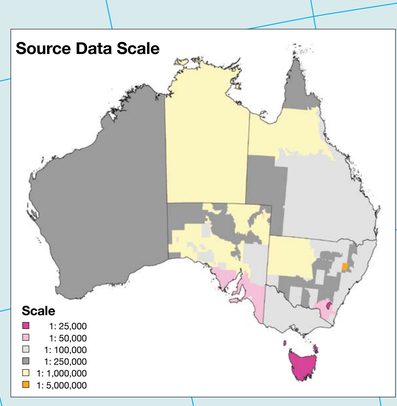
Major Vegetation Groups in Australia

Australian Government



Darwin
Nhulunbuy
Weipa
Cairns
Townsville
Mount Isa
Broome
Halls Creek
Tennant Creek
Exmouth
Alice Springs
Longreach
Rockhampton
Birdsville
Warburton
Meekatharra
Cunnamulla
Brisbane
Coober Pedy
Lightning Ridge
Geraldton
Kalgoorlie
Eucla
Coffs Harbour
Broken Hill
Port Augusta
Perth
Dubbo
Renmark
Mildura
Bunbury
Esperance
Adelaide
Sydney
Wagga Wagga
Canberra
Albany
Bendigo
Mount Gambier
Melbourne
Bega
Launceston
Hobart

Legend

Major vegetation groups (MVGs)

Rainforests

MVG 1. Rainforest and vine thickets
- Closed forests characterised by dense foliage and a large diversity of plant species.
- Extent varies from a few hectares in sheltered gullies to hundreds of square kilometres in a mosaic, often with eucalypt tall open forests.
- Examples include complex mesophyll vine forest in the wet tropics and cool temperate rainforest in Tasmania.

Eucalypt Forests

MVG 2. Eucalypt tall open forest
- Stand over 30 m tall and reach heights of 100 m.
- Typified by a well-developed, often broad-leaved shrubby understorey or sometimes tree ferns.
- Examples include the mountain ash forests of Tasmania and Victoria and the karri forests of Western Australia.

MVG 3. Eucalypt open forest
- Vary from 10 m to 30 m in height.
- Generally have a shrubby understorey which is low to moderate in height, but in drier sites they may have a grassy understorey with scattered shrubs and/or cycads.
- Examples include the jarrah forests of Western Australia and the spotted gum forests of New South Wales and Queensland.

MVG 4. Eucalypt low open forest
- Can vary from 5 to 10 m in height.
- Grow on less favourable sites (e.g. with extreme cold, such as in sub-alpine areas, dryness, impeded drainage or steep rocky slopes).
- Examples include snow gum in subalpine areas and black box in north-west New South Wales.

Eucalypt Woodlands

MVG 5. Eucalypt woodlands
- Form a transitional zone between the higher rainfall forested margins of the continent and the hummock grasslands and shrublands of the arid interior.
- Includes a series of communities, which have come to typify inland Australia (e.g. the box and ironbark woodlands of eastern Australia).

MVG 11. Eucalypt open woodlands
- Characterised by broad spacing between canopy trees so that in many areas the understorey appears more dominant in the landscape.
- Contain many of the eucalypt species that occur in eucalypt woodlands.
- Examples include wandoo and salmon gum in Western Australia and small-fruited bloodwood in the tropical savannas.

MVG 12. Tropical eucalypt woodlands/grasslands
- Savannas and understorey typified by a suite of tall annual grasses (notably *Sorghum* species) but does not include communities in more arid sites where *Triodia* species are more dominant.
- Example tree species include Darwin stringybark and Darwin woollybutt.

Acacia Forests and Woodlands

MVG 6. Acacia forests and woodlands
- Trees heights vary from less than 10 m to 25 m, depending on site quality.
- Dominant acacias include brigalow, mulga, lancewood, bendee and gidgee.

MVG 13. Acacia open woodlands
- Cover extensive areas of the arid zone or drier tropical north mostly with a shrubby or grassy ground layer.
- Dominant acacias include mulga, gidgee, boree, Georgina gidgee and western myall.

Miscellaneous Forests and Woodlands

MVG 7. Callitris forests and woodlands
- Occur in pure stands or with a wide range of associated tree species including eucalypts, mulga, wilga, sugarwood or belah.

MVG 8. Casuarina forests and woodlands
- Sometimes occur in quite distinct communities, notably foredune, swamp, riparian and desert communities.
- In inland areas, casuarina occurs in association with acacias and eucalypts.

MVG 9. Melaleuca forests and woodlands
- Large areas of the Northern Territory and northern Queensland are dominated by paperbarks.
- In southern Australia the melaleucas are confined largely to the wetter watercourses and swamps.

MVG 23. Mangroves
- Forests and shrublands of the intertidal zone.
- Mangroves vary from extensive tall closed forests communities on Cape York Peninsula to low closed forests or shrublands in southern regions.
  - Note that in this version of NVIS, MVG 23 retains only the mangrove component. The samphire component has been allocated to MVG 22, salt lakes to MVG 24 and the bare cover types to MVG 27.

MVG 10. Other forests and woodlands
- Diverse group of communities, some of which (e.g. banksia woodland and ti tree forests) are comparatively restricted in their extent but may be locally abundant.
- Includes a series of mixed communities of the arid zone which are not dominated by any particular tree genus or species.

Shrublands

MVG 14. Mallee woodlands and shrublands
- Grow from lignotubers and are multi-branched eucalypt trees/shrubs found in harsh site conditions.
- Often with a flattened canopy rarely exceeding 6 m in height.
- Examples include red mallee, white mallee and ridge-fruited mallee.

MVG 15. Low closed forest and tall closed shrubland
- Characterised by dense foliage in the upper layers and by low stunted species usually between 5 m to 10 m in height.
- Mainly occur within coastal environments dominated by banksia, ti tree and *Kunzea* species or paperbarks with a mix of other species. A few occur in alpine environments.

MVG 16. Acacia shrublands
- The overstorey is typically dominated by multi-stemmed acacia shrubs.
- Occur mainly in Australias and rangelands with associated species including grevilleas, emu bushes, hop bushes, saltbushes and cassias.

MVG 17. Other shrublands
- Dominated by a broad range of shrub species that may include mixed species communities and mosaics of several communities. They do not fit well in other shruband groups.
- Dominated by a wide range of genera including banksias, blackthorns, emu bushes, geebungs, grevilleas, hop bushes and tgnum.

MVG 22. Chenopod shrublands, samphire shrubs and forblands
- Hardy low semi-succulent and succulent shrubs in the chenopod family occurring as extensive flats.
- Chenopod communities of the arid and semi-arid zone are drought and salt tolerant and include salt bushes, blue bushes and look-alikes such as dilon bush.
- In saline, waterlogged areas (e.g. fringing salt lakes and near estuaries) samphires are dominant.

MVG 18. Heath
- Open, closed or mixed shrublands dominated by plant genera typical of infertile and/or waterlogged sites.
- Includes low (< 2 m tall) shrublands, typified by fine-leafed species of the families Epacridaceae and Myrtaceae.

Grasslands

MVG 19. Tussock grasslands
- Contain a broad range of native grasslands from the blue grass and Mitchell grass communities in the far north to the temperate grasslands of south-eastern Australia.

MVG 20. Hummock grasslands
- Hummock forming evergreen perennial grasses that appear as mounds up to 1 m in height, with the ground between hummocks often bare or exposed.
- Typified by extensive areas of spinifex communities across Australia's arid lands.

MVG 21. Other grasslands, herblands, sedgelands and rushlands
- Dominated by non-woody or herbaceous species (e.g. grasses, sedges, rushes, ferns or a mixture of these). The sedgelands and rushlands are often referred to as wetlands and support a large range of species.
- Ferns tend to dominate specific humid areas where the environment is less variable between season.

Other Cover Types

MVG 24. Inland aquatic – freshwater, salt lakes, lagoons
- Fresh and/or brackish water features.

MVG 25. Cleared, non-native vegetation, buildings
- All or most native vegetation removed.

MVG 26. Unclassified native vegetation
- Native vegetation with insufficient detail available to allocate it to another MVG.

MVG 27. Naturally bare – sand, rock, claypan, mudflat
- Extensive areas devoid of vegetation can be found as bare ground, either sand dunes or claypans in the harsh environments of the arid interior.
- Coastal sand masses can often contain extensive areas of bare sands, mostly as active dunes.

MVG 28. Sea and estuaries
- Open water of the marine environment.

MVG 29. Regrowth, modified native vegetation
- Regeneration of native species following disturbance.

MVG 99. Unknown/no data
- No details available.

0 Kilometres 1000

Scale

Projection: Albers Equal Area Conic. Datum: GDA94

Major Vegetation Groups in Australia

This map is based on data collected at different dates and scales by different organisations, compiled through the National Vegetation Information System (NVIS). The dataset underpinning this map is tiled NVIS Present Vegetation (2001–2004). As shown on the key map, there is a range of scales of the input datasets. In addition there are a number of gaps in the NVIS Present Vegetation (2001–2004) dataset which have been filled by non-NVIS data on this map. The NVIS is an ongoing collaborative initiative and future updates to this map will be produced based on improvements to the NVIS database. Major vegetation groups summarise the dominant vegetation in each map unit.

National Vegetation Information System (NVIS)

The National Vegetation Information System (NVIS) is a collaborative program between the Australian, state and territory governments. The NVIS framework is managed by the Executive Steering Committee for Australian Vegetation Information, which comprises senior representatives from each of the above jurisdictions. Further NVIS information and products are available at **http://www.deh.gov.au/erin/nvis/index.html**

Sources

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NVIS Stage 1, Version 3 was compiled from data supplied by the following state and territory vegetation mapping agencies, viz:

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Data assumed correct as received from the data suppliers. This map is a compilation of data collected at different scales by different organisations and is not intended for local scale assessment.

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