Index to vegetation maps and related surveys of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory (1945–1986)

J. Thomas and H.H. Dlugaj

Abstract

Thomas, J. & H. H. Dlugaj (National Herbarium of New South Wales, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, Australia 2000) 1990. Index to vegetation maps and related surveys of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory (1945–1986). Cunninghamia 2(2): 183–196. An index to vegetation maps of New South Wales is outlined on four separate base maps. Related surveys and their maps are included where vegetation can be keyed to the map. The maps are described briefly in the list of references, indicating the botanical subdivisions of New South Wales to which they refer.

Introduction

Vegetation maps provide an inventory of plant communities and habitats. Changes in vegetation can be followed over periods of time from early explorers’ notes to the present. Current vegetation maps are a basic tool for research workers and organisations involved in land-use management. A particular demand for vegetation maps is for environmental impact studies. For these, base-line vegetation data are vital for assessments of impact where various developments are proposed and for revegetation after environmental disturbance.

Until recently, there has been no overall review of vegetation mapping within New South Wales. In 1969 the National Herbarium of New South Wales began mapping in the North West and Central Coast of New South Wales. The long term aim is to prepare maps showing the distribution of vegetation communities throughout the state.

Other institutions have also embarked on state-wide surveys. The Soil Conservation Service of New South Wales is producing a series of district technical manuals encompassing vegetation, soils, geology and land use maps with notes, and a series of land systems maps at a scale of 1:250 000.

Previous vegetation map indexes for New South Wales are listed in Table 1. The most comprehensive of these is a Natural Vegetation map of Australia (Carnahan 1976). Carnahan’s index was used as a basis for this index.

Table 1. Map indexes compiled previously


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2. Current address: 32 Charles Street, Cairns, Australia 4870.
N.S.W. have been omitted in this index because of the general unavailability of unpublished maps. See also No. 10 in references.

b Department of National Development (1961). *Index to Australian resources maps of 1940–1959*. Canberra, Australia. Vegetation maps and species distribution maps published between 1940–1959. Soils, landforms, climate, forestry etc. maps are also listed.


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**Types of maps included in this index**

This index provides information on the availability of vegetation maps for particular areas of New South Wales. Other maps, such as Land Systems, Soils and Land Use maps frequently include vegetation data in their legends or accompanying texts. The close correlations between vegetation and both soils and land systems make these maps useful in areas lacking vegetation maps and hence some have been included. Generally, broad guidelines similar to those in the Thematic Mapping Bulletin (Division of National Mapping, Canberra) have been adopted:

* The map is primarily concerned with vegetation or useful information about vegetation can be extracted from it.
* The map covers part or all of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. (A.C.T. lands occur within the South Coast and Southern Tablelands botanical subdivisions of N.S.W.).
* The map scale is generally between 1:2 000 and 1:10 000 000.
* The map size is at least B5 (176mm x 250mm).
* Some base map detail is shown.
* The map is generally available to the public.

Floristic lists sometimes include sketch maps of vegetation. These maps are often used in the compilation of larger maps but because the papers are primarily species lists they have not been included here. Pickard (1972), Bryant and Benson (1981) and Keith (1988) have prepared a bibliography of recent floristic lists. Maps in theses and environmental impact statements have not been included because these are either generally unavailable or are mostly based on pre-existing vegetation maps.
The map index (Figures 1–5) and reference list (Table 3)

The map reference list (Table 3) gives a brief description of each map stating type, scale and number of map units. Contents of any accompanying text are indicated. Reliability, and completeness vary considerable from map to map but no attempt has been made to show reliability of vegetation information.

Map coverage has been indicated on the map index of four base maps by noting the number of each map from the map index on the 1:100 000 map grid for New South Wales (Figure 1). The four base maps are for north-western (Figure 2), north-eastern (Figure 3), south-western (Figure 4) and south-eastern (Figure 5) New South Wales. A number in a grid cell indicates either whole or partial coverage of that cell.

The tables and map references

Table 2 summarises the maps relevant to each of the botanical subdivisions of the state as recognised by the National Herbarium of New South Wales (Jacobs and Pickard 1981). The references in Tables 1 & 3 are arranged alphabetically by authors and chronologically within authors. Entry into the bibliography can be done either by looking at the figures for any map available for an area or by botanical subdivisions.

Figure 1. Key to the four index maps of New South Wales showing the 1:100 000 topographic map base grid.
Table 2. Maps relevant to New South Wales Botanical Subdivisions (abbreviations as on map of botanical divisions and subdivisions *Cunninghamia* 2 (1), 145).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Botanical Subdivision</th>
<th>Map number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NSW</td>
<td>1 10 20 24 36 88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC</td>
<td>19 21 27 28 32 43 44 46 47 49 51 59 77 82 86 87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CC</td>
<td>3 4 6 7 9 12 15 16 21 30 33 48 53 58 75 82 84 85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC</td>
<td>23 57 58 71 83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NT</td>
<td>27 32 43 45 46 47 49 51 59 77 78 82 86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CT</td>
<td>4 5 21 30 48 50 55 58 63 75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST</td>
<td>11 13 17 23 26 37 38 39 48 54 55 57 58 63 71 72 73 83 89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NWS</td>
<td>1 27 45 46 47 51 52 53 60 62 70 77 78 82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CWs</td>
<td>2 35 48 50 55 56 63 73 74 75 76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWS</td>
<td>35 37 38 39 54 55 56 73 74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NWP</td>
<td>2 8 11 27 29 42 45 46 51 53 60 64 65 80f 80g 80h 80j 80k 80m 80n 80o</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWP</td>
<td>1 2 11 35 42 54 64 65 76 80i 80l 81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NWFP</td>
<td>2 29 42 65 80a 80b 80c 80e 80g 80k 81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SFWP</td>
<td>2 22a 22b 22c 22d 22e 22f 22g 22h 22i 42 65 80d 80i 80p 81</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3. Map references

The following list of references is arranged alphabetically by author. The number appearing in the left hand column next to the reference is shown in relevant grid squares on Figures 2–5. Factors relating to the description and/or discussion of the following categories of information in the texts with maps are indicated as V-vegetation, R-Rare plants, Sp-Species list, W-Weeds, Cs-CConservation status/significance, M-Management, F-Fire, S-Soils, Cl-Climate, T-Topography/physiography/landforms, Ge-Geology, Gm-Geomorphology, H-Hydrology/water resources, Fa-Fauna, L-Land Use (past, present, future), Sc-Socio-Economics.


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Figure 2. North-western New South Wales showing the 1:100 000 grid and the vegetation maps (Table 3) available for each grid cell.
vegetation keyed to soil units in Table 1 pp. 10–12. Text — S.


20. NSW: Forestry Commission of N.S.W. (various dates). Various forest and forest species type maps for N.S.W.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Map name</th>
<th>Information on map</th>
<th>Scale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Reserves</td>
<td>Designated forests &amp; timber reserves</td>
<td>1:2 000 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Forests &amp; forest types</td>
<td>Designated forests &amp; timber reserves. On verso: NSW forest types.</td>
<td>1:4 000 000 coloured</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Map name
C. Forest species types from Forins

Information on map

Scale
1:1 000 000 Computer plotted 4 sheet dyeline

D. Forest structure

Eleven forest structural units incl. plantations, dry lakes & sand ridges. See above for reference.

E. Forest species

The 20 units in C above are amalgamated into 11. From FORWOOD Resource panel. See C above for reference.

Designated forests, timber reserves & forestry plantations

1:125 000 coloured

# State forests maps. (formerly project maps)
(# = NC, CC, SC, NT, CT, ST, NSW, SWS, NWP, SWP, SFWP)

# Management maps
1:25 000 standard Topographic Map names.
(# = NC, CC, SC, NT, CT, ST)

An up to date catalogue is available from the Forestry Commission of New South Wales.

Figure 3. North-eastern New South Wales showing the 1:100 000 grid and the vegetation maps (Table 3) available for each grid cell.


27. NC, NT, NWS, NWP: Isbell, R. F. (1962). Soils and vegetation of the brigalow lands, Eastern Australia. CSIRO Soils and Land Use Series 43. The distribution of brigalow vegetation is shown by a coloured soils map showing 5 units. Scale about 1:1 500 000. Text — Cl, Ge, L.


map (pp. 190–191) shows 10 units. Scale about 1:1 622 000. Text — V.


43. NC, NT: Premier’s Department, Division of Reconstruction and Development, Sydney. (1945). The Clarence Region. A preliminary survey of resources. A broad discussion on forest species is related to a climatic zones map. Also some floristic breakdown in relation to soils. Scale 1:253 440. Text — T, Ge, Cl, S, V, L, Se.


47. NC, NT, CC, CT, NWS, CWS: ———— (1952). The Upper Hunter Region. A preliminary survey of resources. Vegetation is described in relation to soil

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**Figure 4.** South-western New South Wales showing the 1:100 000 grid and the vegetation maps (Table 3) available for each grid cell.
erosion and proclaimed catchment area maps. Scale 1:1 013 760. Text — T, Ge, Cl, V, S, E, H, L, Se.


Figure 5. South-eastern New South Wales showing the 1:100 000 grid and the vegetation maps (Table 3) available for each grid cell.


The following District Technical Manuals give no individual section authors.


Warragamba (Benson 1984) – 7 units, Wilberforce (Benson 1984) – 7 units, Wollangambe (Benson 1983) – 10 units.


Acknowledgments

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References


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