



# THE GREAT SOUTHERN FOREST





## Acknowledgement of Country

*National Parks Association of NSW (NPA) acknowledges and respects the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country. We recognise the continuing economic, cultural and spiritual connection Aboriginal people have to the lands, waters and seas of New South Wales.*

*This report spans the Country of many Aboriginal Nations, language groups, clans and families across the southern region. We recognise the depth and diversity of these connections, and the continuing care for Country practiced over thousands of generations.*

*The NPA seeks to learn from Aboriginal traditions and culture, and endeavours to work respectfully with Aboriginal people to help protect cultural landscapes, the natural environment and biodiversity.*

*We pay our respects to Elders past and present, young people and peers and recognise the ongoing custodianship and care of Country by Aboriginal people. We particularly recognise the various language groups, clans and families of the Yuin Nation, and the Bidawal and Ngarigo peoples, whose Country is central to the landscapes considered in this report.*

# Great Southern Forest National Park Proposal

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# FOREWORD

This report by the National Parks Association of NSW (NPA) proposes significant changes to the management of public native forests in south-eastern NSW. Those changes include ending logging in a number of State Forest and their reclassification as Protected Areas under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. The reclassified forests would be combined with existing National Parks and managed as the State's largest forest reserve, '**The Great Southern Forest National Park**'. The proposed Great Southern Forest National Park contains some of the most extensive, biodiverse and carbon rich forests on planet earth. They support species of exceptional conservation value, providing habitat for threatened fauna and flora, nationally rare ecosystems and locally endemic species. There is every reason to believe that many new species are yet to be discovered in these remarkable forests. While the South East already contains National Parks, Nature Reserves and other Protected Areas, many of the region's most important habitats are contained in State Forests that are being logged for the wood chip industry. Such logging has immense negative impacts on the region's biodiversity, ecosystem integrity and carbon storage potential.

The preparation of this report was prompted by a simple question: *'is the NSW Government managing our public forests in ways that preserve their biodiversity, indigenous, historic, and recreation values, whilst maximising their contribution to local economies, community health, carbon storage and essential ecosystem services?'* This report demonstrates that the NSW Government, through the ongoing activities of Forestry Corporation, is failing this test.

Existing NPWS Reserves within the Region total about 824,000 hectares. The proposal would permanently protect 365,000 hectares of State Forest from further damage, creating a fully protected forest estate of nearly 1.2 million hectares- the largest new reserve proposal in NSW history. The Great Southern Forest National Park consists entirely of lands already owned and managed by the NSW Government, whether National Park, Nature Reserve, State Conservation Area, Flora Reserve or State Forest. It does not include any private freehold lands. We envisage a future where these forests are managed in partnership by the States conservation agency, the National Parks and Wildlife Service, in partnership with the First Nations communities who have safeguarded these landscapes for millennia.

The report has been prepared by NPA members and staff. Special thanks go to the project team, Kate Carroll, Brigitte Nairn, Jenny Atton, David Gallan, Joslyn van der Moolen, Frances Perkins, James Sherwood, Danielle Ryan, Kiran Charles, Samantha Newton, Kim Taysom, Wayne Murray, Rowena Childs, Qinan Wang, Tracey Pike, Terence Miller, Gary Dunnett, Jonathon Howard and Jonothan Sanders. Their collective effort reflects what is possible when knowledge, care and conviction are brought to bear on what matters most, the future of our forests. NPA commends the Great Southern Forests National Park proposal to the NSW parliament. This proposal represents a landmark in our state's conservation history. It is an ambitious, bold proposal driven by the need to turn off the path of environmental deterioration and species loss towards a future where communities, culture and nature thrive.



Liz Jeremy  
President, National Parks Association of NSW  
May 2026

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Great Southern Forest National Park Proposal*, prepared by the National Parks Association of NSW (NPA), presents a comprehensive case for ending native forest logging across the public forests of south-eastern New South Wales and reclassifying approximately **365,000 hectares of State Forest** into permanent Protected Areas. Combined with the Region's existing **824,000 hectares** of National Parks and Nature Reserves, the proposal would create a unified **Great Southern Forest National Park** of nearly **1.2 million hectares**, representing one of the largest Protected Area expansions in NSW history.

The report argues that the NSW Government's current management of State Forests for timber production fails to safeguard biodiversity, cultural values, ecosystem services, carbon storage, and community wellbeing. As the Foreword states, the central question is whether forests are being managed in ways that *"preserve their biodiversity, Indigenous, historic, and recreation values, whilst maximising their contribution to local economies, community health, carbon storage and the delivery of ecosystem services."* The report concludes that State Forests do not meet this test.

## Context and Rationale

South-eastern NSW contains some of the most biodiverse, carbon-rich, and ecologically connected landscapes in Australia. These forests support threatened species, rare ecosystems, and endemic flora and fauna, with many species yet to be scientifically described. Despite this, large areas of high-value habitat remain outside the Protected Area network and are subject to industrial logging, including clear-felling for woodchip production.

The Region has a long history of conservation advocacy, spanning more than five decades. Key milestones include:

- The rise of industrial woodchipping in the 1960s, triggering widespread concern.
- Major conservation campaigns in the 1980s and 1990s, including blockades, scientific assessments, and the eventual creation of South East Forests National Park in 1997.
- Ongoing community-led efforts by groups such as NPA, SERCA, the NSW Forest Alliance, and citizen-science initiatives.
- The catastrophic 2019–20 megafires, which burned more than 1.1 million hectares, with 61% burning at high or very high severity, causing profound ecological damage.
- Recent decisions in Victoria and Western Australia to end native forest logging, strengthening calls for similar action in NSW.

This Report argues that the cumulative impacts of logging, climate change, species decline, and megafires demonstrate that the current reserve system is inadequate and that a major shift in forest management is urgently required.

## Assessment Framework

The proposal is grounded in internationally recognised conservation planning standards, particularly the Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative (CAR) framework adopted by the Commonwealth and States for the establishment of a National Reserve System of Protected Areas. The assessment evaluates whether

the Region’s biodiversity, ecosystems, and landscapes are sufficiently protected under current arrangements.

The report applies CAR principles using detailed spatial and ecological datasets, including:

- Vegetation Formations and Plant Community Types (PCTs)
- Species occurrence records
- Old-growth forest mapping
- Connectivity and climate-refugia modelling
- Fire history
- Aquatic habitat and catchment data

The analysis compares the current NPWS reserve network with a scenario in which State Forests are added, demonstrating substantial improvements in ecosystem representation, habitat connectivity, and long-term ecological resilience.

## Protected Areas and National Targets

Australia’s commitment to the Global Biodiversity Framework’s 30 by 30 target—protecting 30% of land and seas by 2030—provides an important policy backdrop. Only 11% of NSW land area is currently gazetted as Protected Areas, with an additional 2% qualifying as Conservation Areas. This falls far short of the 30% target, and even further short of what is required to meet CAR standards at the bioregional scale.

The report emphasises that:

- Many ecosystems in the Region remain under-represented or entirely absent from the reserve system.
- Some of the most ecologically valuable forests, particularly low-slope, high-fertility habitats, are disproportionately located in State Forests targeted for logging.

The proposed Great Southern Forest National Park would make a major contribution toward meeting both national and international conservation obligations.

## Field Surveys and Data Gaps

While the assessment draws heavily on government datasets, the NPA recognises limitations in existing survey coverage, particularly for fauna detection. To address this, the project team conducted 32 field surveys across 12 State Forests between June 2024 and February 2026. The surveys focused on threatened species using techniques such as spotlighting, stagwatching, thermal imaging, and nocturnal observations. New records were added to the NSW Bionet Wildlife Atlas, strengthening the evidence base for protection.

## Land Tenure and Scope

The proposal focuses exclusively on public lands whose management is fully controlled by the NSW Government:

1. **NPWS Reserves** (National Parks, Nature Reserves, State Conservation Areas)
2. **Flora Reserves** (protected areas within State Forests)
3. **State Forests** (managed for timber production)

Private lands, including those licenced for Private Native Forestry, are explicitly excluded.

## Our Key Findings

### *1. The current reserve system is insufficient*

Despite decades of additions, the Region's protected areas remain fragmented and fail to capture many high-value ecosystems. Historical decisions often prioritised low-timber-value or inaccessible areas rather than ecological significance.

### *2. State Forests contain critical biodiversity values*

Many of the Region's most important habitats—particularly highly productive forests, old-growth stands, and climate refugia—occur predominantly in State Forests targeted for logging. The State Forests contain habitat for many endemic and threatened species and communities including those at highest risk of extinction, listed as Critically Endangered. Key forest corridors occur across State Forest lands connecting the missing north-south links between NPWS Reserves, including major arterial routes for glider species. The permanent protection of State Forests is necessary to complete a viable, resilient Protected Area network.

### *3. Logging undermines ecological integrity*

Industrial logging has long-term adverse impacts on:

- Species survival (especially hollow-dependent fauna)
- Carbon storage
- Water quality and catchment health
- Landscape connectivity
- Fire resilience

The Report notes that logging has continued even in forests severely impacted by the 2019–20 fires.

### *4. Adding State Forests dramatically improves CAR outcomes*

The transfer of State Forests to Protected Areas would:

- Fill major gaps in ecosystem representation
- Protect under-represented PCTs
- Strengthen wildlife corridors across the Region
- Increase the resilience of forests to climate change
- Secure large, intact landscapes essential for long-term conservation

### *5. Community, cultural and economic benefits are substantial*

The proposal would generate a range of social, cultural, and economic benefits, including:

- Enhanced recreation and tourism opportunities
- Improved community health and wellbeing
- Protection of Aboriginal cultural landscapes

- Long-term economic stability through nature-based industries
- Avoided costs associated with logging, fire recovery, and biodiversity loss

## The Proposal: The Great Southern Forest National Park

The NPA recommends that the NSW Government:

1. **Cease all native forest logging** in the Region's State Forests.
2. **Reclassify approximately 365,000 hectares** of State Forest as National Park, Nature Reserve, or other Protected Area tenure.
3. **Integrate these areas** with the existing 824,000 hectares of NPWS reserves to form the **Great Southern Forest National Park**.
4. **Manage the new park as a unified ecological system**, prioritising biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, cultural heritage, and community benefit.
5. Work with **First Nations communities to establish joint management arrangements** across all of the Region's Protected Areas, including the former State Forests.

The proposal is designed to be practical, achievable, and aligned with both state and national conservation priorities. It focuses solely on public land, avoiding impacts on private property or Commonwealth-managed areas.

## Conclusion

The *Great Southern Forest National Park Proposal* presents a compelling, evidence-based case for a transformative shift in forest management in south-eastern NSW. It demonstrates that:

- The Region's biodiversity is globally significant yet inadequately protected.
- State Forests contain irreplaceable ecological values that cannot be sustained under current logging regimes.
- Adding these forests to the Protected Area network would dramatically improve CAR outcomes, strengthen climate resilience, and deliver long-term social and economic benefits.
- The proposal aligns with Australia's commitments under the Global Biodiversity Framework and represents one of the most significant conservation opportunities in NSW history.

The report concludes that permanent protection of the Region's public native forests is essential to secure their ecological, cultural, and community values for future generations.

# GLOSSARY

Term	Definition
Aichi	Biodiversity targets set by the UN Convention of Biological Diversity in 2011
ANWE	Allied Natural Wood Enterprises Pty Ltd
AOO	Area of Occupancy as developed by the IUCN to define the total area of suitable habitat for which there is evidence of occupation by a species. It is calculated using a two x two kilometre grid, placing it over known species records
BC Act	NSW <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DCCEEW	Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
DIWA	Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia
EPBC Act	Commonwealth <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
FESM	Fire Extent and Severity Mapping
Flora Reserve	Protected areas declared under the <i>Forestry Act 2012</i> within the State Forest tenure managed by NPWS
FM Act	NSW <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i>
Focal Species	Identified species of importance to the Study Area due to their: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low occurrence/occupancy in NPWS Reserves</li> <li>• High occurrence/occupancy in State Forest</li> <li>• Vulnerability to the effects of logging</li> <li>• Climate change landscape capacity modelling shows high value in State Forests (fauna only)</li> </ul>
Forestry Corporation	Forestry Corporation of NSW, a state-owned corporation appointed to manage NSW state forests
GDEs	Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems
IBAs	Important Bird Areas (now known as KBAs – see below definition)
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) version 7.0
IPA	Indigenous Protected Area
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
KBAs	Key Biodiversity Areas
LALC	Local Aboriginal Land Council
NPA	National Parks Association of New South Wales
NPW Act	NSW <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>
NPWS	NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
NPWS Reserves	NPWS Reserves and lands acquired by the Minister for the purposes of gazettal under the NPW Act that are proposed for inclusion in the Great Southern Forest National Park
NRS	National Reserve System

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
NSW DCCEEW	NSW Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
NSW DPIRD	NSW Government Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
OEH	Former NSW Government Office of Environment & Heritage
Park/proposed Park	The proposed Great Southern Forest National Park
RFA	Regional Forest Agreement
State Forests	The State Forests and Flora Reserves that form part of the assessment for the Great Southern Forest National Park
Study Area	The area assessed for inclusion in the Great Southern Forest National Park, comprising existing NPWS Reserves and State Forests.
RAMSAR site	A wetland site designated to be of international importance under the Ramsar Convention
The Region	South East Region – see below.
SB	Sydney Basin IBRA bioregion
SEC	South East Corner IBRA bioregion
SEH	South Eastern Highlands IBRA bioregion
SoS	Saving our Species, a conservation program managed by NSW DCCEEW
South East Region	Approximate 100 km wide band along the coast, from the southern edge of the Sydney Basin to the Victoria border. The boundaries follow the south coast catchment boundaries as per the National Catchment Boundaries.
TECs	Threatened Ecological Communities
TSRs	Travelling Stock Routes

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# PART A

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Report structure

The idea of a Great Southern Forest National Park—a permanently protected network of native forest across south-eastern NSW—has been around for decades. It pre-dates the Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) negotiations of the 1990s, which delivered the last major tranche of new national parks in the Region. The quarter century since those agreements were made has demonstrated, unequivocally, that existing protections are not sufficient to secure the long-term future of the forests. Industrial-scale logging, accelerating species decline and extinction risk, along with the catastrophic impacts of climate-driven megafires such as those of 2019–20, lay bare the vulnerability of our remaining forest ecosystems.

This report is presented in six parts:

**Part A** is an **introduction and brief history of the South East Region** (the Region), focusing on the divergent and contested views about the appropriate uses of the State Forests.

**Part B** outlines the **assessment methods used** to identify potential additions to the existing reserve network. The assessment method follows national and international best practice for reserve design (Commonwealth of Australia, 1999; IUCN, 2008). Part 2 also **identifies the assessment areas and definitions for terminology** used throughout the report.

**Part C** describes and assesses the **biodiversity, environmental and landscape values** of the State Forests of the Region. It identifies significant opportunities to improve the conservation status of the Region’s biodiversity values and makes recommendations for improvement. It assesses these values in relation to State and Commonwealth government priorities and targets for the National Reserve System (NRS).

**Part D** describes **threats and risks** to the biodiversity, environmental and landscape values of the southern forests.

**Part E** describes the **cultural, social and recreational characteristics** of the proposed Great Southern Forest National Park. It addresses the costs and benefits of transferring State Forests into the reserve network.

**Part F** summarises the **findings of the assessment** and **presents the NPA’s proposal for the establishment of a Great Southern Forest National Park**, incorporating both existing conservation reserves and selected areas of State Forest. All the identified additions are proposed for incorporation into the Great Southern Forest National Park.

## 1.2 A brief history of conservation campaigns in the southern forests

The opening of Daishowa’s Eden-based woodchip operation in 1961 marked a radical shift in the Region’s forestry industry, from intermittent sleeper cutting to industrial-scale clearfelling.

As the impact of “integrated logging” spread beyond Eden, conservationists began campaigning to protect areas, especially escarpment forests, that were badly unrepresented in the reserve system. Several coastal reserves were established along with the inland parks: Nalbaugh and Nungatta. The decision to protect the latter was based more on their inaccessibility and minimal timber value than environmental values.

Campaigning throughout the 1980s led to a review of the Federal Woodchip licence in 1988. National Parks and Wildlife Service did the first comprehensive full-floristic vegetation survey of the South-East Forests,

and this demonstrated unequivocally that the existing reserves did not conserve many of the ecological communities. This led to a commitment by the then (Labor) State Government to protect 80,000 hectares of forest at Tantawangalo and Coolangubra. This commitment was overturned when the incoming Coalition Government decided that high (timber) value escarpment forests should not be reserved.

Conservationists were galvanized and moved to “direct action” activism including blockades of the Eden woodchip mill and logging roads, occupation of logging sites, tree sitting in Coolangubra, horse actions in Tantawangalo and a public relations campaign featuring forest visits and media workshops.

In January 1989 an anti-woodchip rally in Bega was attended by more than 500 people. The NSW government responded with mass arrests and deployed the Tactical Response Group. Fifteen hundred protestors were arrested over this period, with 843 charged between January and November 1989. The number of arrests overwhelmed the court system, with charges being dropped against 288 protestors scheduled to appear in the Eden Local Court.



*A massed blockade on Edrom Rd in the 1980s stopping log trucks delivering to the Eden Chip Mill (photo credit: Dave Gallan)*

In response, the NSW government set up a Joint Scientific Committee (JSC) to examine conservation requirements. The recommendations of the JSC were not implemented, with only 46,000 hectares of new national park declared in 1991. The protected area had supplied only 4% of the woodchip export quota from the Eden Management Area prior to reservation.

The inadequacy of the reserve system continued to be condemned by the conservation movement and the scientific community. The parks were seen as unrepresentative, fragmented and of relatively low conservation value. A notable failing of the then reserve system was the omission of the low slope, high

nutrient sites favoured by wildlife. This was particularly evident in the boundary of Coolangubra, a park of narrow corridors which was difficult to manage and of limited conservation value.

Logging continued throughout the Region's highest conservation value forests. The first hint of significant change came with the 1991 passage of the *Endangered Fauna (Interim Protection) Act 1991*. This formalised wildlife licensing requirements under the control of the NPWS. While compromised by political pressures, it did restrict logging in specific circumstances where there were clear legislative breaches.

The release in 1992 of the Resource Assessment Commission's "Forest and Timber Inquiry" and the Commonwealth's National Forests Policy saw the NSW government commit to a Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative reserve system. The new reserves were to be determined by a series of Regional Forest Agreements.

In 1994 the NSW state Labor opposition pledged to double the area of protected forests in the South East Region if it won the upcoming State election. Following the change of government in March 1995 a regional assessment saw the declaration of the South East Forests National Park in 1997.



*People of all ages and backgrounds were arrested to protect the South East native forests from logging (photo credit: Dave Gallan)*

More than 20 years of forest campaigning had seen the protection of over 135,000 hectares of forest, an incredible achievement.

During the early 2000s there were a number of small but valuable successes in protecting important ecological and cultural areas. A notable event was the banning of logging on Biamanga and Gulaga mountains at the request of traditional custodians.

During this period Monga National Park (2001) was declared, to maintain connectivity between the wilderness areas in Budawang and Deua National Parks, along with Clyde River National Park (2000), Gulaga National Park (2001), Meroo National Park (2001), and Tallaganda National Park (2001).



*A Spotted-tailed Quoll (Dasyurus maculatus) in Monga National Park, an area of rich biodiversity (photo credit: Dave Gallan)*

In 2005, conservation, environment and concerned citizen groups on the south coast formed the South East Region Conservation Alliance (SERCA). The emergence of groups such as SERCA and ten years later, the NSW Forest Alliance, meant that information and campaigns could be better coordinated.

Campaigning by locals saw scenic Tanja State Forest protected from logging, and later the formation of the Murrah Flora Reserves (2016), which protect the most significant coastal Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) population between Sydney and the Victorian border.

The South Coast Regional Forest Agreement expired in 2018. Forest campaigners and conservationists were dismayed when the Commonwealth Government renewed the agreements without proper assessment or public scrutiny. This invigorated forest campaigning in the Region.

The megafires on the south coast during 2019-20 caused deep community concern about the frequency and severity of wildfires in a changing climate. Over a thousand houses and buildings were lost and the direct and indirect impacts on wildlife and native flora were severe, including large-scale loss of hollow bearing trees. More than 1.1 million hectares of the Region was burnt, 61 per cent of which burnt at high or very high severity (DCCEEW, 2026).

Bold decisions to stop native forest logging in Victoria and Western Australia encouraged forest campaigners in NSW to intensify their efforts to permanently protect the public native forests of the State and Region.

In 2024, National Parks Association (NPA) Far South Coast Branch initiated the Great Southern Forest National Park proposal through a motion at State Council which was supported unanimously.

Eurobodalla and Milton NPA branches came on board with strong support and extra leadership to make it a comprehensive south coast project. This attracted strong backing from other groups and generous donations. Staff with expertise in mapping and biodiversity assessment were employed to add academic rigour to the process.

The citizen science activities and forest tours, so successful in the 1980s, have continued with the campaign, in unison with other groups such as Wilderness Australia, which was very successful in working with the Environmental Protection Authority to limit logging in Badja, Glenbog and Tallaganda State Forests.

South East Forest Rescue won a historic High Court case in April 2025 to gain standing in legal actions to enforce forestry laws in NSW.

The current phase of forestry campaigning has seen strong attendances at forest marches in both regional and metropolitan centres. Citizen science continues to be an important part of the campaign, at times identifying over twenty times the number of den trees compared to official logging surveys.

NPA commends all the conservationists and community members who have campaigned for so long for a brighter future for their forests. As noted on our website, *“NPA is keenly aware that this proposal rests on the shoulders of decades of tireless campaigning for these magnificent forests. We thank and respect those visionaries and are determined to build on their work to finally achieve permanent protection for these precious forests.”*



*An endangered Southern Greater Glider, one of the focal species for the Great Southern Forest National Park (photo credit: Dave Gallan)*

# PART B

## 2 ASSESSMENT METHODS

### 2.1 Assessment overview

The NPA has been preparing proposals for the establishment of new conservation reserves for more than seventy years. Our recent proposals, including the Great Koala National Park on the NSW North Coast, are based on international best-practice assessment standards developed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and adopted by the Commonwealth and States for the National Reserve System (NRS). The most important aspect of those approaches is the objective of developing a Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative (CAR) network of Protected and Conserved areas.

The purpose of this report is to objectively assess whether the long-term protection of the biodiversity, habitats and ecosystems of the South East Region of NSW (the Region) requires selective additions to the current network of National Parks, Nature Reserves and other forms of protected area.

The centrepiece of the assessment is the application of CAR principles to the public native forests of the Region in the context of adequacy of ecosystem and species representation. The public native forests we assessed comprise the existing network of protected areas as well as State Forests managed for timber extraction purposes.

#### **Comprehensive**

The reserve system conserves samples of the full range of biodiversity across the landscape by including all regional-scale ecosystems, habitat types, and species. This requires protecting representative examples of each ecosystem and biodiversity element within each bioregion to ensure the protected area network reflects the total diversity of the natural environment.

#### **Adequate**

The reserve system provides sufficient area, quality, and level of protection for each ecosystem and habitat to maintain ecological viability, integrity, and functioning. This ensures populations, species, and ecological communities remain sustainable and resilient over the long term, rather than protecting only minimal or token occurrences.

#### **Representative**

The reserve system captures the full range of biological, genetic, and environmental variation within each ecosystem. This includes protecting biodiversity across environmental gradients and geographic ranges so that the natural variability of habitats, species, and ecological communities is maintained.

The objective of a CAR analysis is to ensure that the full range of species, habitats, ecosystem and natural landscapes are securely protected in perpetuity. This requires careful analysis of the inherent biophysical variability within a defined Region in accordance with the comprehensive and representative principles. The adequacy principle then requires consideration of the specific areas that need to be protected to ensure the long-term viability and resilience of the Region's species, ecological communities, habitats and landscapes.

The assessment process begins by identifying areas that share similar biophysical characteristics. In this report, IBRA subregions are generally used as the basic unit of analysis for some biophysical values. The assessment considers the distribution of ecological communities, habitats and landscapes across each subregion. Those distributions then enable analysis of whether the existing reserve network is sufficient to fully satisfy CAR principles. In this study, our final step is to assess the extent to which the addition of State Forests to the reserve network would materially improve the CAR status of the reserve network.

## 2.2 National Parks and protected areas

The entire assessment process is based on the special status and effectiveness of protected areas in conserving biological diversity.

The world's first National Park, Yellowstone, was declared in 1872. In that same decade the world's second and third National Parks, Royal and Kur-ring-gai Chase, were created on the outskirts of Sydney. NSW has a proud history not just in establishing National Parks, but equally importantly in making the case for the conservation and community benefits of permanently protecting areas for the benefit of future generations.

National Parks are the best-known category of protected area. Protected areas, whether in NSW or internationally, are landscapes and seas that are permanently protected from urban development, mining, forestry, fishing and agriculture. Protected areas are managed for the primary purpose of conserving their natural, cultural and social values. Most types of protected area are owned and managed by the NSW Government (see below), however in some circumstances freehold Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs) and Private Conservation Reserves are also considered protected areas.

Since the declaration of Royal National Park in 1879 more than 950 protected areas have been declared in NSW, including over 870 under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act). NSW protected areas contribute to Australia's National Reserve System (NRS). The NRS is one of the key mechanisms through which Australia meets its international obligations under the Convention for Biodiversity Conservation and associated international treaties.

NSW protected areas are created by legislation. National Parks, Nature Reserves, Regional Parks, State Conservation Areas, Karst Conservation Reserves, Aboriginal Areas and Historic Sites are gazetted under the NPW Act, Flora Reserves under the *Forestry Act 2012* and Marine Parks and Aquatic Reserves under the *Marine Estate Management Act 2014*.

Flora Reserves are the only sections of NSW State Forests classed as protected areas. Inclusion in the NRS is restricted to lands and waters where biodiversity conservation is a primary legislative objective. Logging and associated silvicultural practices are inconsistent with protected area status (and hence prohibited within Flora Reserves). There are 24 Flora Reserves within the Study Area.

## 2.3 Reserve targets

Australia has national targets for the establishment of Protected Areas and Conserved Areas, which are collectively referred to as the NRS. Prior to 2022, Australian States and Territories were working towards the Aichi target, which aimed to secure 17% of all marine and terrestrial bioregions in protected areas. In 2022 the target lifted to 30 by 30 under the Global Biodiversity Framework, which commits signatory nations to managing a minimum of 30% of their land and seas for biodiversity conservation outcomes by no later than 2030.

The 30 by 30 target is applied at the national level and comprises both Protected Areas and Conservation Areas. Conservation Areas are private and public lands where conservation is a secondary or ancillary outcome of current management practices rather than a primary objective.

As at the end of 2025 around 11% of the land surface of NSW was declared as protected area. This state-wide figure obscures major variations across the state's bioregions, with some in western NSW sitting below 1% and some coastal bioregions above 50% (NSW EPA, 2025). An estimated additional 2% of NSW lands may potentially be classified as Conservation Areas in accordance with the Commonwealth's standards, although none have been formally declared as such to date. The combined extent of Protected and Conservation Areas in NSW is currently no more than 13%, that is, less than half of the 30 by 30 target.

Thirty by 30 applies at the level of nations rather than individual states. However, a core principle of the NRS is that the assessment of conservation adequacy must be applied at the bioregional scale, to ensure that a Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative (CAR) sample of the full range of the nation's biological diversity is protected in perpetuity (see below). In that context NSW is falling far below 30 by 30 targets.

Further, even a 30% target represents a minimum requirement, and one that does not account for the full range of CAR considerations, such as habitat connectivity, resilience to climate change, ecological integrity and ecosystem services.

## 2.4 CAR in practice

Biodiversity planning and assessment in Australia occurs across a hierarchy of spatial scales, ranging from broad national and state frameworks to increasingly fine-scale ecological classifications. At the Commonwealth and state level, conservation planning is undertaken within bioregional systems as defined in the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA), which delineates bioregions and subregions based on climate, geology, landform, and broad vegetation patterns. At finer scales, landscape-based units such as Mitchell Landscapes are used to describe recurring combinations of geology, soils, and landforms, while in the NSW context, Plant Community Types (PCTs) represent discrete, floristically defined ecological communities, and Vegetation Formations represent broad vegetation groups and habitat types.

While bioregions, subregions, and landscape units provide important contextual frameworks, they are too coarse to function as effective surrogates for ecosystems in a CAR analysis, as they encompass substantial internal ecological heterogeneity and do not directly represent biodiversity values.

This report uses PCTs and Vegetation Formations as the best available surrogate for applying CAR principles to regional ecosystems. Vegetation Formations provide a consistent representation of broad habitat types, integrating canopy structure, growth forms, and dominant species assemblages. While this broader scale inevitably obscures some local variation, it allows robust evaluation of how the NPWS Reserves and State Forests could contribute to each IBRA subregion. PCTs are mapped at a smaller, more detailed scale, allowing identification of missing or under-represented communities that may not be detected by Vegetation Formations.

CAR was assessed by calculating the proportion of each Vegetation Formation protected under current NPWS Reserves and with the addition of State Forests. This was analysed at a regional scale and for each IBRA subregion of the Study Area. A similar comparison of flora and fauna species occurrences and habitats and old growth forest was undertaken for the Region.

The analysis also identified PCTs that are missing, under-represented, or poorly represented within the existing protected area network, and assessed how the addition of State Forests to the NRS would improve representation by identifying the PCTs that would be included in the reserve system for each IBRA subregion.

Together, these outcomes provide a transparent and repeatable basis for comparing current and proposed conservation performance and for informing future reserve planning and management priorities.

The CAR assessment was largely restricted to taxa of terrestrial flora and fauna, including vascular plants, mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. This concentration reflects the absence of readily accessible, systematic data on the conservation status of non-vascular plants and invertebrate fauna species. There is value in further research into these biotas in the Study Area. Despite this, there is adequate data to assess the conservation values of the Study Area and determine suitable additions to the NRS.

## 2.5 Source data and information

A range of open-source data was utilised in the assessment. Much of the data was obtained from the NSW Government's Bionet Wildlife Atlas and SEED portal, including Statewide Vegetation Type Mapping (SVTM), species records, Key Biodiversity Areas, connectivity mapping, modelled climate refugia, catchments, Key Fish Habitat mapping, fire history and mining titles and licences. Other sources include corridor mapping by Griffith University, harvest history data from Forestry Corporation NSW and Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) data obtained from Heritage NSW. Appendix A lists the data layers extracted and analysed in this report.

IBRA subregion information on geology, geomorphology, hydrology, landform and landscape was also obtained. And a review of scientific journals, reports and information relevant to the Study Area and assessment was undertaken.

## 2.6 Field surveys

This report is largely based on information extracted from open-source data bases and literature review. Those databases are useful in terms of their broad coverage, especially when based on remote sensing techniques, but have significant limitations in respect to attributes that can only be detected through direct observation. This includes wildlife and many flora species. For those attributes the databases are limited by the extent and coverage of previous field surveys. This becomes particularly problematic in poorly surveyed areas of forest and/or areas surveyed prior to the availability of current detection techniques such as thermal drones.

A series of field surveys were conducted to address clear gaps in survey coverage and for site familiarisation. A total of 32 such surveys were conducted between 25 June 2024 and 9 February 2026 across 12 State Forests as shown in Appendix B. The focus of the surveys was on threatened and rare flora and fauna in the State Forests. Records were entered into the NSW Bionet Wildlife Atlas.

Survey techniques included spotlighting, stagwatching, thermal imagery, and opportunistic diurnal and nocturnal observations.

## 2.7 Land tenure

The Region contains many different private and public tenures. Vegetation and native species occur throughout the Region, and for this reason it is important to consider the effectiveness of the current network of protected areas against the backdrop of the entire Region and its biophysical attributes.

This report is fundamentally about how public native forests can be managed to achieve the best possible outcome for nature, biodiversity, and community. For this reason, the report concentrates on the dominant tenures for public native forests across the Region, namely:

1. Protected areas, that is National Park, Nature Reserve, State Conservation Area, Regional Park, Aboriginal Area, Historic Site and Karst Conservation Reserve, gazetted under the NPW Act (NPWS Reserves).
2. Protected areas, that is Flora Reserves, declared under the *Forestry Act 2012* (Flora Reserves).
3. Areas of State Forest gazetted under the *Forestry Act 2012* that don't qualify as protected areas (State Forests).

These three tenure categories are not the only Crown or public lands in the Region, which also contains Travelling Stock Routes, Crown Lands subject to claims under the *Land Rights Act 1983*, Intertidal Zones and other Crown Reserves under the care and control of Local Government. Such areas are generally very limited in extent within the Region and they have limited capacity to contribute to a sustainable outcome for the forests. It is important to note that some ecological communities are not present to a significant extent in the Crown Lands and are limited to remnants on private freehold lands.

The report expressly excludes assessment of freehold private lands, including those subject to Private Native Forestry arrangements. Our focus is solely on lands whose future purpose and management is entirely at the discretion of the NSW Government.

## 2.8 Further information

Further detail on assessment methods is contained under relevant chapters in Part C including vegetation, flora and fauna species, biodiversity features, connectivity, aquatic values.

# 3 THE GREAT SOUTHERN FORESTS

## 3.1 Definitions

The following terms are used to define different areas subject to assessment in this report:

- The **Region**: The South East Region of NSW
- **NPWS Reserves**: Lands gazetted under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act) within the Region
- **State Forests**: Lands gazetted under the *Forestry Act 2012* comprising State Forests and a subset of State Forests, Flora Reserves within the Region for consideration of inclusion in the NPWS Estate
- The **Study Area**: The area subject to assessment in this report, being the collective areas of NPWS Estate and State Forests as defined above
- **Great Southern Forest National Park**: The proposed Park as defined by the assessment outcomes

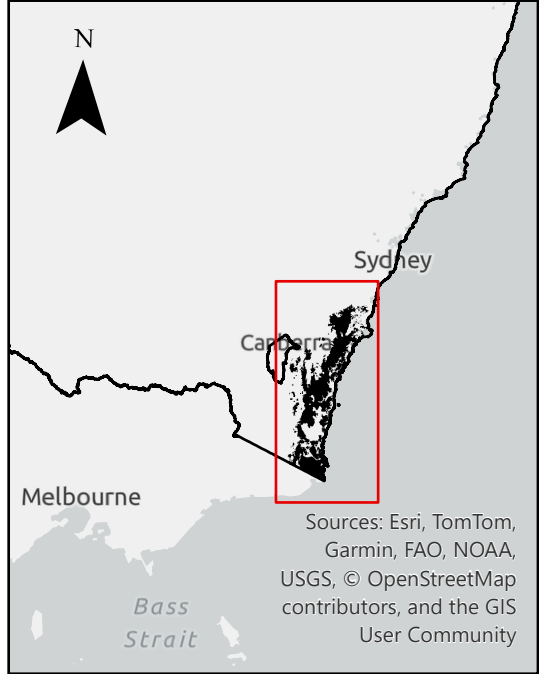
Descriptive information on the Region, NPWS Reserves and State Forests is provided in subsequent chapters. The Great Southern Forest National Park is described in Chapter 14.1, as the proposed Park boundaries have been determined following assessment in this report.

The areas (in hectares) of each of the terms are shown in Table 1.

*Table 1: Areas in hectares of the Study Area and Region*

Region (ha)	NPWS Reserves (ha)	State Forests (ha)	Total Study Area (ha)
2,225,214	824,256	364,893	1,189,149

The Study Area is approximately 1.2 million hectares. It comprises about 824,000 ha of NPWS Reserves and 365,000 ha of State Forests. The Study Area spans the public native forests within a roughly 100 km wide band from the Illawarra coast, south to the Victorian border, and is mapped in Figure 1.

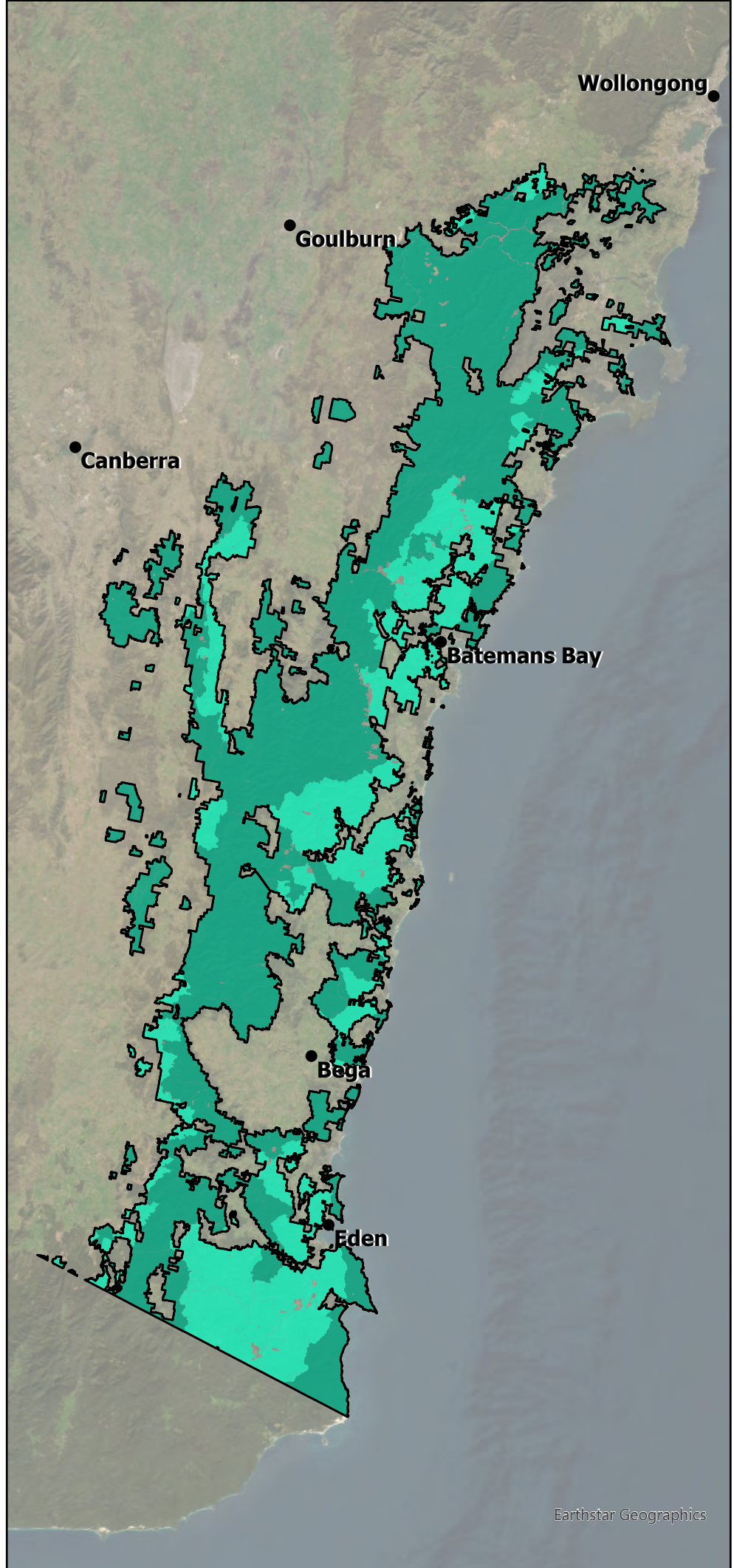
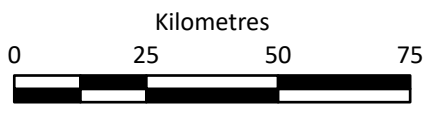


- Study Area
- State Forest
- NPWS Reserves

NPWS Reserves © State Government of NSW and NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water 2021, State Forests © Forestry Corporation of NSW 2024, Aerial imagery © ESRI

Map produced by Kate Carroll, National Parks Association of NSW

14/05/2026



Earthstar Geographics

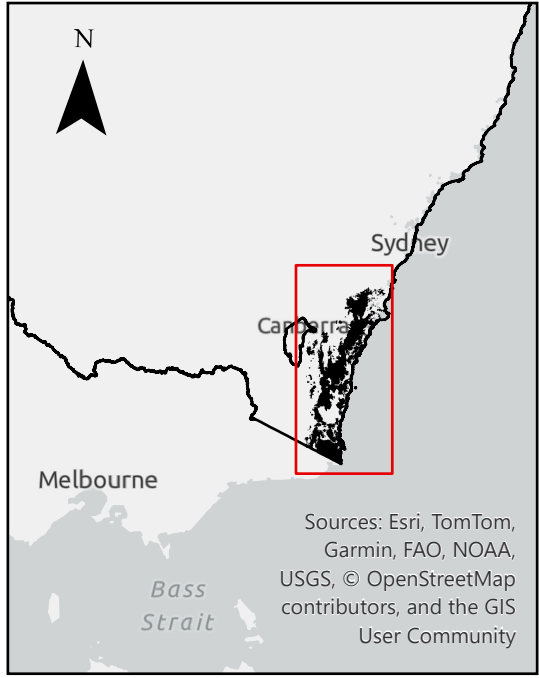
Figure 1: The Study Area

## 3.2 The Region

The Region falls within eight Local Government Areas (LGAs): Kiama, Wingecarribee, Shoalhaven, Goulburn Mulwaree, Eurobodalla, Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional, Bega Valley and Snowy-Monaro, and is mapped in Figure 2.

It spans the coast from the southern edge of the Sydney Basin to the Victoria border, and the forested hinterland from the sea to edge of the major escarpment between the coastal ranges and the Southern Highlands and Monaro. It is a landscape dominated by forested coastal catchments dissected by embayments (Jervis, Batemans and Twofold Bays), extensive waterways (Shoalhaven, Clyde and Deua Rivers) and major valley systems (notably the Bega Valley). The Region's early industrial base in whaling, mining, forestry and agriculture has turned over the last century towards reliance on the tourism economy and housing.

The boundaries follow the south coast catchment boundaries, as per the National Catchment Boundaries (Geosciences Australia). The boundary includes the western extent of the Kybeyan Gourock IBRA subregion to encompass the tablelands that form part of the Study Area. The boundary has been used for the purposes of threatened species analysis and discussion and/or analysis of other environmental values including catchments. Small areas of NPWS Reserves that form part of the Study Area occur outside this boundary, and where calculations have been undertaken for comparative analysis, these areas have been accounted for.



- South East Region
- State Forest
- NPWS Reserves

NPWS Estate © State Government of NSW and NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water 2021, State Forests © Forestry Corporation of NSW 2024, South Coast Region derived from © Commonwealth of Australia and Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water 2025 and Commonwealth of Australia (Bureau of Meteorology) 2022

Map produced by Kate Carroll, National Parks Association of NSW

14/05/2026

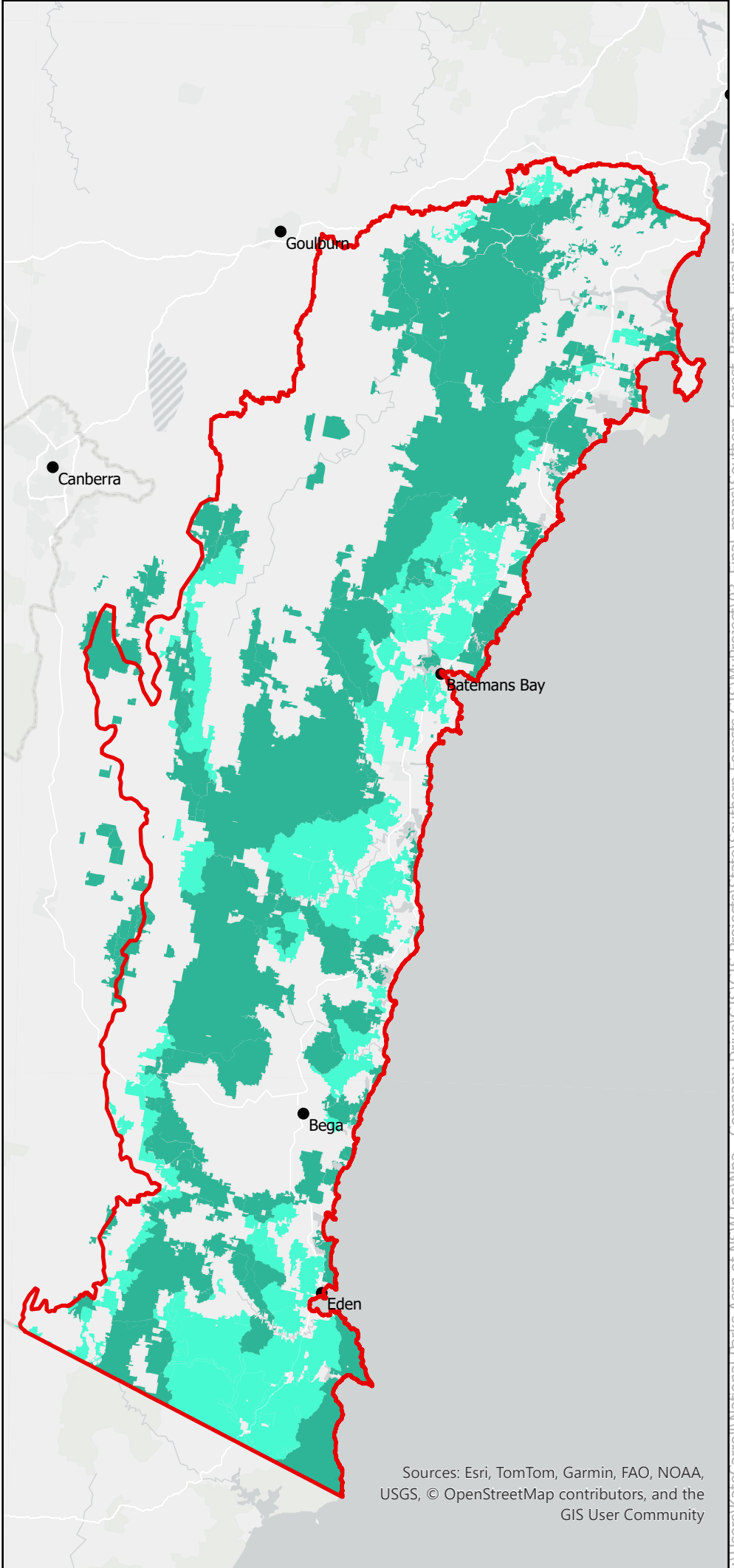
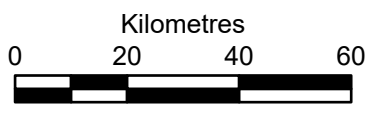


Figure 2: The South East Region of NSW (the Region)

### 3.3 NPWS Reserves

NPWS Reserves are gazetted under the NPW Act as National Park, Nature Reserve, State Conservation Area, Regional Park, Aboriginal Area, Karst Conservation Reserve or Historic Site. Some of the NPWS Reserves in the Region are subject to Joint Management arrangements under Schedule 14 of the NPW Act.

For the purposes of this report, NPWS Reserves includes lands acquired by the Minister for the purpose of future gazettal under the NPW Act.

NPWS Reserves within the Region have been included, as have NPWS Reserves that have contiguous vegetative connectivity within 20 kilometres (just outside the Region boundary).

Some small areas of offshore islands have been included where they form part of predominantly terrestrial NPWS Reserve.

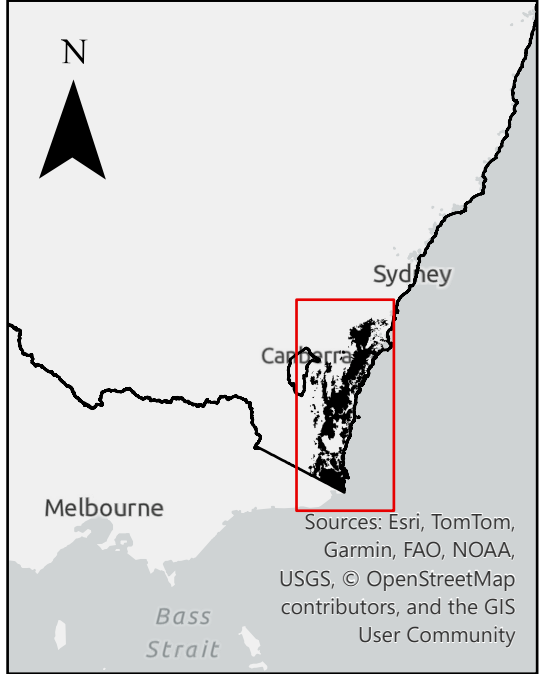
Ninety-eight existing NPWS Reserves with a total area of 824,256 hectares form part of the Study Area. NPWS Reserves are mapped in Figure 3 and listed in Table 2.

*Table 2: NPWS Reserves included in the Study Area*

NPWS Estate	Type	Area (ha)	Total Area (ha)
Araluen Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	659	659
Badja Swamps Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	543	543
Bamarang Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	366	366
Barren Grounds Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	2,065	2,065
Barrengarry Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	20	20
Bees Nest Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	1,539	1,539
Bell Bird Creek Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	57	57
Beowa National Park	National Park	10,758	10,758
Berlang State Conservation Area	State Conservation Area	2,313	2,313
Bermaguee Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	874	874
Biamanga National Park	National Park	13,560	13,585
	NPWS Acquired Not Gazetted	25	
Bimberamala National Park	National Park	4,319	4,319
Bondi Gulf Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	1,859	1,859
Bournda National Park	National Park	2,661	2,661
Bournda Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	6,079	6,079
Broulee Island Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	30	30
Brundee Swamp Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	228	228
Budawang National Park	National Park	24,000	24,000
Budderoo National Park	National Park	7,382	7,382
Bugong National Park	National Park	1,003	1,003
Bungonia National Park	National Park	769	769
Bungonia State Conservation Area	State Conservation Area	3,282	3,282
Burnt School Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	285	285
Burra Creek Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	273	273
Cambewarra Range Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	1,681	1,681

NPWS Estate	Type	Area (ha)	Total Area (ha)
Clyde River National Park	National Park	1,264	1,264
Colymea State Conservation Area	State Conservation Area	1,669	1,669
Conjola National Park	National Park	11,549	11,549
Coolumbooka Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	1,515	1,515
Coornartha Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	1,184	1,184
Corramy Regional Park	Regional Park	289	289
Cullendulla Creek Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	127	127
	NPWS Acquired Not Gazetted	0.1	
Dangelong Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	4,923	5,796
	NPWS Acquired Not Gazetted	873	
Davidson Whaling Station Historic Site	Historic Site	15	15
Deua National Park	National Park	121,221	121,221
Eagles Claw Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	1	1
Egan Peaks Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	2,113	2,113
Eurobodalla National Park	National Park	3,031	3,031
Frogs Hole Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	77	77
Good Good Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	20	20
Gourock National Park	National Park	7,848	7,848
Gulaga National Park	National Park	4,959	4,959
Illawong Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	51	51
Jerralong Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	333	333
Jerrawangala National Park	National Park	4,018	4,018
Jervis Bay National Park	National Park	5,191	5,445
	NPWS Acquired Not Gazetted	254	
Kangaroo River Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	116	116
Kooraban National Park	National Park	11,460	11,484
	NPWS Acquired Not Gazetted	24	
Kybeyan Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	1,449	2,398
	NPWS Acquired Not Gazetted	949	
Kybeyan State Conservation Area	State Conservation Area	4,197	4,197
Macanally State Conservation Area	State Conservation Area	2,282	3,351
	NPWS Acquired Not Gazetted	1,069	
Majors Creek State Conservation Area	State Conservation Area	667	667
Meroo National Park	National Park	3,839	3,839
Mimosa Rocks National Park	National Park	5,836	5,836
Monga National Park	National Park	26,989	26,989
Monga State Conservation Area	State Conservation Area	1,002	1,002
Morton National Park	National Park	199,583	199,960
	NPWS Acquired Not Gazetted	377	
Morton State Conservation Area	State Conservation Area	1,034	1,034
Mount Clifford Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	306	306
Mount Dowling Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	512	512
Mount Imlay National Park	National Park	4,717	4,717

NPWS Estate	Type	Area (ha)	Total Area (ha)
Murramarang Aboriginal Area	Aboriginal Area	60	60
Murramarang National Park	National Park	12,350	12,350
Nadgee Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	21,437	21,438
	NPWS Acquired Not Gazetted	1	
Nadgigomar Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	5,590	5,590
Narrawallee Creek Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	874	874
Numeralla Mountain	NPWS Acquired Not Gazetted	1,013	1,013
Numeralla Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	439	439
Parma Creek Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	3,627	3,627
Rodway Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	81	81
Saltwater Swamp Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	213	213
South East Forest National Park	National Park	111,365	111,365
Strike-a-Light Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	407	407
Tallaganda National Park	National Park	16,682	16,682
Tallaganda State Conservation Area	State Conservation Area	5,197	5,197
Tapitallee Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	94	94
Tinderry Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	15,026	15,026
Triplarina Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	138	138
Undoo Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	18	18
Wadbilliga National Park	National Park	95,460	95,460
Wadjan Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	91	91
Wogamia Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	275	275
Woollamia Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	442	442
Worrigeer Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	229	229
Yanununbeyan National Park	National Park	3,487	3,487
Yanununbeyan Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	40	40
Yanununbeyan State Conservation Area	State Conservation Area	3,811	3,811
Yattheyattah Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve	36	36
Yurammie State Conservation Area	State Conservation Area	210	210
<b>Total</b>			<b>824,256</b>



- Study Area
- NPWS Reserves

NPWS Reserves © State Government of NSW and NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water 2021, State Forests © Forestry Corporation of NSW 2024

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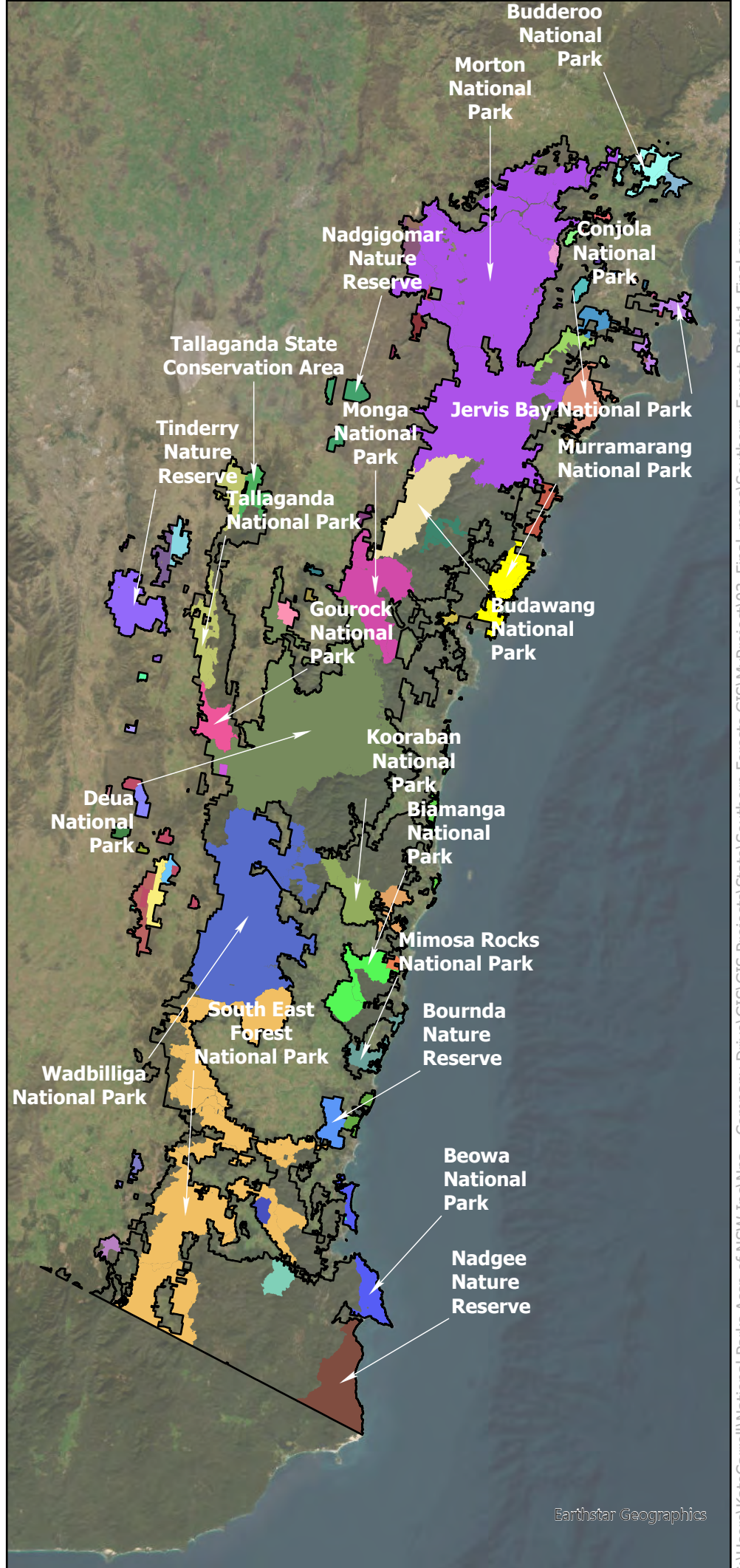
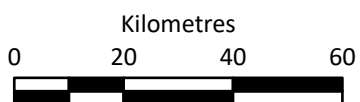


Figure 3: NPWS Reserves

Earthstar Geographics

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### 3.4 State Forests

There are 55 State Forests and 24 Flora Reserves in the Region. These are listed in Table 3 and mapped in Figure 4.

Flora Reserves are portions of State Forests that have been dedicated under Section 16 of the *Forestry Act 2012*. Dedication as a Flora Reserve has the effect of permanently prohibiting logging and associated forestry activities. Flora Reserves can only be revoked by the parliament. They are classified in a similar way to a Nature Reserve under the NRS. Though under the NRS, Flora Reserves have been assessed for their value for conversion to NPWS Estate as part of our investigation into all State Forests in this report.

Twenty-three of the Flora Reserves in the Region are contained within a single State Forest. The exception is Wallagaraoh, which is spread across five different State Forests.

Some entire State Forests are declared as Flora Reserve, including Murrah, Mumbulla and Tanja. Some are very small sections of a larger forest. For simplicity of naming and assessment, all Flora Reserves are included in the State Forest totals.

The areas of overlap with the five State Forests that include part of Wallagaraoh Flora Reserve have been treated as an additional State Forest to avoid 'double counting'. Accordingly, the report references a total of 56 rather than 55 State Forests, where relevant, for assessment purposes.

All lands that can be unambiguously classified as softwood plantations have been excluded from the Study Area. Such areas are not considered native vegetation and have little ecological value in their current state, even as habitat corridors.

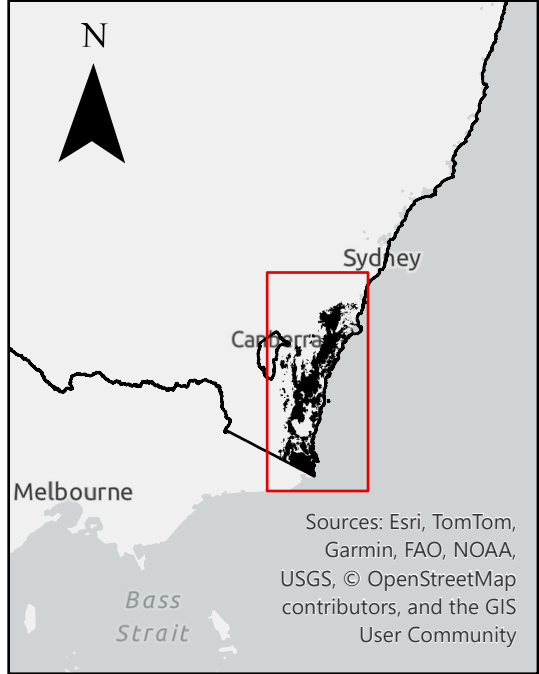
There is approximately 200 hectares of native hardwood plantation in the Region. In situations where the native hardwood plantations are wholly surrounded by native vegetation they have been considered for incorporation into the Study Area. Conversely, isolated patches of hardwood plantation and those surrounded by softwood plantation were excluded from further consideration.

Isolated patches have been defined as any native vegetation of less than 100 ha, except where it is directly contiguous with NPWS Reserves. This distinction allows for continuity of vegetation management, maintenance of corridors, and manageable park boundaries.

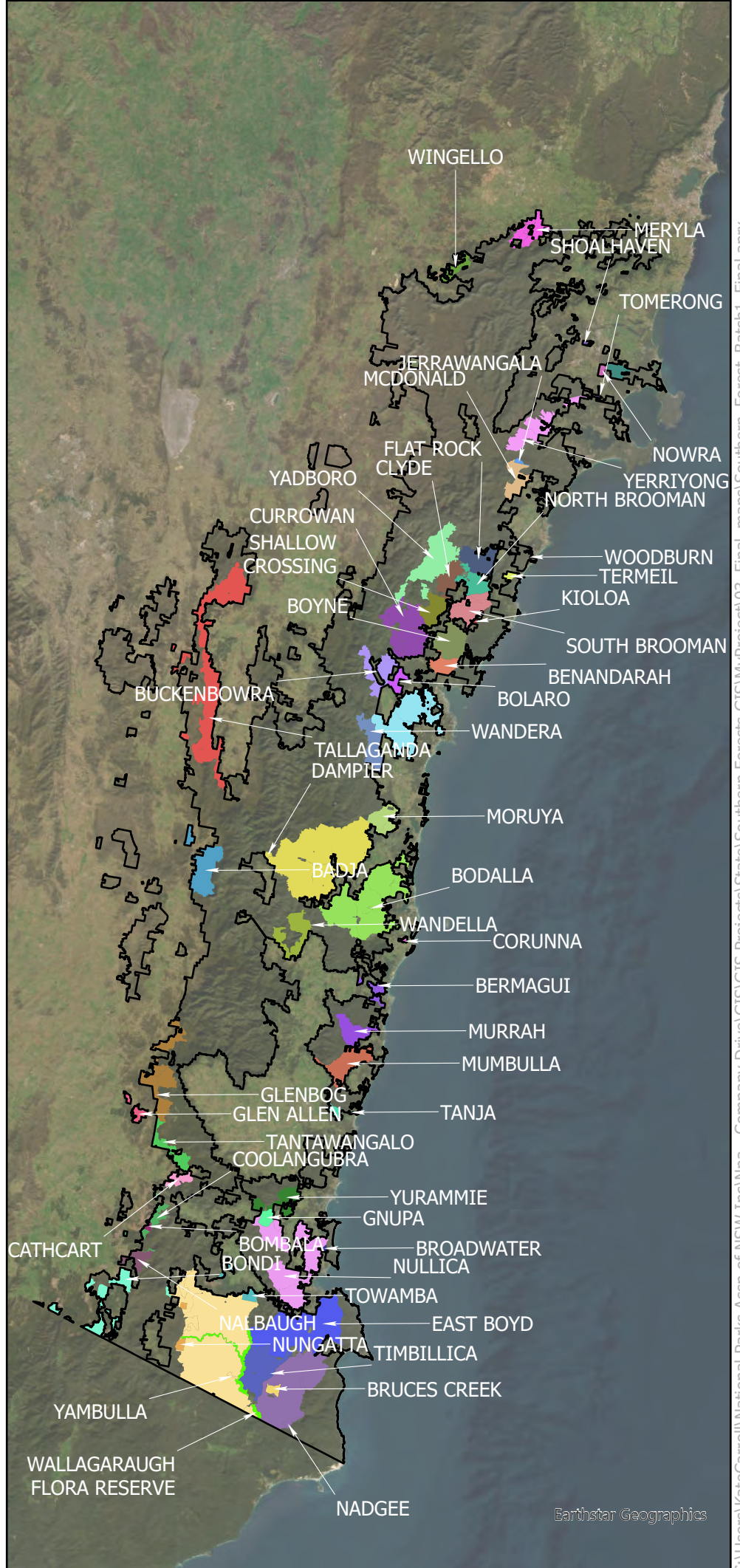
*Table 3: State Forests and Flora Reserves in the Region*

State Forest	Area (ha)	Flora Reserve	Area (ha)	Total Area (ha)
Badja	7,690			7,690
Benandarah	2,747			2,747
Bermagui	1,282	Bermagui	549	1,831
Bodalla	23,972	Silvestris	57	24,029
Bolaro	1,782			1,782
Bombala	338			338
Bondi	6240	Tennyson	492	6,732
Boyne	6171			6171
Broadwater	166			166
Bruces Creek	791			791
Buckenbowra	5193			5193
Cathcart	1723			1723
Clyde	3545			3545
Coolangubra	2198			2198

State Forest	Area (ha)	Flora Reserve	Area (ha)	Total Area (ha)
Corunna	183			183
Currambene	1,684			1,684
Currowan	11,812	Currowan	71	11,918
		Peach Tree	35	
Dampier	33,480	Dampier	265	33,745
East Boyd	20,791			20,791
Flat Rock	4,905			4,905
Glen Allen	1,439			1,439
Glenbog	8,790			8,790
Gnupa	1,315			1,315
Jerrawangala	268			268
Kioloa	174			174
McDonald	3,690			3,690
Meryla	307	Meryla	4,051	4,358
Mogo	15,449			15,449
Moruya	4,053			4,053
Mumbulla		Mumbulla	6,137	6,137
Murrah		Murrah	4,218	4,218
Nadgee	19,527	Maxwells	508	20,402
		Narrabarba Hill	125	
		Watergums Creek	242	
Nalbaugh	2,263			2,263
North Brooman	3,640			3,640
Nowra	519			519
Nullica	17,633	Jingera	473	18,277
		Nethercote Falls	150	
		Nullica	21	
Nungatta	859			859
Shallow Crossing	3,851			3,851
Shoalhaven	109			109
South Brooman	5,585			5,585
Tallaganda	23,863	Jerrabattgulla	29	23,892
Tanja		Tanja	871	871
Tantawangalo	3,392			3,392
Termeil	686			686
Timbillica	7,295	Sidlings Swamp	1,272	8,567
Tomerong	210			210
Towamba	1,602			1,602
Wandella	5,478			5,478
Wandera	5,189			5,189
Wingello	2,436			2,436
Woodburn	12			12
Yadboro	10,676	Broad Creek	16	10,710
		Mares Hill	18	
Yambulla	42,544	Letts Mountain	907	44,579
		Mount Poole	946	
		Yambulla	182	
Yerriyong	6,600			6600
Yurammie	4,027			4,027
Nungatta, Yambulla, East Boyd, Nadgee, and Timbillica	-	Wallagaraugh	3,084	3,084
<b>Total</b>	<b>340,174</b>		<b>24,719</b>	<b>364,893</b>



- Study Area
- State Forest



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State Forests © Forestry Corporation of NSW 2024

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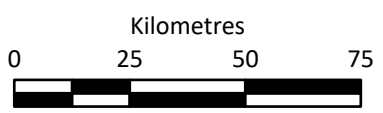


Figure 4: State Forests

### 3.5 State Forest Management Zones

State Forests are divided into Forest Management Zones (FMZ). The zones have different purposes and impose differing restrictions on timber extraction and related activities.

The allocation of the different FMZs of State Forests within the Region is shown in Table 4. Harvesting and related activities are subject to varying levels of constraint in Zones 1, 2, 3A and 3B. Zone 1 is for Flora Reserves and has the highest level of protection. Most forestry operations are concentrated in Zone 4, the General Management Zone (harvestable land). The General Management Zone accounts for around 79% of the total area of State Forests (excluding Flora Reserves).

As discussed in Chapter 3.4, Zone 5 (hardwood plantations) were partially included in the Study Area. Where wholly surrounded by native vegetation, they were included, whereas isolated patches or those surrounded by softwood plantation were excluded.

*Table 4: Forest Management Zones of the State Forests*

Forest Management Zone	Area (ha)	Percentage
Zone 1 - Special Protection Zone (Flora Reserves)	24,708	<b>6.77%</b>
Zone 2 - Special Management Zone	17,616	<b>4.83%</b>
Zone 3A - Harvesting Exclusions Zone	17,403	<b>4.76%</b>
Zone 3B - Special Prescription Zone	17,146	<b>4.70%</b>
Zone 4 - General Management Zone	287,260	<b>78.68%</b>
Zone 5 - Hardwood Plantations Zone	56	<b>0.10%</b>
Other/unmapped	897	<b>0.25%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>365,086</b>	