

Lineage of the development of the *Australia's Indigenous land and forest estate (2020)* dataset

Australia's Indigenous land and forest estate (2020) is a continental spatial dataset of land and forest over which Indigenous peoples and communities have ownership, management or co-management, or other special rights.

This dataset is the same as the previously published *Australia's Indigenous forest estate (2020)* (released 03 December 2020) but with an amended title that more accurately reflects the full extent of the dataset.

This data package therefore continues to use the same sources of data used for assembling the *Australia's Indigenous forest estate (2018)*¹ spatial dataset, and continues to represent the Indigenous land estate information by separate attributes in accordance with the methodology of Jacobsen et al. (2020). The Indigenous land dataset is combined (intersected) with forest cover information from the *Forests of Australia (2018)*² dataset, with the resulting output dataset providing information on the Indigenous estate over forest and non-forest land.

Dillon et al. (2015) originally described the creation of four category combinations that together captured the range of relationships between Indigenous peoples and land or forest, and were used for reporting in *Australia's State of the Forests Report 2013* and *Australia's State of the Forests Report 2018* (MIG and NFISC 2013, 2018). However, individual attributes of ownership, management or co-management and other special rights, were conflated across multiple categories and could not be independently and separately identified. Jacobsen et al. (2020) disentangled the above Indigenous estate categories and described a process for reporting separately on each of the individual attributes of Indigenous ownership, Indigenous management or co-management, and other special rights for Indigenous peoples and communities. That new methodology continues to be used here.

The Indigenous estate land attributes are as follows (ABARES 2020; Jacobsen et al. 2020):

Indigenous owned: Freehold land or forest that is owned by Indigenous communities, or land and forest for which ownership is vested through other mechanisms.

Indigenous managed: Land or forest that is managed by Indigenous communities.

Indigenous co-managed: Land or forest that has formal, legally binding agreements in place to include input from Indigenous people in the process of developing and implementing a management plan.

Other special rights: Land or forest subject to native title determinations, registered Indigenous Land Use Agreements and legislated special cultural use provisions.

This dataset was developed from multiple data sources, including national, state and territory datasets related to land in which there is an Indigenous interest. Table 1 describes each of the data sources used and the source agency, with allocated Indigenous land attributes. Further information on each of the data sources used, currency and attributes of value is included in the appendix.

¹ agriculture.gov.au/abares/forestsaustralia/forest-data-maps-and-tools/spatial-data/indigenous-forest

² agriculture.gov.au/abares/forestsaustralia/forest-data-maps-and-tools/spatial-data/forest-cover

Table 1 Datasets used at inputs for the *Australia's Indigenous land and forest estate (2020)* spatial dataset, and the Indigenous attributes associated with these datasets

Data source	Source agency	Indigenous owned	Indigenous managed	Indigenous co-managed	Other special rights
Indigenous Protected Areas	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE)	Yes	Yes	-	-
Indigenous Land Corporation owned and transferred lands	Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation	Yes	Yes	-	-
NSW Aboriginal Land Council lands	NSW Land Registry Services	Yes	Yes	-	-
NT Aboriginal Lands Trust lands	NT Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics	Yes	Yes	-	-
Queensland Deed of Grant in Trust	Queensland Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (DNRME)	Yes	Yes	-	-
Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land trusts	Queensland DNRME	Yes	Yes	-	-
SA Aboriginal Land Trust, Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) and Maralinga Tjarutja lands	Land Services SA (formerly SA Land Services Group)	Yes	Yes	-	-
Tasmania Indigenous owned lands	Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania	Yes	Yes	-	-
Victoria Indigenous owned lands	Victoria Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)	Yes	Yes	-	-
WA Freehold Aboriginal Community held	WA Land Information Authority, trading as Landgate	Yes	Yes	-	-
Indigenous owned Commonwealth national parks	DAWE	Yes	-	Yes	-
NSW Aboriginal-owned parks with lease-back agreements	NSW Department of Environment, Energy and Science	Yes	-	Yes	-
NT Indigenous freehold parks with joint-management governance	NT Department of Tourism, Sport and Culture	Yes	-	Yes	-
Qld Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land trusts: co-managed conservation reserves	Queensland DNRME	Yes	-	Yes	-
SA Aboriginal-owned co-managed parks	Land Services SA (formerly SA Land Services Group)	Yes	-	Yes	-
Vic. Indigenous owned co-managed conservation reserves	DELWP	Yes	-	Yes	-
WA Indigenous owned co-managed national parks	WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions	Yes	-	Yes	-
NSW Aboriginal Land Council Indigenous managed lands	NSW Land Registry Services	-	Yes	-	-
SA Aboriginal Land Trust lands with Crown land tenure	Land Services SA (formerly SA Land Services Group)	-	Yes	-	-
WA Aboriginal Lands Trust	WA Department of Aboriginal Affairs	-	Yes	-	-
WA Indigenous pastoral leases	WA Land Information Authority, trading as Landgate	-	Yes	-	-
World Heritage areas with Indigenous advisory committees	DAWE	-	-	Yes	-
Other government owned co-managed nature conservation reserves	Various state and territory government conservation agencies	-	-	Yes	-
Native title determinations	NNTT	-	-	-	Yes
Indigenous Land Use Agreements	NNTT	-	-	-	Yes
Other areas with customary practice rights	Various state and territory government conservation agencies	-	-	-	Yes

All input datasets were converted to 100 metre cell size rasters in Esri grid format in Albers projection, aligning with relevant standard NFI state or territory masks (also known as NFI snap grids). 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 national 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)*³ dataset. This identified the forest cover status of land over which Indigenous people have ownership, management or co-management, or rights of use.

The final output dataset comprises a raster dataset (available in both GRID and GeoTIFF formats) accompanied by multiple layer files that display the following attributes:

- Land in the entire Indigenous estate (whether Indigenous owned, Indigenous managed or Indigenous co-managed, or subject to other special rights, or any combination of these attributes).
- Forest in the entire Indigenous estate (whether Indigenous owned, Indigenous managed or Indigenous co-managed, or subject to other special rights, or any combination of these attributes).
- Land that is Indigenous owned
- Forest that is Indigenous owned
- Land that is Indigenous managed or Indigenous co-managed
- Forest that is Indigenous managed or Indigenous co-managed
- Land that is subject to other special rights
- Forest that is subject to other special rights
- Land in the Indigenous estate, by Indigenous estate attributes
- Land in the Indigenous estate, by Indigenous estate attributes

Further reading

ABARES 2020, [Australia's forests and forestry glossary](#), ABARES, Canberra, CC BY 4.0.

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.

Jacobsen R, Howell C, Read SM 2020, [Australia's Indigenous land and forest estate: separate reporting of Indigenous ownership, management and other special rights](#), ABARES technical report, Canberra, DOI: doi.org/10.25814/bqr0-4m20. CC BY 4.0.

MIG and NFISC (Montreal Process Implementation Group for Australia and National Forest Inventory Steering Committee) 2013, [Australia's State of the Forests Report 2013](#), ABARES, Canberra.

MIG and NFISC (Montreal Process Implementation Group for Australia and National Forest Inventory Steering Committee) 2018, [Australia's State of the Forests Report 2018](#), ABARES, Canberra.

³ agriculture.gov.au/abares/forestsaustralia/forest-data-maps-and-tools/spatial-data/forest-cover

Appendix

Further details of all datasets listed in Table 1 are provided herein. This includes the dataset name, data custodian, currency and the attribute field(s) of value used for the analysis to assemble the *Australia's Indigenous land and forest estate (2020)* spatial dataset. The currency of all datasets is 2016 unless otherwise stated. All data were sourced by the National Forest Inventory for preparation of *Australia's State of the Forests Report 2018* (SOFR 2018), and were filtered to exclude data/records after the SOFR 2018 reporting period end date of 30 June 2016 where possible. Datasets are ordered in the same manner as in Table 1.

Indigenous Protected Areas

Asset: Collaborative Australia Protected Areas Database (CAPAD)
Custodian: Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
Procurement: Publicly available
Attribute of value: Protected area type is 'Indigenous Protected Area'

Indigenous Land Corporation owned and transferred lands

Asset: ILC held granted properties
Custodian: Indigenous Land Corporation (now Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation)
Procurement: Supplied
Attribute of value: not available
Other: List of supplied centroids used with cadastre to determine the relevant total area.

New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council lands

Asset: NSW ALC
Custodian: NSW Aboriginal Land Council
Procurement: Supplied
Attribute of value: Joined with the NSW digital cadastre. Those records with a controlling authority of 'freehold' contributed to the Indigenous owned attribute. See also **New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council Indigenous managed lands**.

Northern Territory Aboriginal Lands Trust lands

Asset: NT Aboriginal Land Trusts
Custodian: NT Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics
Procurement: Supplied
Attribute of value: Owner category is 'Aboriginal Land'

Queensland Deed of Grant in Trust

Asset: DOGIT
Custodian: Queensland Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy Indigenous Land Operations
Procurement: Supplied
Attribute of value: Custodian included relevant areas in data supply.
Currency: 2017

Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land trusts

Asset: ATSI lands trusts with lot plan
Custodian: Queensland Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy Indigenous Land Operations
Procurement: Supplied
Attribute of value: Custodian included relevant areas in data supply.

South Australia Aboriginal Land Trust, Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara and Maralinga Tjarutja lands

Asset: Indigenous estate dataset

Custodian: Land Services SA

Procurement: Supplied

Attribute of value: ALT records with a tenure of 'freehold' contributed to the Indigenous owned attribute. See also **South Australia Aboriginal Land Trust lands with Crown land tenure**.

Tasmania Indigenous owned lands

Asset: LIST Land Authority

Custodian: Tasmania Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and the Environment

Procurement: Publicly available

Attribute of value: Land with authority type of 'Aboriginal land'

Victoria Indigenous owned lands

Asset: Indigenous estate Victoria

Procurement: Supplied

Custodian: Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Attribute of value: Custodian included relevant areas in data supply.

Western Australia Freehold Aboriginal Community held

Asset: Freehold Aboriginal Community Held

Custodian: Landgate WA

Procurement: Purchased

Attribute of value: Custodian included relevant areas in data supply.

Indigenous owned Commonwealth national parks

Asset: CAPAD 2016

Custodian: Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.

Procurement: Publicly available

Attribute of value: Type name is 'Australian National Botanic Gardens', 'Booderee National Park', 'Kakadu National Park', or Uluru Kata-Tjuta National Park'.

New South Wales Aboriginal-owned parks with lease-back agreements

Asset: NPWS Aboriginal co-management reserves

Custodian: NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Procurement: Supply

Attribute of value: Identification of those reserves that are owned by Indigenous groups that are leased back to non-Indigenous entities and have formal co-management arrangements in place between Indigenous groups and non-Indigenous entities.

Northern Territory Indigenous freehold parks with joint-management governance

Asset: NT Parks

Custodian: NT Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Procurement: Supplied

Attribute of value: Records with an owner of 'Aboriginal Land Trust' or 'Aboriginal Corporation', and those records subject to the *Section 2 Cobourg Peninsula Aboriginal Land and Sanctuary Act 81* ('Sec 2 CPALS Act 81') legislation.

Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land trusts: co-managed conservation reserves

Asset: Land trusts in protected estate

Custodian: Queensland Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy Indigenous Land Operations

Procurement: Supplied

Attribute of value: Custodian included relevant areas in data supply.

Currency: 2017

South Australia Aboriginal-owned co-managed parks

Asset: SA Parks

Custodian: Land Services SA

Procurement: Supplied

Attribute of value: Those parks that have formal co-management arrangements in place between Indigenous groups and non-Indigenous entities were identified and extracted.

Victoria Indigenous owned co-managed conservation reserves

Asset: PARKRES and VIC_PLM25

Custodian: Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Procurement: Publicly available

Attribute of value: Those parks and reserves identified to have formal co-management arrangements between Indigenous groups and non-Indigenous entities were extracted.

Western Australia Indigenous owned co-managed national parks

Asset: Joint management (WA)

Custodian: WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

Procurement: Supplied

Attribute of value: Custodian included relevant areas in data supply.

New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council Indigenous managed lands

Asset: NSW ALC

Custodian: New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council

Procurement: Supplied

Attribute of value: Joined with the NSW digital cadastre. Those records with a controlling authority of 'Crown' contributed to the Indigenous managed attribute. See also **New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council lands**.

South Australia Aboriginal Land Trust lands with Crown land tenure

Asset: Indigenous estate dataset

Custodian: Land Services SA

Procurement: Supplied

Attribute of value: ALT records with a tenure of 'Crown' or 'Leasehold' contributed to the Indigenous managed attribute. See also **South Australia Aboriginal Land Trust, Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara and Maralinga Tjarutja lands**.

Western Australia Aboriginal Lands Trust

Asset: WA ALT estate

Custodian: WA Aboriginal Affairs

Procurement: Supplied

Attribute of value: Custodian included relevant areas in data supply.

Western Australia Indigenous pastoral leases

Asset: Pastoral Lease Indigenous

Custodian: Landgate WA

Procurement: Purchased

Attribute of value: all Custodian included relevant areas in data supply.

World Heritage areas with Indigenous advisory committees

Asset: World heritage public

Custodian: Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.

Procurement: Publicly available

Attribute of value: Those world heritage areas identified to have formal co-management arrangements in place between Indigenous groups and non-Indigenous entities.

Other government owned co-managed nature conservation reserves

Asset: Numerous
Custodian: Various
Procurement: Supplied

Native title determinations

Asset: NTD register
Custodian: National Native Title Tribunal
Procurement: Publicly available
Attribute of value: Determination outcome is 'native title exists'

Indigenous Land Use Agreements

Asset: ILUA registered notified
Custodian: National Native Title Tribunal
Procurement: Publicly available
Attribute of value: Status is 'ILUA registered'

Other areas with customary practice rights

Asset: Numerous
Custodian: Various
Procurement: Supplied