

# TENURE REPORT (STAGE 1)

NSW WESTERN REGIONAL ASSESSMENTS

[MARCH 2000]

Brigalow Belt  
South

Resource and Conservation  
Assessment Council



# **TENURE REPORT FOR THE BRIGALOW BELT SOUTH BIOREGION (STAGE 1)**

**NSW NATIONAL PARKS AND  
WILDLIFE SERVICE WESTERN  
DIRECTORATE**

A project undertaken for  
the Resource and Conservation Assessment Council  
NSW Western Regional Assessments

**30<sup>th</sup> March 2000**

**FINAL REPORT**

**For more information and for information on access to data contact the:**

**Resource and Conservation Division, Department of Urban Affairs and Planning**

GPO Box 3927  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Phone: (02) 9228 3166  
Fax: (02) 9228 4967

© Crown copyright March 2000  
New South Wales Government

ISBN 1 74029 159 X

This project has been funded and managed by the Resource and Conservation Division, Department of Urban Affairs and Planning

The project was also overseen and developed through the Resource and Conservation Assessment Council.

**Disclaimer**

While every reasonable effort has been made to ensure that this document is correct at the time of printing, the State of New South Wales, its agents and employees, do not assume any responsibility and shall have no liability, consequential or otherwise, of any kind, arising from the use of or reliance on any of the information contained in this document.

# CONTENTS

Executive Summary

Project summary

1.	Introduction	1
1.1	Project scope	1
2.	Tenure Data	3
2.1	National Parks and Wildlife Service Estate	3
2.2	NPWS Purchased & not Gazetted	3
2.3	State Forests	4
2.4	Crown Lands Information Database (CLID)	4
3.	Conclusions	7
4.	Recommendations	9
	Appendix 1 - NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Estate	11



This report describes a project undertaken for the Resource and Conservation Assessment Council as part of the regional assessments of western New South Wales. The Resource and Conservation Assessment Council advises the State Government on broad-based land use planning and allocation issues. An essential process for the western regional assessments is to identify gaps in data information and the best ways in which to proceed with data gathering and evaluation.

The Stage 1 Tenure Project was designed to provide a suitable tenure layer for conservation assessment as part of the staged regional assessment of the Brigalow Belt South bioregion. The major forest blocks, the Pilliga and Goonoo State Forests, were the focal points of the assessment. Other state forests and crown lands were assessed on a limited basis.

This project has provided:

- a preliminary tenure layer of NPWS and SF boundaries;
- an unverified Crown Land Information Database (CLID); and
- recommendation for further work.

Land tenure layers for the western region of NSW are generally in need of further, and more detailed work. The tenure layer produced for the Brigalow Belt South bioregion Stage 1 was sufficient for the task required, however the production of an accurate tenure coverage, including all crown lands and private lands, will be needed for any Comprehensive Regional Assessment.

It is recommended that resources are made available to support a project aimed at collating and integrating up-to-date and accurate tenures. This will be critical in the determination of conservation values for the whole range of biodiversity in the bioregion, and will make it possible to best conserve biodiversity.





# PROJECT SUMMARY

This report describes a project undertaken for the Resource and Conservation Assessment Council as part of the regional assessments of western New South Wales. The Resource and Conservation Assessment Council advises the State Government on broad-based land use planning and allocation issues. An essential process for the western regional assessments is to identify gaps in data information and the best ways in which to proceed with data gathering and evaluation.

The Stage 1 Tenure Project was designed to provide a suitable tenure layer for conservation assessment as part of the staged regional assessment of the Brigalow Belt South bioregion. The major forest blocks, the Pilliga and Goonoo State Forests, were the focal points of the assessment. Other state forests and crown lands were assessed on a limited basis.

Land tenure layers for the western region of NSW are generally in need of further, and more detailed work. The tenure layer produced for the Brigalow Belt South bioregion Stage 1 was sufficient for the task required, however the production of an accurate tenure coverage will be needed for any Comprehensive Regional Assessment.

The project employ a Project Officer to manage, employ and work with contractors and consultants to meet the projects objectives. The Land Information Centre (LIC) provided the relevant data (e.g. CLID, cadastre). The project manager prepared and verified the tenure layer from this information. Preliminary interpretation of the results was to be available for the assessment process.

Specific objectives for the project were to:

- provide a reasonably accurate tenure layer to assist in survey stratification, site location, and the assessment and negotiation processes;
- prepare a fully attributed GIS map of tenure at 1:50 000 scale; and
- provide a basis for the development of conservation and resource management strategies, including assisting in;
  - the identification of conservation values (eg. High Conservation Values)
  - the identification of a Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative Protected Area Network, and
  - developing conservation criteria, targets and protocols.

It was concluded that the current tenure layer available for the western region, and more specifically, the Brigalow Belt South bioregion, is in need of considerable work if it is to be used for conservation assessments.

It is recommended that resources are made available to support a project aimed at collating and integrating up-to-date and accurate tenures. This will be critical in

the determination of conservation values for the whole range of biodiversity in the bioregion, and make it possible to best conserve biodiversity.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Western Regional Assessment Unit Manager: Gary Saunders  
Report preparation: Ed Knowles, Peter Hesp, Rob Mezzatesta, GIS Division  
Report formatting : Stephen Wall

Thanks are extended to the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, NSW State Forests, Department of Land and Water Conservation and RACD personnel who have supported the production of this report, and who have made contributions either directly or indirectly.

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 PROJECT SCOPE

Brigalow Belt South bioregion Stage 1 regional assessment was specifically focussed on vegetation communities of the southern portion of the Brigalow Belt South bioregion (i.e. south of Narrabri) including the Goonoo and Pilliga areas (including State Forests, National Parks estate and other crown lands) for preliminary assessment by April 2000.

The Stage 1 Tenure Project was designed to provide a suitable tenure layer for conservation assessment as part of the staged regional assessment of the Brigalow Belt South bioregion. The major forest blocks, the Pilliga and Goonoo State Forests, were the focal points of the assessment. Other state forests and crown lands were assessed on a limited basis.

The project employed a Project Officer based in NPWS GIS Division to manage, employ and work with contractors and consultants to meet the objectives listed below. The project was approved in October 99 and was required to provide preliminary information in early November 1999 to define surveys and then prepare a final layer by December 1999. A final layer and report was required to be provided.

The Land Information Centre (LIC) provided the relevant data (e.g. Crown Land Information Database CLID, cadastre). The project manager was employed to prepare and verify the tenure layer from this information. Preliminary interpretation of the results was to be available for the assessment process.

### 1.1.1 Objectives

The overall objective of the tenure project was to provide a GIS based tenure layer at 1:50 000 scale of State Forests, National Parks estate and crown land within or directly adjacent to the Brigalow Belt South bioregion including Goonoo and Pilliga areas, suitable for conservation and resource assessment, planning and management.

Specific objectives for the project were to:

- provide a reasonably accurate tenure layer to assist in survey stratification, site location, and the assessment and negotiation processes;
- prepare a fully attributed GIS map of tenure at 1:50 000 scale; and
- provide a basis for the development of conservation and resource management strategies, including assisting in;
  - the identification of conservation values (eg. High Conservation Values)

- the identification of a Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative Protected Area Network, and
- developing conservation criteria, targets and protocols.

## 2. TENURE DATA

Draft tenure information for the Brigalow Belt South bioregion has been collated by NPWS GIS Division for the use in the project assessments. Tenure information was retained as separate data coverages due to the short time frame for data collection and the draft status of the majority of the tenure information.

Tenure information comprises of the following coverages.

### 2.1 NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE ESTATE

Information on gazetted reserves was collected from Estates and Survey Unit, Land Conservation Division, Policy and Science Directorate.

The processes used to finalise the Service Estate boundaries were:

- use a Digital Cadastral DataBase (DCDB) to create new estate boundaries;
- produce check plots of each park for Estates and Survey Unit to verify the new boundaries according to the gazettals;
- make corrections according to the information given by the Estate Survey Unit; and
- produce final check plots for Estate Survey Unit to do the final check and sign off the final maps.

Metadata for this layer is available in Appendix 1.

### 2.2 NPWS PURCHASED & NOT GAZETTED

Information on land parcels purchased is collated from the “Acquired Lands Database” held by Land Conservation Division, Policy and Science Directorate.

The process to finalise the Purchased not gazetted boundaries was:

- use a Digital Cadastral DataBase (DCDB) to create new purchased lands boundaries;
- produce check plots of each park for Estates and Survey Unit to verify the new boundaries according to the Aquired Lands Database;
- make corrections according to the information given by the Estate Survey Unit; and
- produce final check plots for Estate Survey Unit to do the final check and sign off the final maps.

[\[IS THERE ANY METADATA FOR THIS\]](#)

## 2.3 STATE FORESTS

A dataset from NSW State Forests was recieved in a draft form and was passed on to NPWS Western Directorate office. RACD and NPWS is still awaiting finalised boundaries and metadata.[\[IS THIS STILL THE CASE\]](#)

[\[IS THERE ANY METADATA FOR THIS\]](#)

## 2.4 CROWN LANDS INFORMATION DATABASE (CLID)

CLID coverages were recieved from the Land Information Centre (LIC) and some initial processing of the data was carried out. The crown lands data for the western region, and the Brigalow Belt South bioregion is in need of major work to produce a reliable coverage. To date, the following has been carried out:

- CLID themes were separated into seven themes over three AMG projections;
- each mapsheet tile in each theme was separated into the correct projection directory;
- translated each Genemap export file into a single Arc/Info coverage for each of the seven themes;
- re-project each theme coverage to AMG Zone 55;
- edit each theme coverage by closing polygons on each mapsheet boundary;
- build and/or clean each theme (0.0001 tolerance);
- add genemap attribute into the Arc/Info coverage for each theme;
- build each theme to include areas that cross AMG boundaries; and
- convert each CLID theme to shapefile.

The CLID layer was also prepared in order to initially identify specific VLC for survey work. NPWS Western Directorate took the CLID layer to DLWC at a regional scale to investigate crown lands. There was a clear need to revise the CLID layer, and collect information on crown lands from parish maps as CLID had many changes registered (approximately 7000)(pers. comm. R Hicks). Further investigations on the time required to review and collect information from parish maps is ongoing.

The seven CLID themes and their categories consist of:

CLID Reserves	Code
Reserved Crown Land	400
Public Recreation Reserve	410
Reserved from sale/reserved for future public requirements	420
TSRs	431/432
Commons	440
Reserve from Lease or License	450
Proclamations	460
Reserved under Special Act	470
Other Reservations	480
School of the Arts reserves	481
Cemetary reserve	482
Dedication	483
Non-notified Reserve.	490

<b>CLID Lease</b>	<b>Code</b>
Leased Crown Land	500
Irrigated Leases.	510

<b>CLID Lands</b>	<b>Code</b>
Other Crown Land (VCL)	100
Status Crown	120
Status Unknown.	130

<b>CLID Waterways</b>	<b>Code</b>
Waterways	700
Tidal Waterways	710
Crown Tidal	711
Non Crown Tidal	712
Non Tidal Waterway	720
Crown non Tidal	721
Non Crown non Tidal	722

<b>CLID Easements</b>	<b>Code</b>
Easement	800
Easement over Crown Land	810
Crown Land Act	820
Other Act	830
Electricity Transmission	831
Transportation Access	832
Fuel (gas,oil)	833
Water/Sewerage/Drainage	834
Other Purpose	835
Easement over non Crown Land	840
Electricity Transmission	841
Transportation Access	842
Fuel (gas,oil)	843
Water/Sewerage/Drainage	844
Other Purpose	845

<b>CLID Roads</b>	<b>Code</b>
Public Road – Undefined Status	900
Crown Road	910
Shared Council/Crown Road	915
Council Road	920
Public Road Unincorporated Area	930
Freeway	940
Other Road (other Authority)	950
Private Road	980
Private Road (private access)	981
Private Road (public access)	982
Private tollway	983
Closed Road	990

Closed Road Crown	991
Closed Road Council	992
Closed Road RTA	994

It was recommended that only the CLID Reserves, Leases, and Lands themes be used for assessment in the Western Regional Assessment. There is no formal metadata available from LIC for the CLID data set, but there is a document describing the capture of the data;

LIC (1995)“*Crown Land Information Database – Expanded Specifications, Checklists, 26D Waterways. For Use in the Capture of the Various Layers within the CLID Spatial Project.*” First Revision – 6 October 1995. Unpublished.



## 3. CONCLUSIONS

Land tenure layers for the western region of NSW are generally in need of further, and more detailed work. The tenure layer produced for the Brigalow Belt South bioregion Stage 1 was sufficient for the task required, however the production of an accurate tenure coverage will be needed for any Comprehensive Regional Assessment.

National park boundaries are reasonably accurate, however would benefit some further work. The inclusion on any recent new additions to the National Park estate is needed, along with any acquisitions and Voluteer Conservation Agreements.

The State Forest boundaries also need further work to reflect recent tenure changes. There are boundary finalisations which need to be resolved, and general cleaning of boundaries and topology. Land use within State Forest areas needs to be included.

The Crown Land mapping is in need of far greater work. The Crown Land Identified Database layer (CLID) supplied for the Stage 1 assessment has a number of errors, gaps, and complications which need to be addressed prior to any CRA. One of the problems which is outstanding is the determination of lands which are subject to a number of classes of crown land (i.e reserved and leased). Another problem is boundary errors and gaps which need to be delt with in the appropriate agencies at a regional scale.

The CLID layer is in need of work at a regional scale, utilising local DLWC and NPWS personel to work through parish maps and digitise crown lands.

Private and freehold tenures need to be mapped. It is insufficient to assume that this is the default after other tenures have been mapped. Errors are likely to occur if tenures are derived in this fashion.



## 4. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that resources are made available to support a project aimed at collating and integrating up-to-date and accurate tenures. This will be critical in the determination of conservation values for the whole range of biodiversity in the bioregion, and make it possible to best conserve biodiversity.

Any tenure layer project should be extended to incorporate the derivation and determination of planning units which are needed for the use of C-Plan, which is the recognised computer based conservation assessment tool endorsed by agencies and the Government for the CRA processes.



## Appendix 1

### NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Estate

Dataset	
<b>Unique ID:</b>	ANZNS0208000008
<b>Title:</b>	NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Estate
<b>Custodian:</b>	NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
<b>Jurisdiction:</b>	New South Wales
Description	
<b>Abstract:</b>	Boundaries of areas in NSW which are under the management of the NSW NPWS. Areas include National Parks, Nature Reserves, Regional Parks, State Recreation Areas, Aboriginal Areas and Historic Sites
<b>Search Word(s):</b>	BOUNDARIES Reserve, LAND Ownership Reserve
<b>Geographic Extent Name:</b>	New South Wales General () - New South Wales
<b>Geographic Extent Polygon:</b>	
Bounding Coordinates	
<b>North Bounding Coordinate:</b>	-28.00
<b>South Bounding Coordinate:</b>	-37.5
<b>East Bounding Coordinate:</b>	154.00
<b>West Bounding Coordinate:</b>	141.00
Data Currency	
<b>Beginning Date:</b>	01Jan1897
<b>Ending Date:</b>	Current
Dataset Status	
<b>Progress:</b>	In Progress
<b>Maintenance &amp; Update Frequency:</b>	Quarterly
Access	
<b>Stored Data Format:</b>	DIGITAL vector coverage
<b>Available Format Type:</b>	DIGITAL Arc/Info DIGITAL Arcview
<b>Access Constraints:</b>	The dataset is available to all organisations and individuals. A license agreement is required to obtain the dataset. A fee may be charged to consultations, commercial organisations and local councils. This is to cover the cost of transfer of the data, not for the data itself.
Data Quality	
<b>Lineage:</b>	Updates are made on the occurrence of the gazettal of new reserves or additions to reserves. These are documented on a plan or a map by the Estates and Survey Unit, NPWS. The Spatial Systems Unit, NPWS digitises from these plans, or captures the reserve boundaries from the Digital Cadastral Database. Some interior linework for additions from 1/1/97 has been retained. This linework can be ignored if the dataset is used as reserve regions. The source maps used are of the best available scales of 1:4 000, 1:1:10 000, 1:25 000, 1:50 000 or 1:100 000.
<b>Positional Accuracy:</b>	All linework is being progressively checked by the Estates and Survey Unit. This is detailed in the 'checkdate' field. Linework which has been captured from the Digital Cadastral Database is detailed in the 'origin' field. The positional accuracy of all other linework is dependent upon the scale of the source maps.
<b>Attribute Accuracy:</b>	All attributes have been checked by the Spatial Systems Unit and the Estates and Survey Unit, and logical checks have been carried out. The non-interpretive nature

of the data ensures that the attributes are highly accurate.

**Logical Consistency:** There is a one-to-one relationship between the field's 'code' and 'name'. The field 'code' is a numerical version of the field 'num\_code'. Fields 'est\_code' and 'name\_short' are derived from the field 'name'. A single reserve can have many additions which were gazetted and checked on different dates. Therefore, there is a one-to-many relationship between the field 'name' and the fields which describe gazettal, checking and linework origin. Areas of public land within reserves are labelled 'outside'. A map derived from the dataset should show such inholding in a different shade to the remainder of the dataset, such as white.

**Completeness:** Gazettal information and linework origin, as well internal addition boundaries, are only complete for new reserves and additions since 1st January, 1997. Linework for some minor additions has not yet been captured.

## Contact Information

**Contact Organisation:** NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

**Contact Position:** Manager - GIS Division

**Mail Address:** Head Office, 43 Bridge Street

**Suburb or City:** Hurstville

**State:** NSW

**Country:** Australia

**Postcode:** 2220

**Telephone:** 02 9585 6611

**Facsimile:** 02 9585 6616

**Electronic Mail Address:** gis@npws.nsw.gov.au

## Metadata Date

**Metadata Date:** 26Jul1999

## Additional Metadata

**Additional Metadata:**