estate	26,610	25,550	129,710	35,070	18,360	18,470
	Public-reserve system: flora reserves	0	0	0	2,730	0	0
	Private-conservation areas: voluntary-conservation agreements	3,030	3,760	60	790	1,310	250
	Private-conservation areas: conservation covenants	4,200	910	6,910	480	26,980	24,670
	Private-conservation areas: wildlife refuges	69,790	90	170	120	60	140
	Private-conservation areas: PVPs in perpetuity	Not available	Not available	Not available	1,230	1,760	320
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>103,630</b>	<b>30,310</b>	<b>136,840</b>	<b>40,420</b>	<b>48,470</b>	<b>43,850</b>
<b>New restoration or revegetation of native vegetation</b>							
	Incentive PVPs	19,370	12,220	44,940	52,080	95,500	2,510
	PVP offsets	1,080	2,830	2,100	7,380	4,840	100
	Native plantations	4,790	3,510	12,380	7,190	25,060	7,570
	Revegetation through other incentives (non-PVP)	76,170	59,540	254,010	54,950	98,950	119,320
	Retained as a condition of approval to clear: <i>Plantations and Reafforestation Act 1999</i> and <i>Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997</i>	3,390	3,030	3,900	5,260	8,090	1,310
	Wildlife refuges: habitat restored	127,980	0	3,810	130	10	10
	Natural regeneration, excluding invasive native scrub	Not available	1,500	16,770	110	970	3,590
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>232,770</b>	<b>82,620</b>	<b>337,920</b>	<b>127,090</b>	<b>233,420</b>	<b>134,410</b>
<b>New management of native vegetation</b>							
	Invasive native scrub PVPs	41,150	77,750	446,360	357,250	286,690	133,580
	Thinning to benchmark PVPs	10	580	260	70	290	120
	Public-forest estate	1,110	-720	-2,550	-11,850	470	-7,000
	Private native forestry on state-protected land	7,700	9,440	7,140	5,440	0	0
	Private native forestry PVPs	-	-	-	38,420	38,950	69,410
	Improved rangeland management	Not available	286,730	Not available	119,870	109,080	0
	Weed-removal programs	940	28,270	276,640	126,260	29,390	13,160
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50,910</b>	<b>402,060</b>	<b>727,860</b>	<b>635,460</b>	<b>464,870</b>	<b>209,270</b>
<b>New clearing of native vegetation</b>							
	Clearing PVPs approved where environmental outcomes maintained or improved	40	260	120	3,370	1,640	20
	Clearing under <i>Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997</i>	2,010	500	0	10	0	0
	Clearing under <i>Plantation and Reafforestation Act 1999</i>	150	100	240	190	310	100
	Clearing under local government RAMAs	-	-	0	0	0	0.5
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>3,570</b>	<b>1,950</b>	<b>120</b>

**Figure 2** The area of native vegetation that has been conserved, restored or revegetated, managed and approved for clearing from January 2006 to December 2008. *Note:* The data has been rounded up or down to the nearest 10 hectares. For a detailed breakdown of the figures that are contributory to the cumulative data, please see Table 1.

**The scales of the graphs differ.**



# 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.
- **Public-reserve system: flora reserves** Data from Forests NSW.
- **Private-conservation areas: voluntary-conservation agreements** Areas of new voluntary-conservation agreements under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.
- **Private-conservation areas: conservation covenants** Areas of new conservation agreements imposed during conversion of leasehold land in the Western Division 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.
- **Private-conservation areas: PVPs in perpetuity** Incentive ‘property-vegetation plan’ (PVP) areas in perpetuity.

## 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** Plantable area includes plantations of native species only. Sourced from DPI.
- **Revegetation through other incentives** Revegetation activities conducted by CMAs through funding sources other than PVPs. Sourced from CMAs.
- **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 in which conservation is integrated in other land-use activities and in which wildlife habitat is also provided, for example grazing on native unimproved grasslands/rangelands/woodlands.
- **Natural regeneration, excluding invasive native species** Sourced from CMAs.

## New management of native vegetation

- **Invasive native scrub PVPs** Area authorised under a PVP, to manage invasive native scrub; the term used for describing native-plant species that have spread rapidly within their natural range.
- **Thinning to benchmark PVPs** Area of land to be cleared to improve the quality of the vegetation 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 do not cause degradation of native forests.
- **Private native forestry PVPs** Area under a PVP for timber harvesting and often silviculture within a native forest. Private Native Forestry (PNF) Code of Practice commenced operation in August 2007.
- **Improved rangeland management** Improvement of native vegetation through management and incentive projects involving control of grazing pressure from feral goats and domestic stock by either erecting fencing or controlling access to water.
- **Weed-removal programs** Area of land to be cleared of exotic weeds for environmental improvement. Sourced from DECC and CMAs.

## New clearing of native vegetation

- **Clearing PVPs approved where environmental outcomes maintained or improved; includes isolated paddock trees** Area of land where a landholder who has been approved to clear it under a PVP 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 under *Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997*** Area approved for clearing under the *Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997*.
- **Clearing under *Plantations and Reafforestation Act 1999*** Area of land approved for clearing under the *Plantations and Reafforestation Act 1999*. Sourced from DPI.
- **Clearing under local-government RAMAs** Area of land permitted for clearing under the *Native Vegetation Act 2003* for essential local-government infrastructure.

## Data sources

All data is from DECC sources unless otherwise stated.

Forests NSW provided data on 13 January 2009; DPI provided information about plantations on 20 January 2009; and information was collected from DECC for the public-reserve system on 21 January 2009, private-conservation areas (voluntary-conservation agreements and wildlife refuges) on 14 January 2009, and PNF PVPs on 28 January 2009. DoL provided information about conservation covenants on 30 January 2009. Data was taken from DECC's *Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997* application database VegNet2 on 19 January 2009 and DECC's *Native Vegetation Act 2003* application database PADACS on 9 February 2009. CMAs provided data from 23 January to 13 February 2009.

## Data limitations and exclusions

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

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