

## Lineage on the development of the *Australia's Indigenous forest estate (2018)* dataset for publication in the *Australia's State of the Forests Report 2018*.

*Australia's Indigenous forest estate (2018)* is a continental spatial dataset of forest and non-forest land over which Indigenous peoples and communities have ownership, management, or rights of use, assembled for [Australia's State of the Forests Report 2018](#). It was developed from multiple data sources, including national, state and territory datasets related to land in which there is an Indigenous interest. The Indigenous land dataset is then combined with forest cover information from the *Forests of Australia (2018)* dataset.

For reporting purposes in SOFR 2018 the National Forest Inventory (NFI) groups Indigenous land into four categories as described in Dillon et al. (2015):

- **Indigenous owned and managed:** freehold lands that are both owned and managed by Indigenous communities
- **Indigenous managed:** lands that are managed, but not owned by Indigenous communities, and lands that are owned by Indigenous communities but that have formal shared management agreement with Australian and state and territory government agencies
- **Indigenous co-managed:** lands that are owned and managed by other non-Indigenous parties, but have formal and legally binding agreements in place to include input from Indigenous people in the process of developing and implementing relevant management plan
- **Other Special rights:** land subject to Native Title determinations and active Indigenous Land Use Agreements that provide rights of access or legal requirement for consultation with the Indigenous community before development applications.

The four categories above are ranked from highest-level of Indigenous ownership and management, to lowest.

All data sources obtained were analysed and evaluated against criteria of land ownership, management or rights of use, and allocated against one of the four categories. Those areas identified to be subject to more than one category were classified into the highest-level Indigenous land ownership and management category.

Table 1 below describes each of the data sources used and the source agency, by the allocated Indigenous land category.

**Table 1 Datasets compiled on lands over which Indigenous peoples have use and rights**

Data source	Source agency
<b>Indigenous owned and managed</b>	
Indigenous Protected Areas	Department of the Environment and Energy (DoEE)
Indigenous Land Corporation owned and transferred lands	Indigenous Land Corporation
NSW Aboriginal Land Council and Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) lands	NSW Land Registry Services
NT Aboriginal Lands Trust lands	NT Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics
Queensland Deed of Grant in Trust	Queensland Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (DNRM)

Data source	Source agency
Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land trusts	Queensland DNRM
SA Aboriginal Land Trust and Indigenous community freehold	SA Land Services Group (LSG)
Tasmanian Aboriginal Land Trust lands	Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania
Victorian Traditional Owner Settlement agreements	Victoria Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)
Victorian Indigenous community freehold (under various Aboriginal Land Acts)	Victoria DELWP (obtained from National Native Title Tribunal)
<b>Indigenous managed</b>	
Leased-back nature reserves	State and territory government conservation agencies, DoEE
Leasehold lands associated with ILUAs	Indigenous Land Use Agreement summaries on National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) register
SA Indigenous community leases	SA LSG
WA Aboriginal Lands Trust	WA Department of Aboriginal Affairs
WA Indigenous pastoral leases	WA Land Information Authority, trading as Landgate
<b>Indigenous co-managed</b>	
Nature conservation reserve memoranda of understanding or advisory committees	State and territory government conservation agencies, DoEE
Nature conservation reserves plans of management	State and territory government conservation agencies, DoEE
World Heritage Area memoranda of understanding or advisory committees	State and territory government conservation agencies, DoEE
<b>Other special rights</b>	
Native title determinations	NNTT
Indigenous Land Use Agreements	NNTT
NSW Aboriginal Areas	NSW Office of Environment and Heritage
WA national parks and reserves with customary use provisions	WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
Drinking water catchments with legislated Indigenous rights for cultural use	WA Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

All input datasets were converted to 100 metre cell size rasters in Esri grid format, aligning with relevant standard NFI state or territory masks (also known as NFI snap grids), in Albers projection. Where the input dataset was in polygon format, the **Polygon to Raster** tool was used to convert the polygon dataset to raster format, using the **Maximum Combined Area** option.

The output nation-wide Indigenous land dataset was then combined (intersected) with the forest cover information identified by the Multiple Lines of Evidence (MLE) approach used to develop the *Forests of Australia (2018)* dataset. This identified the forest cover status of land over which Indigenous people have ownership, management, or rights of use.

#### Further reading:

Dillon R, Jeyasingham J, Eades S and Read S (2015). *Development of the Australia's Indigenous forest estate (2013) dataset*. ABARES Research report 15.6, Canberra.

[http://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/forestsaustralia/publications/display?url=http://143.188.17.20/anrdl/DAFFService/display.php?fid=pb\\_aif13d9abfs20150828\\_11a.xml](http://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/forestsaustralia/publications/display?url=http://143.188.17.20/anrdl/DAFFService/display.php?fid=pb_aif13d9abfs20150828_11a.xml)