



# Natural Values Atlas (NVA)



## User Instructions

## *Species Searches*



## About Species Searches

There are over 20000 species recorded in the NVA which includes all groups of plants and animals found in Tasmania. This part of the NVA enables you to look up information about species which are recorded in the NVA.

Species in the NVA have the following information attributed to them.

- Taxonomy
- Common names
- Biometric Attributes (eg threatened, endemic, listed weed etc)
- Biogeographic distribution (where it occurs outside of Tasmania)
- Publications (eg images, listing statements etc)
- Categories (eg habit , lifeform etc)

**NOTE:** If you want to look at **Observations** for a species or group of species you should go to the **Observation Search page** (see link top left of the NVA Home page). The Species Search page is designed to return lists of species in a defined area and /or information about a species or group of species, rather than individual observations of the species.

## The Species Search Page

To navigate to the species search page click on **Species Search** link under Quick Links at the top left of the NVA home page, or Click on the Species tab at the top of any NVA page and then click on the Species Search link at the top of the Species Home page. You should see a page like the one below.

The screenshot shows the 'Species Search Criteria' page of the Natural Values Atlas. The page has a blue header with the Tasmanian Government logo and the text 'Natural Values Atlas Authoritative, comprehensive information on Tasmania's natural values Version 3.3.0.11'. Below the header is a navigation bar with links: Home, Data Entry, Species, TASVEG, Geodiversity, Locations, Projects, CIS, Admin, Help & Support. The main content area is divided into a left sidebar and a main search area. The sidebar contains a 'Species' section with links like 'Species Home', 'Species Search', 'Species Search Help', 'Observation Search', 'Observation Search Help', 'Individuals Search', 'Sample Search', 'Populations', 'Populations Search', 'Exports', 'Taxonomy Tree', 'Data Entry', 'Species Revision', 'Taxonomy Revision', 'Replace Range Boundary Lookups', 'Bulk Update Species', 'Bulk Update Species Reset', 'Bulk Update Observation', 'Bulk Update Observation Reset', 'Range Boundary Metadata', 'Conservation Significance Definitions', 'Taxonomy and Attribute Uploads and References'. The main search area is titled 'Species Search Criteria' and contains several sections: 'Restricted?' (checkbox), 'Threatened?' (checkbox), 'Conservation Significance?' (checkbox), 'Group' (dropdown), 'Species' (text input with a 'Contains' dropdown and a 'Graph' button), 'Species Id(s)' (text input), 'Species Category' (dropdown), 'Include Discontinued?' (checkbox), 'New Species Name?' (checkbox), 'Old Species Name?' (checkbox), 'Census?' (checkbox), 'Search Area' (a map of Tasmania with a 'Buffer' input field), 'Click on the map to open a large version', 'Area Search Based On' (radio buttons for 'Actual Observations', 'Range Boundary', 'Simple'), 'Search Format' (radio buttons for 'Custom', 'Export'), and 'Results Per Page' (a dropdown set to 500). At the bottom of the search area are 'Search' and 'Reset' buttons.

On the Species search page you will see a range of dialogue boxes, tick boxes and search options which you can use, either on their own or together, to search for species information in the NVA. There is also a map interface which allows you to define a search area. The various search parameters and their function is outlined below

### **Available search parameters:**

**Restricted** This relates to species for which data is only available to special users because it is considered too sensitive for general release (Currently only one critically endangered plant). If this is selected and no other search parameter is selected all restricted species will be returned but only if the user has the correct permissions to see this data. Otherwise no data will be returned.

**Threatened** Selecting this and no other search parameter will return all threatened species

**Conservation Significance** Selecting this and no other search parameter will return all species which have a value assigned to them. This includes species which are primitive, endemic, highly sensitive, on the native watch list, listed weeds, threatened species, RFA listed species, uncommon, culturally significant and of scientific significance.

**Group** This parameter allows for the selection of subsets of species within the NVA. Customised queries have been created to allow for common searches undertaken by users. Click the small arrow on the side of the box and a drop down box with a list of the searches available will appear. Selecting any of the options shown will return only that subset of data.

**Species** This is the field where the name (either scientific or common) of a species that is being searched for is entered. If no other search parameter is used only the species searched for will be returned except when the Include discontinued, Chain Forward, Chain Back options are left on. In this case all old and new names for the selected species will also be returned.

**Species Id(s)** This is a number which is automatically assigned to each species entered into the NVA. It is a unique identifier and can be used as an alternative to a species name for searching. The code can be either typed in manually or selected from the drop down box located at the side of the search field. This field can be used to search for multiple species names by typing each species code followed either by a comma or a space as a separator.

**Species Category** Selecting this search parameter, and not any other, will allow the return of all species with a particular attribute. Select the dropdown and choose one of the category groups, for example, “Lifeform”. Another field will then appear, which also has a drop down list of all the criteria available for “Lifeform”. Select “Tree” and hit search. All species which have been given the life form attribute of “Tree” will be returned. NB data sets under categories may not be complete.

**New Species Name and Old species Name** These fields are automatically selected by default. This is to ensure that when searches are undertaken all data pertaining to the species of interest, regardless of what name it had in the past, or has currently, will be returned. If these options are not required for the search then these boxes can be deselected. If both are deselected then the search results will only return data lodged under the precise species name specified.

**Include Discontinued** If you tick this box you are electing to include species which may have been discontinued. e.g. an old name for the species you are searching for.

**Search Area** The NVA Map Interface allows users to undertake spatial searches for species. The search area is defined by clicking on the map of Tasmania in the centre of the screen and bringing up the NVA Map Interface window. The area of interest can then be selected on the map and the search will bring back the names of all the species located within the search area. For details of how to use the NVA map interface see below (page 10)

**Buffer** This field allows you to define a buffer (in metres) around your search area. Species occurring within the defined search area plus the buffer area will be returned.

**Area Search Based On** This is another search parameter that is automatically selected as a default. The majority of searches will be based on **Actual Observations**. The **Habitat Mapping** option is for looking at the predicted distribution of a species and is used mainly for threatened fauna species.

**Report Format** This allows the user to define the report format of the search results. There are three options.

- **Simple** is the default format and brings back a predefined set of fields as a table view within the NVA. To see all fields returned use the scroll bars to move the tables across or up and down the screen.

- **Custom** This option allows you to select which fields you want to see in your search results table. The regularly used fields are selected by default. If you want different fields to show, select the ones you want by holding down the Ctrl key and then clicking on the relevant fields. To deselect, click on the field again. At the top of the field selection box, there are also two buttons which give you the option to 'clear all' fields selected or to 'select all' the fields.
- **Export** works in exactly the same way as the custom format except that in this case the data is exported. There are a choice of formats to export data in, either a comma separated values (csv) file or a Microsoft Excel (xlsx) workbook. Choose which format is required and click Search.

A table should appear at the bottom of the page which will report on the progress of the export request. All data exports requested by a user will be stored for three days. A report of all data exports requested over a three day period can be seen by selecting the **My NVA** tab at the top RHS of the page .

The time it will take to download the data requested varies depending on the size of the request. To check if the download has completed look to see if there is a date in the **Finished Date** field (see below) and a 'download' hyperlink has appeared in the **File** field. The **Export status** and **Export Message** fields should also state that the export has completed. If the report has been running for a while and nothing has appeared in these fields, periodically click the **Refresh** button. If the download consistently fails and there appears to be no issues at the user end contact NVA support ([support@naturalvaluesatlas.tas.gov.au](mailto:support@naturalvaluesatlas.tas.gov.au) or Ph: 03 6165 4349 or 03 6165 4328).

If you have more tasks to undertake in the NVA, it is possible continue with other searches etc. as the requested download will continue to run in the background in the meantime.


## Simple Species Search Procedure

1. Type the name of the species (scientific or common) into the 'Species' dialogue box near the top of the page Species Search page. If you are unsure of what the name is, or how to spell it, you can type in part of the name.. (Note that some common names have a hyphen e.g. white-bellied sea-eagle) Once you have typed in the name or part of the name click on the book icon to the right of the Species dialogue box. A pop up box will appear and species names which match what you have typed, should be listed. Note that only the first 10 results are displayed. If the list of suggested species is greater than 10 names, and you cannot see the right name, click the right pointing arrow at the bottom of the pop-up window to see the next 10 results. Keep scrolling through the pages until the name you are looking for appears. If no names you are looking for appear, try a different spelling.

2. Once you can see the name you are looking for, click on the name. The popup box should close and the name you chose should automatically appear in the species search box on the main NVA species search page.
3. Click 'Search' (at the bottom of the Species Search page) and wait, a dash circle will spin round indicating that the search is underway. If the search is only for one species should be almost instantaneous. If you are searching an area for species that occur there the result may take a little while to be returned. A tabulated report be returned at the bottom of the search page(see below).
4. If you would like to see a map of the species distribution (or rather the distribution of the observations for that species in the NVA) you can click on the **View Observations** button at the top of the results table. That will open the map interface and plot the observations on the map. **Note:** If you search for a species or group of species which has a large number of records it may take quite a while to plot them all on the map.

If you want some instruction on how to use the map interface refer to the section on How to Use the NVA Map Interface below (page 10)

## Species Details.

The information returned in the tables after a search request is a summary in tabulated form of the information held in the NVA about a species. To look at **more detailed information** about the species click on the blue details button  next to the species of interest.

A view will show like the one below, with fields which may or may not have data filled in about the species. There may also be a small thumbnail picture of the species on the top RHS (this will only appear if there is an image in the NVA for that species).

There is more information further down the screen, to see this use the scroll bar to scroll down the screen.

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

Natural Values Atlas x Natural Values Atlas x Can't Select and Edit Graph... x +

https://nvatest.naturalvaluesatlas.tas.gov.au/#SpeciesPage:877-00010

Species Home


Species Search  
Species Search Help  
Observation Search  
Observation Search Help  
Individuals Search  
Sample Search  
Populations  
Populations Search  
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Taxonomy Tree

Data Entry  
Species Revision  
Taxonomy Revision  
Replace Range Boundary  
Lookups

Bulk Update Species  
Bulk Update Species Reset  
Bulk Update Observation  
Bulk Update Observation Reset

Range Boundary Metadata  
Conservation Significance  
Definitions  
Taxonomy and Attribute  
Uploads and References

Back Modify Refresh View Observations



### Taxonomy

<b>Symbology</b>	fauna
<b>Census Year</b>	1977
<b>Species Code</b>	B77-00010
<b>Species Name</b>	Ceyx azureus subsp. diemenensis
<b>Preferred Common Names</b>	Tasmanian azure kingfisher
<b>Kingdom</b>	Animalia
<b>Phylum</b>	Chordata
<b>Class</b>	Aves
<b>Order</b>	Coraciiformes
<b>Family</b>	Alcedinidae
<b>Genus</b>	Ceyx
<b>Species</b>	azureus
<b>Infraspecies Rank</b>	
<b>Infraspecies</b>	diemenensis
<b>Species Authority</b>	
<b>Publication</b>	
<b>Infraspecies Authority</b>	
<b>Publication</b>	

### Species details

<b>Species Notes</b>	state_schedule changed from not listed into endangered on 18th Dec. 2002. Is under this name on the EPBCA 1999
<b>Prescription Notes</b>	
<b>Threatened?</b>	Yes
<b>State Schedule</b>	endangered
<b>National Schedule</b>	Endangered

## Explanation of the Species Details Fields

The top part of the species detail page provides details about the species taxonomy, and where it fits in the taxonomic hierarchy for the taxonomic groupings to which it belongs as well as the authority for the specific name.

### Taxonomy

- **Symbology** Symbology designation for display on maps (Fauna, Flora Threatened etc.)
- **Census Year** The year this species was added to the database (sometimes this refers to a database which predates the NVA)
- **Species code**, is the unique NVA code for the species. This can also be used to search for a species, if known, by using the **Species Id(s)** search field instead of the species search field
- **Species name**, the scientific name for the species.
- **Preferred Common Names**, this is a plain English name by which the species is most commonly known in Tasmania. There may be more than one provided.
- **Kingdom / Phylum / Class / Order / Family / Genus / Species / Intraspecies rank / Intraspecies**. These ten fields indicate which taxonomic grouping the species belongs and where in the taxonomic hierarchy for this grouping the species fits.
- **Authority / Publication / Intraspecies Authority / Publication year**. These four fields indicate the scientific backing for the accepted name of the species. The species authority is the taxonomist who has named and described the species and had this accepted for publication in the scientific literature and if known the name and year of that publication.

### Species Details

- **Species notes**. This field may have notes about the species which are of interest in respect to its taxonomic status, changes in the status, information about its discovery, reasons for it being discontinued etc.
- **Prescription notes**.
- **Threatened?** This is a flag indicating if the species is listed on either the state or national legislation
- **State Schedule**. This provides the threatened status, rare, vulnerable, endangered or extinct that the species is listed as on the Tasmanian *Threatened Species Protection Act* (1995).
- **National Schedule**. This provides the threatened status, conservation dependant, vulnerable, endangered, critically endangered, Extinct in the Wild, Extinct on the National *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* (1999).

- **Conservation Significance.** This is a flag for any species that has a particular status in the following fields
  - Biogeographic Origin
  - Reservation Status
  - RFA Priority
  - Scientific Significance
  - Introduced Watch List
  - Native Watch List
  - Primitive
  - Uncommon
  - Cultural Significance
  - Highly Sensitive

For detailed definitions of these fields click on the Conservation Significance Definitions link (near the bottom of the list of links on the left hand side of the Species page). This link will access a PDF document containing the definitions which you can view or save as required.

### Attachments

- This area contains attached images and / or documents with information about the species concerned. You can click on the image to the document to download them.

### Links

- This area contains links to web pages which have more information about the species concerned.

### Common Names.

- In this section a list of common names that are used for the species in Tasmania and the source of the names. The most widely used name is the one indicated as the preferred name.

### Category Values

- This will show any attributes of the species that it has been determined to have and may include plant form, plant habit etc. This information is not yet complete or comprehensive.

### Biogeographic Distribution.

- This section provides more detail on the origin of the species. For example if it is introduced it may provide information on where the species' natural occurrence is outside of Australia. This information is not yet complete or comprehensive

### Revisions

- This section will list current names of the species and will indicate any old names for the species resulting from name changes or splits / merges. If you click on the **Graph** button a graphical representation of the name changes and how they relate to each other will be displayed.

## Species Admin

- **CFEV.** This is a flag to indicate that this species is one used by the Conservation of Freshwater Ecosystem Values database.
- **Forestry.** This is a flag to indicate that this is a species that is used in the database systems of Forestry Tasmania
- **Restricted.** This is a flag to indicate that data for the species is restricted and not available to the general public. It is reserved for use for highly sensitive threatened species.
- **Current Census.** This is a flag to indicate that the species name appears in the current, A Census of Vascular Plants of Tasmania published by the Tasmanian Herbarium.
- **Disallow Observations.** This is a flag that indicates the species name is a current accepted name but that observations are not allowed to go into the NVA under this name. This situation occurs in cases where there is a species name which has only one infra-species in Tasmania so records need to go under the infra-species name not the parent species.
- **Discontinued date.** Indicates this is an old name for a species and gives the date the name was discontinued in the NVA

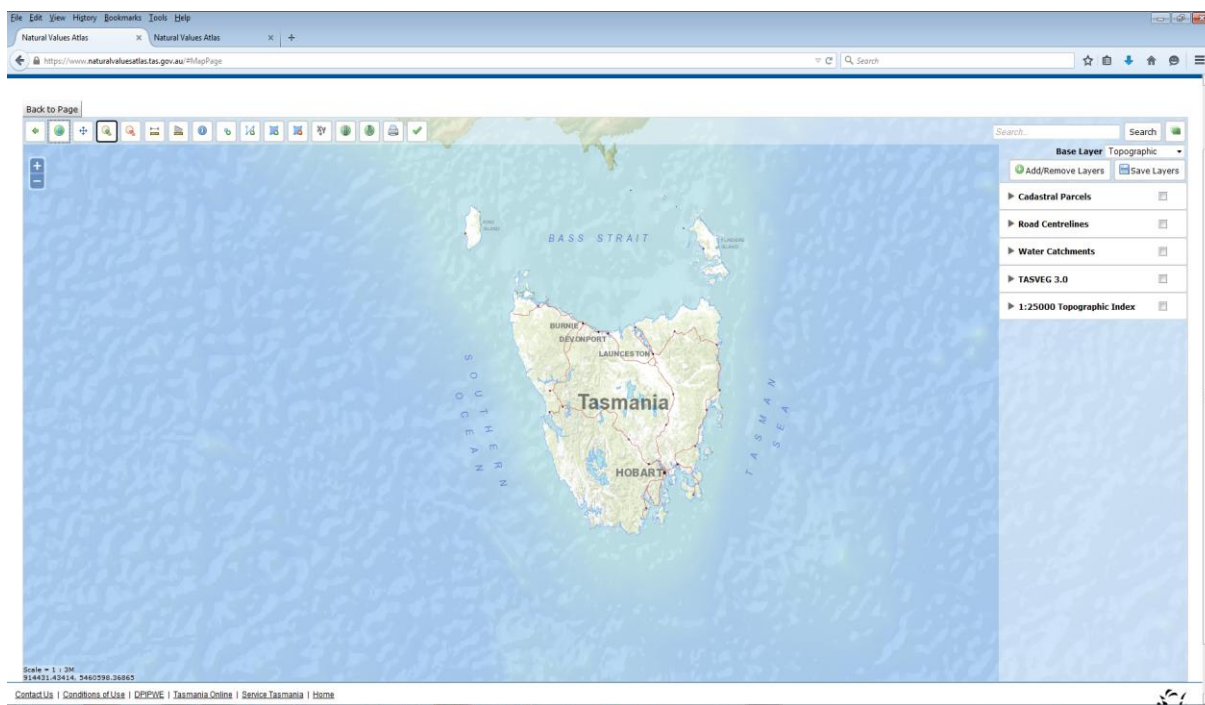
## Other Links

On the left hand side of the page there are a list of links to other documents which explain aspects of the species data.

**Taxonomy and Attribute Uploads and References** The table displays a of all the taxonomy updates and the references which have been used to develop the taxonomic classification in the NVA.

If you want to look at the observations for the species you can click on the **View Observations** button at the top of the page. This will open the observation search page and return a tabulated report of all the observations in the NVA for the species in question.

## How to Use the NVA Map Interface



Using the NVA's map interface you can navigate around the map, zoom in, zoom out, and query map layers and identify or draw features / boundaries which you can return to the NVA to use in your search. This is achieved using various tools which are incorporated into the map interface. The functionality of the different tools is outlined below. The primary use of the interface is to define a search area for species and observation searches.

**Map tools:** *(Note: you need to activate each tool by clicking on it prior to using it.)*



Previous View Button - go back to the preceding view



Pan Tool – click on the map and drag to move map around in the window



Zoom In Tool – click the tool and draw a rectangle around the area of interest and the map viewer will zoom in to the area you selected



Zoom- Out Tool – click the tool and draw a rectangle to zoom out and the map viewer will redraw the current view to fit into the rectangle you drew



Full Extent button – returns to the default view showing the full map of Tasmania



Zoom In on the centre of the map (predetermined amount of zooming)




Zoom Out on the centre of the map (predetermined amount of zooming)




**Ruler Tool** – Use this tool to measure a distance on the map. Click on the map at the start position and double click to finish. A pop-up window will display the length of the line you have drawn.




**Polygon Tool** - To draw a polygon, activate this tool by clicking on it. Click at a start point and then continue clicking to draw around the area you are interested in. Double Click to finish. Try not to cross over the line you have already drawn (self-intersect) as this might cause your search to fail. To return this feature to the NVA and use it as a search criterion click the  button at the top of the page.



**Line Tool** - To draw a line, activate this tool by clicking on it, then click on the map at the start of your line. Draw the line by clicking as appropriate. Double click to finish drawing. To return this feature to the NVA and use it as a search criterion click the  button at the top of the page. (**Note:** If you want to search using a line you should also enter an amount of buffer around the line in metres – once you have returned to the NVA search page – it is probable that a search simply using a line will return no results.)



**Point Tool** – To draw a point, activate this tool by clicking on it, then click on the map where you would like your point to be. To return this feature to the NVA and use it as a search criterion click the  button at the top of the page. (**Note:** If you want to search using a point you should also enter an amount of buffer around the point in metres – once you have returned to the NVA search page – it is probable that a search simply using a point will return no results.)



**Delete all Drawn Features Tool** – As the name suggests clicking on this icon will delete any / all of the features you have drawn on the map using the tools above. It will also clear any features which you may have selected from a layer using the Information Tool in conjunction with the Layer Management window (see below)



**Show Vertices Tool** – displays a table in which you can type the co-ordinates of the vertices (i.e. the corners / joins / points) that define the shape you wish to search. To enter a point, simply click on the button and then type in the coordinates of your point location. If you want to enter a rectangle or another shape, first use the Polygon tool to draw a polygon and then click the Show Vertices button so that you can bring up the vertices and edit them to accurately define your search area. You can also use this tool to view the vertices (coordinates) of features you have selected / drawn using the information and select features tools (see below).



**Return Geometry to the NVA Button** – returns the specified search area/point/line to the NVA search page (also closes the map window and returns to the NVA pages). Once back in the NVA you will then need to click on the Search button to start searching the NVA records using the point /line /polygon you have defined.



**Upload Shapefile (zipped)** – uploads a zipped ESRI shapefile onto the NVA to use as a search area. **Shapefiles need to be fairly simple, single polygons which are not too large** or the upload / search may fail. If you don't know what a shapefile is, it's probably best to ignore this button... 😊



**Save Map to PDF** – this allows you to save the currently displayed map view to a PDF. You can then open the map with Adobe Reader and print it, or copy the image into an image management program to save in different formats and/or paste into MS Word etc.

## Layer Manager Area

The Layer management area (see diagram next page) allows you to add layers of map data to your map view and to change the base layer for your Map

Click on the Manage Layers button at the top right of the map viewer window to open the layer management area (on the right hand side of the map window see diagram below). If you click the same button again the layer manager area will be hidden.

To select a different base layer for the map click on the drop down arrow to the right of the 'Base Layer' heading on the Layer Management area. You can choose from, 'No Base Layer', 'Topographic' (the default), 'Scanned Maps' (scanned TASMAR maps), or the State Orthophoto (state-wide coverage of aerial photographs)

You can add layers of spatial information to your map view by opening the manage layers pop-up window, searching for the layers you require and clicking on the green **+** to the right of the layer name. Selected layers will move to the column on the right. If you click on the red **-** sign next to the layers on the right, they will be removed from the map and return the list of available layers on the left.

Once you are happy with the layers you have chosen click Apply Changes. The layers you have chosen should be plotted on the map. If a layer you have added doesn't appear to have plotted on the map check to see if there is a 'processing' symbol like this, displaying on the screen. If you can see this symbol, the layers may still be waiting to draw and you need to wait a little for them to be plotted.

**Search for** places, (type in place names, addresses or Property ID's)

Click on the arrow to **display a legend** for the layer

**Choose map base layer**

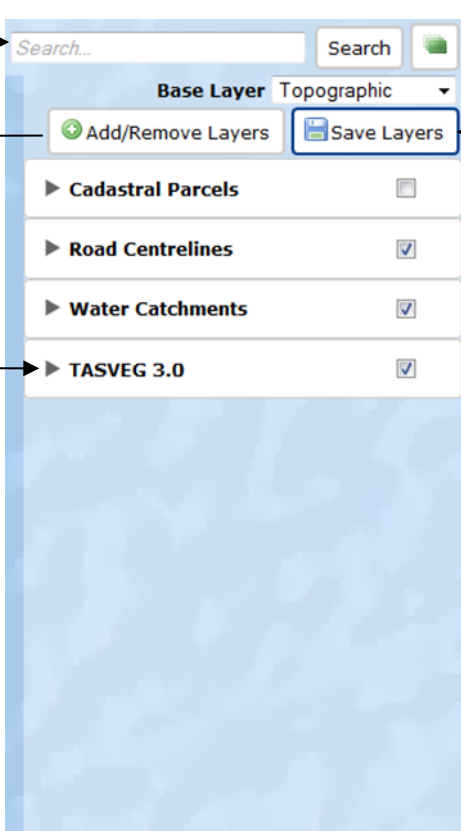
**Save current layers**

Currently added layers (**check tick boxes** to turn off and on)  
**Note: if a layer is turned on but doesn't display you may need to zoom in for it to become visible.**

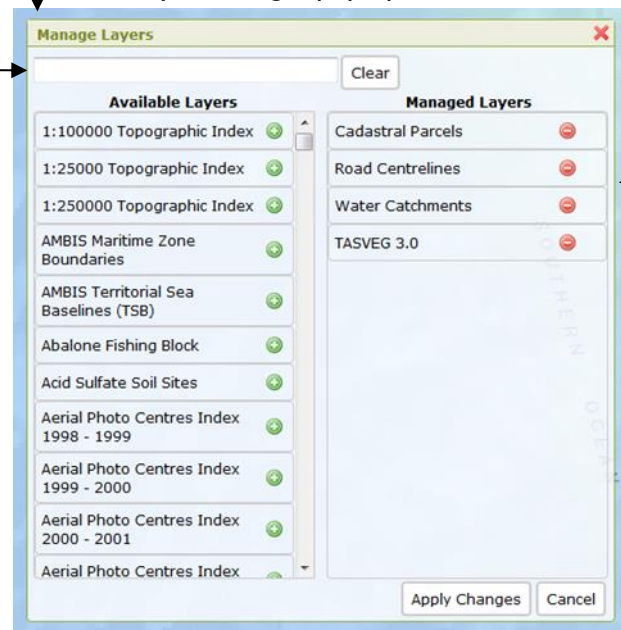
Layer manager pop-up window

Search for available map layers, (type in a key word)

**Currently displayed layers** are on the right, available layers on the left. Click the + or - signs next to each layer to add or remove



The top screenshot shows a map interface with a search bar at the top. Below the search bar is a 'Base Layer' dropdown menu set to 'Topographic'. To the right of the dropdown are two buttons: 'Add/Remove Layers' and 'Save Layers'. Below these buttons is a list of layers: 'Cadastral Parcels', 'Road Centrelines', 'Water Catchments', and 'TASVEG 3.0'. Each layer has a checkbox to its right. 'Road Centrelines', 'Water Catchments', and 'TASVEG 3.0' have their checkboxes checked. Below the list is a large blue area representing the map.



The bottom screenshot shows a 'Manage Layers' pop-up window. It has a search bar at the top with a 'Clear' button. Below the search bar are two columns: 'Available Layers' and 'Managed Layers'. The 'Available Layers' column contains a list of layers with a green plus sign next to each. The 'Managed Layers' column contains a list of layers with a red minus sign next to each. At the bottom of the window are 'Apply Changes' and 'Cancel' buttons.

If you don't see the processing symbol, and the layers you have chosen still don't appear on the map it's likely you not have zoomed in close enough to display this layer (complex layers are not displayed when you are zoomed out as they would make the map unreadable.) Zoom in closer until the layer becomes visible.

**Legends:** If you want to see a legend for a layer/s you have loaded you can click on the right pointing arrow to the left of each layer name to open a legend window.



**Information tool and select features tool** – use this to return information about map features and **to select map features**. The tool displays specific information from a chosen map feature. Using the mouse select a feature you are interested in from the layers you are displaying on your map, i.e. click anywhere on / inside the required map feature to retrieve information about the feature. The Identify Feature Results pop-up box should appear. This window will display specific information about the feature you have chosen.

You can now also **use the chosen feature as a search parameter** to search for records on the NVA. To do this, click on the green **+** button at the top right of the information Feature Results window (see diagram below). Your chosen feature should now be outlined in red on the map. If you then click on the green **✓** at the top of the NVA Map Viewer page, the geometry for the selected feature will be returned to the NVA search page so that you can conduct a search on the area outlined.

Identify Feature Results	
▼ Cadastral Parcels (1 features)	
Feature	
Volume	30849
Folio	2
Computed Area	50975.081
Measured Area	50990
Pid	7381184
Potential Pid	0
Cad Type1	Private Parcel
Cad Type2	Private Parcel
Tenure Type	Freehold Title
Feature Name	
Strata Level	Not Applicable
Property Name	
Objectid	219804
Cid	1189805
Lpi	GVL00
Shape	Polygon

Use the green **+** to select the feature you are interested in. Then click on the **✓** button at the top of the page to return the selected feature to the NVA search screen and run a search on the area bounded by the feature.

## Co-ordinate systems

The NVA map viewer allows the user to operate in two different map co-ordinate systems – GDA 94 (Eastings and Northings) and WGS 84 (Latitudes and Longitudes). This functionality was developed in particular for people dealing with marine records which are usually recorded as Latitude and Longitude.

By default the data is displayed in GDA94 (Eastings and Northings) However you can choose which co-ordinate system you want to view the data in by hovering your mouse over the 'Logged in as' area at the top right of NVA web pages and choosing the projection you require This is a temporary change which will last until you exit the current session. If you want to make a permanent change hover your mouse over the 'Logged in as' area and select My NVA. On the My NVA page click the Modify button and then choose the co-ordinates system you would like to work in.

## More Help?

If you require further help with species searches contact NVA support [support@naturalvaluesatlas.tas.gov.au](mailto:support@naturalvaluesatlas.tas.gov.au) or (03) 62336311.