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# NSW Vegetation Information System – Map Catalogue:

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## Map Layer Naming Protocol

FINAL v2.2



Office of  
Environment & Heritage  
Department of Premier and Cabinet

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## 1.0 Introduction

Standard file naming conventions are used to provide data users with a basic understanding of the data content (eg what, where, when), and to ensure that files operate effectively within the naming parameters of relevant software packages.

The Geographic Information System (GIS) data held in the NSW Vegetation Information Systems Map Catalogue has been collated from a wide variety of sources, and have been subject to an equally diverse variety of naming conventions. A standard convention has now been adopted and is being progressively applied to the data held in VIS Map Catalogue.

## 2.0 Purpose of this document

This document outlines the standard GIS data file naming convention used in the VIS Map Catalogue.

The naming convention described in this document is intended to provide VIS users with understanding of the conventions and codes used.

This convention ensures data in the VIS map Catalogue is compatible with: ESRI geo-database and shapefile data formats; common open source data formats including KMZ, WFS and WMS; and, corporate GIS software including ESRI *ArcSDE*, *ArcMap* and *ArcServer* software. However, this convention also allows a degree of flexibility in naming (see 3.1 – ‘Name’ element) so that the data have the clearest possible description.

## 3.0 Data file naming elements

Total file name length is restricted to a maximum of 32 characters due to the constraints of ESRI ArcSDE software. File names longer than this will be automatically truncated by the software.

The VIS Map Catalogue data file name is comprised of the following elements, separated by underscores (“\_”):

<name> <"\_"> <type> <"\_"> <VIS map identification number>

<S3.1> <"\_"> <S3.2> <"\_"> <S3.3>

### 3.1 ‘Name’ element [maximum 24 text characters]

The Name element should be constructed from a combination of the following sub-elements presented below. First character is to be capitalised. If a sub-element is composed of two or more words, use *CamelCase* instead of (e.g.) underscore.

*Example:*

*BlueMountains* (not *Blue\_mountains*).

#### 3.1.1 ‘Location’ sub-element

Select the most appropriate location descriptor that best conveys the general extent and location of the dataset. As an example, locations may be drawn from Catchment Management Authority (i.e. CMA), Local Government Authority (i.e. LGA),

Comprehensive Regional Assessment Region (i.e. CRA), National Park (etc) or Bioregion names, or if mapping has been conducted by map sheet, by map sheet name.

*Example:*

*MurrayCMA, HornsbyLGA, Guyra100k.*

Additional directional or area suffixes may be used.

*Example:*

*North, South, East, West, NE NSW*

These directional suffixes follow the location name.

*Example:*

*BlueMountainsWest.*

### **3.1.2 ‘Mapping Program or Mapper’ sub-element**

As an alternative to using the Location element, some mapping programs provide a better description of the data than location. If the map has been produced as part of a mapping program, identify the program involved.

*Example:*

*NVMP, RBG, CRAFTI, CRA, EBD.*

This also means that associated maps from the same program will be listed together alphabetically, facilitating easy locating of the data

### **3.1.3 ‘Specialty Themes’ (optional) sub-element**

Specialty themes may include:

- a) speciality vegetation mapping that targets particular plant species (e.g. Bitou Bush), Vegetation Formations (Littoral Rainforest, Grassland), Landscapes (e.g. Wetlands, Estuarine Veg.), Threatened Ecological Communities (e.g. EECs);
- b) vegetation mapping that needs to be distinguished on the basis of classification (e.g. CRAFTI has two separate classifications – one for vegetation structure and the other for floristics; *structure* or *floristics* can be included as part of the name); or
- c) vegetation mapping that is supplied as two separate products – a detailed version and a generalised version (fewer polygons and attributes), such as with the recent Murray CMA vegetation geodatabase. e.g. *data* can be used as part of the name for the detailed version (e.g. MurrayCMA\_east\_data\_E\_3809)

### **3.1.4 ‘Epoch’ (optional) sub-element**

If mapping is conducted as part of a time series (e.g. Gwydir wetland mapping) maps may be labelled with the year which best represents the on-ground situation

*Example:*

*2009 = 09*

This is in contrast to an error-corrected version of the data which related to the same time period (i.e. no need to include year).

### 3.1.5 'Version' (optional) sub-element

If mapping is updated resulting in the allocation of version numbers, the version number should be prefixed by the letter "v", immediately followed by the version number. If the version number includes decimals, separate the number by an underscore.

*Example:*

*Version 2.1 = v2\_1*

### 3.1.6 'Agency' (optional) sub-element

Mapping that covers the same geographical location but was carried out by different agencies may be distinguished by including the agency name, such as RBG (Royal Botanic Gardens).

*Example:*

*RiverinaRGB\_E\_981*

## 3.2 'Type' element [1 text character]

Type refers to the type of vegetation map product as defined in national standards for describing vegetation datasets. (i.e. NVIS Attribute Manual – Attribute DS03 'Vegetation Theme Code')

<http://www.environment.gov.au/erin/nvis/publications/avam/section-3-dataset-reference1.html#ds03> )

Type should be selected from the following options:

*P = Pre-clearing (i.e. Pre-1750 or "natural") vegetation*

*E = Extant (i.e. present, remnant) vegetation*

*B = combination of both pre-clearing and extant vegetation*

*F = footprint*

## 3.3 'VIS Map Identification Number' element [max 4 text numbers]

Definition: a unique (1-4) digit map ID assigned from the VIS technical metadata database by BIS team.

*Example:*

*2218*

## 3.4 'Footprint' type element

Every VIS map dataset has an equivalent footprint dataset that contains only the external boundary of the map dataset. Footprint dataset are identified using "F" type element. If a vegetation map has Extant and Pre-clearing products with different external boundaries, then the footprint represents the union of the two map products..

*Example*

*EBD\_Central\_P\_181* (Eastern Bushland Database pre-clearing vegetation data, VIS map ID 181)

*EBD\_Central\_F\_181* (Eastern Bushland Database footprint, VIS map ID 181)