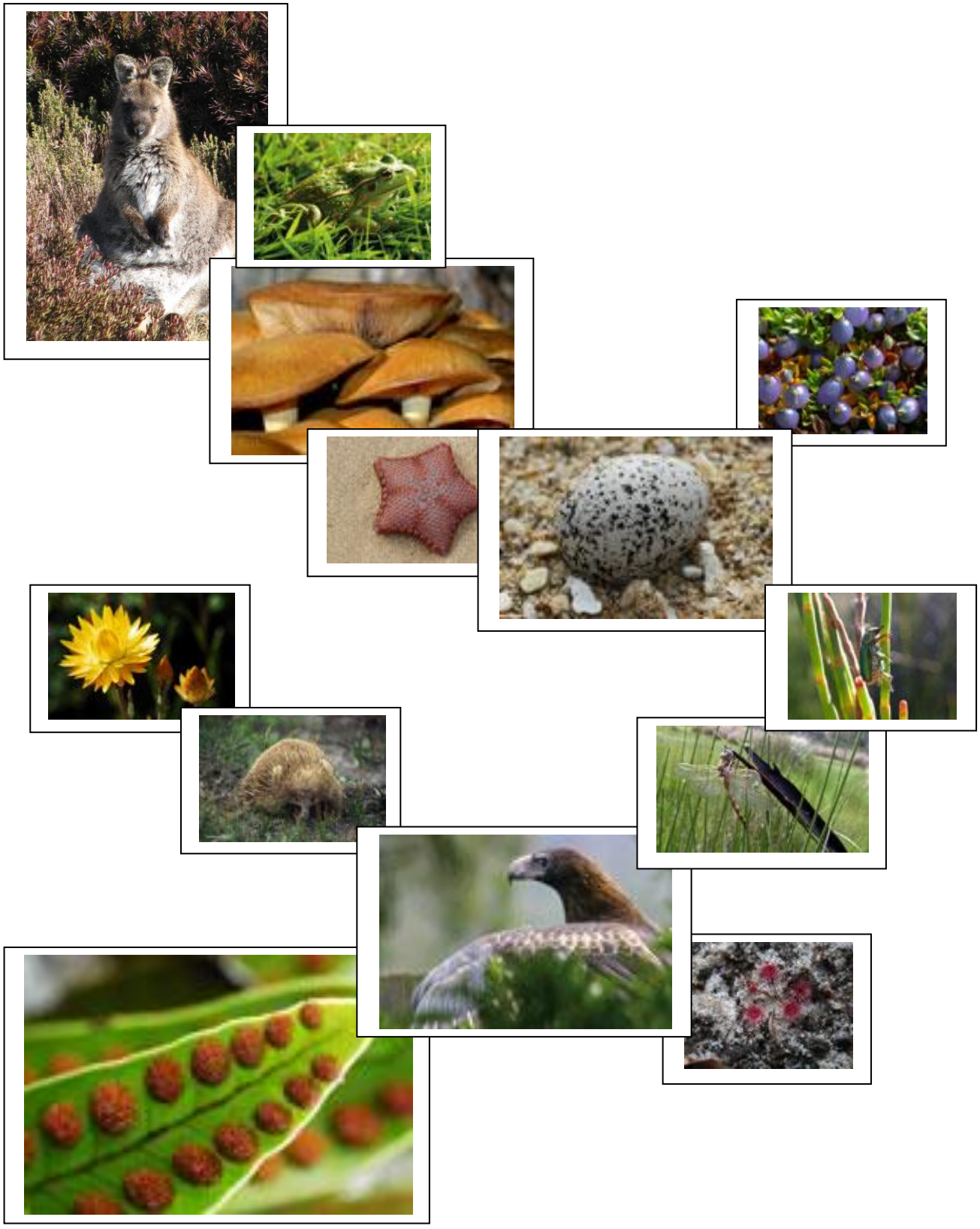
Natural Values Atlas Instructions

How to Run a Natural Values Report



Biodiversity Conservation Branch
Department of Primary Industry, Parks, Water and Environment

Tasmania
Explore the possibilities

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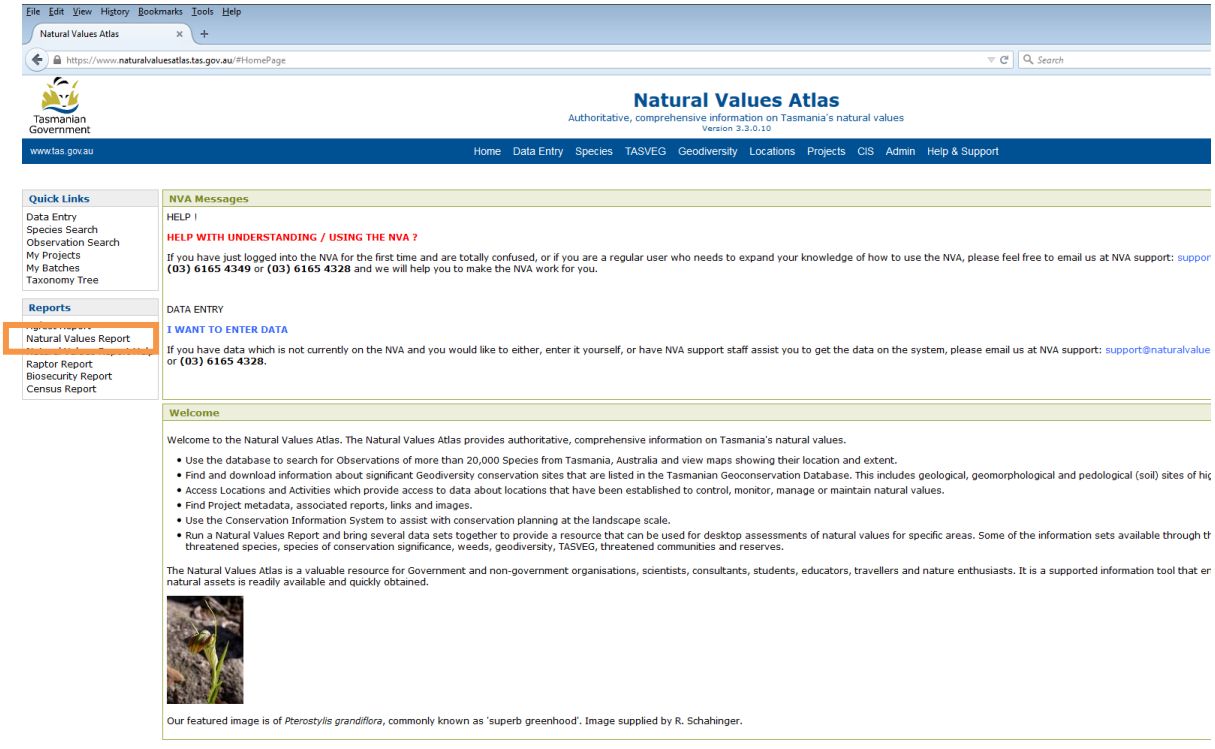
What is a Natural Values Report (NVR)

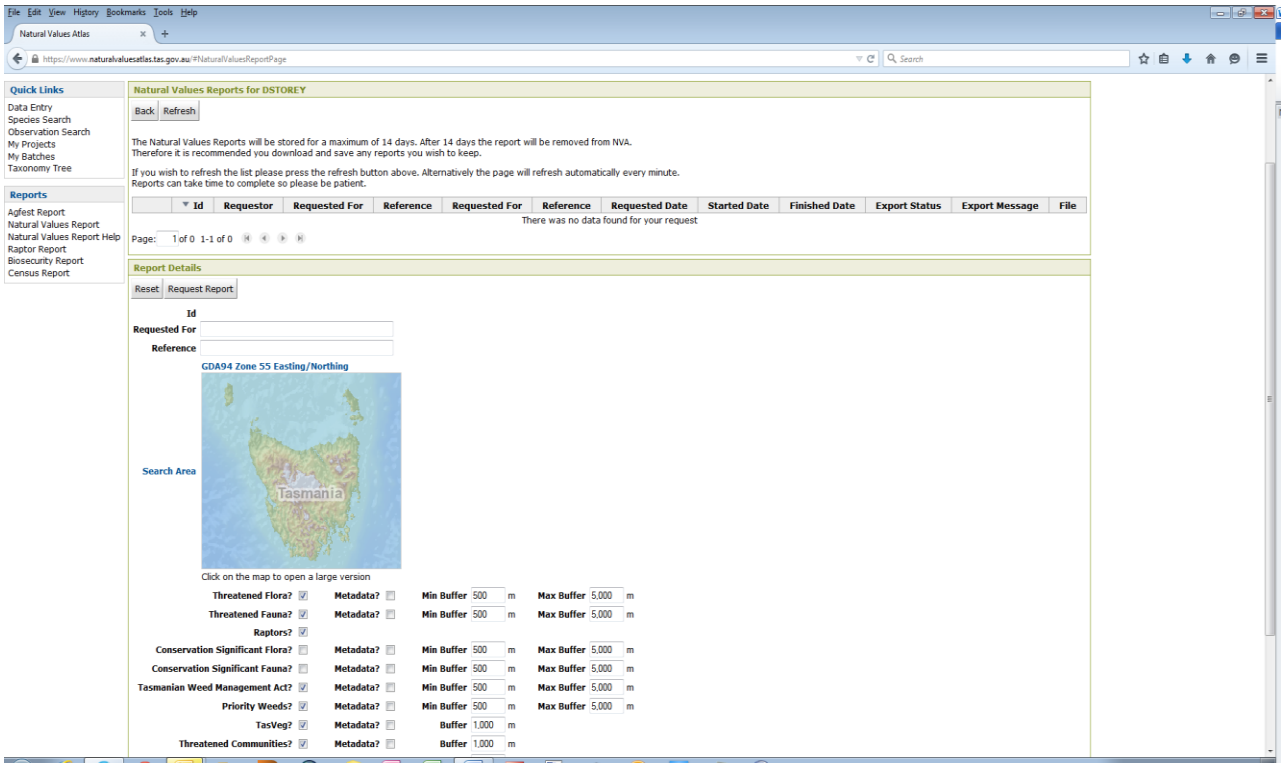
A natural values report is a comprehensive report on natural values for any area of interest in the state that is generated automatically by the Natural Values Atlas. It is a quick and easy means to return all known values for an area which includes maps showing locations of species, communities and other sites of value within an area as well as the associated spatial data. This information can then be used to help with development assessments, environmental planning, conservation assessments and other land use and management decisions.

How to Generate a Natural Values Report

On the NVA home page click on the Natural Values Report link (see ☐ below) top left of the page under **Reports**. This will take you to the Natural Values Report page.



You should see a window which looks something like this:



Identify your report

Fill in the name of the person/organisation the report is being **requested for** and some sort of **reference** to help you identify what the report is about (optional).

Select what data to want in your report:

Choose the data set options you want to include in your report by checking the tick boxes against the data sets you are interested in (e.g. Threatened Flora, Tasmanian Weed Management Act etc.). Some of the dataset options are checked by default. These are datasets of species/communities which have requirements under legislation for protection and/or management.

If you also tick the boxes for the metadata beside each data set, explanatory information about the data set concerned will be included in the report.

Choose your search area on the Map:

You need to define where in Tasmania you want the NVA to report on by selecting an area on a map and asking the NVA to return records for that fall within the selected area. The Report Area dialogue box on the Natural Values Report page is

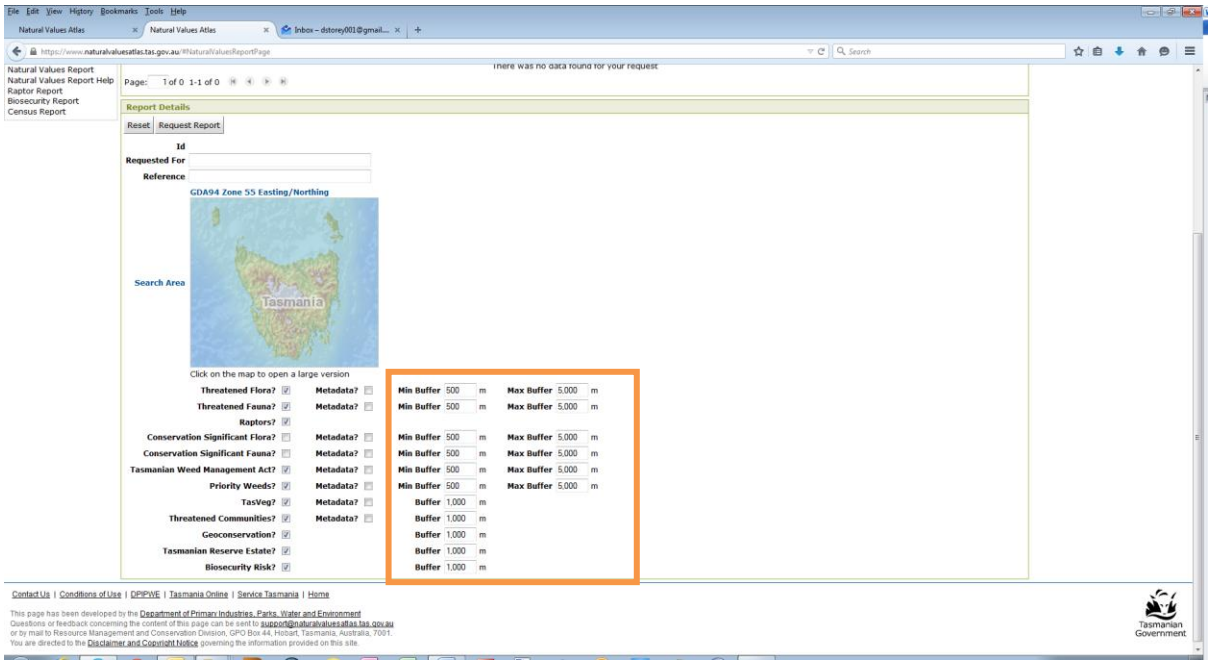
associated with the NVA's map interface. To define a search area you need to use the map interface.

To bring up the map interface you click on the small map to open the map viewer window. You will see a new window open which looks like the one below. This window is referred to as the NVA map interface and the way it works is outlined at the end of this instruction module. This interface is used in a number of other places on the NVA and the functionality is always the same.

Once you have selected an area on the map and have returned the search area to the Natural Values Report Page (i.e. after clicking ✔ on the Map Interface):

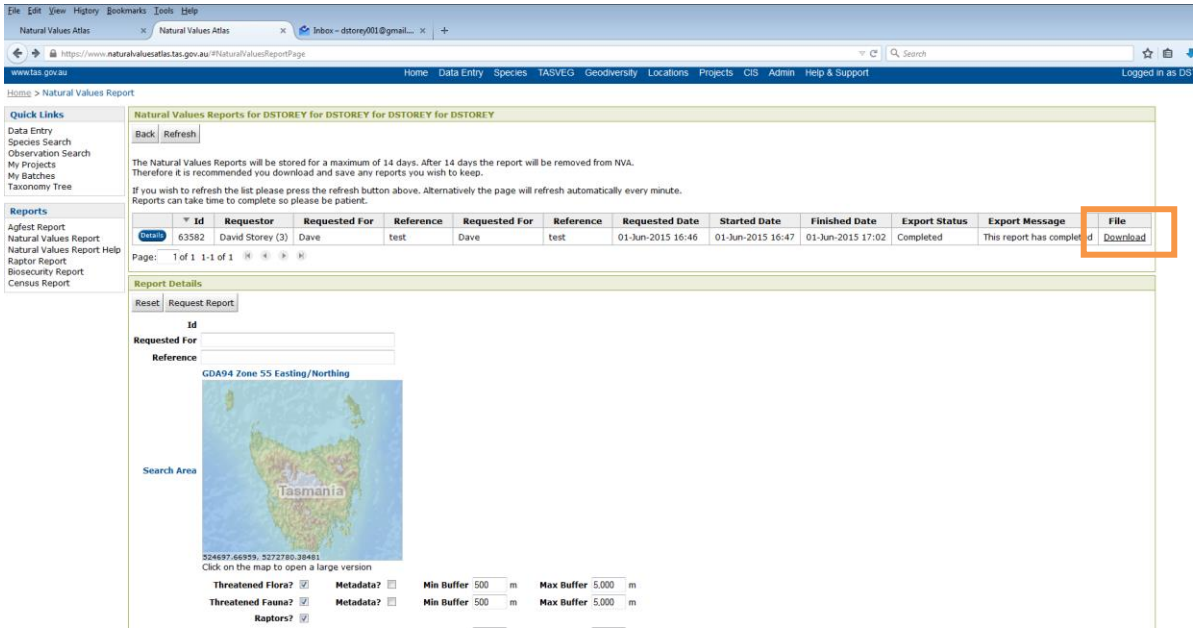
Buffers

Buffers (□ on the image below) are an extra area (measured in meters) around your defined search area/point. These are set to 500m and 5000m by default. These buffers are the ones recommended (they are based on the accuracy level of the records in the data) If there is a need to customise the buffer area to suit your search needs you can simply type in alternate buffer values.



Request Report and Download.

Once you have selected your search area, specified what data sets you want to include and defined the buffers you would like, click the Request Report Button at the top of the page. You should be taken to a page which looks something like this:

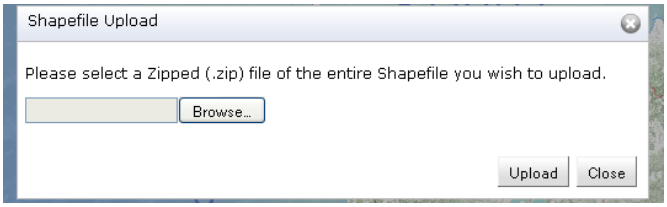


This page provides information about the progress of your report. It may take several minutes for you report to run depending on its size and complexity. When the report is complete you will see a download link (□ above) which you can click on to download and open/save your report. If you report fails to complete it is likely that you have selected too large an area for the database to cope with. You should not run a report on an area larger than 10,000 hectares.

Generating a Natural Values Report Using an ESRI Shapefile

You can use an ESRI Shapefile to define the area on which to generate a Natural Values Report. Currently the NVA does not cope well with searches using multi-part polygons or polygons with self-intersects i.e. these will crash the system, so uploading these types of features to run searches is not advised. Keep your shapefile simple and as small as possible (< 10,000 Ha). **Once you have generated your shapefile you need to zip it (and its other component files) into a .zip file**

1. On the Homepage on the left hand side under Reports click on the Natural Values Report Link.
2. Click New Report.
3. Fill in any details of 'Requested for' and 'Reference' as per the instructions above.
4. Click on the map icon next to the Report Area dialogue box - the map interface should open
5. Click on the  button (upload zipped Shapefile). You should see a page similar to the one below:



6. Click on the Select Shapefile button and navigate through the files on your computer to find the shapefile you want to upload.

7. Select the file and click Upload

8. The polygon should be uploaded and you should be able to see it displayed on the map (you may need to zoom in)

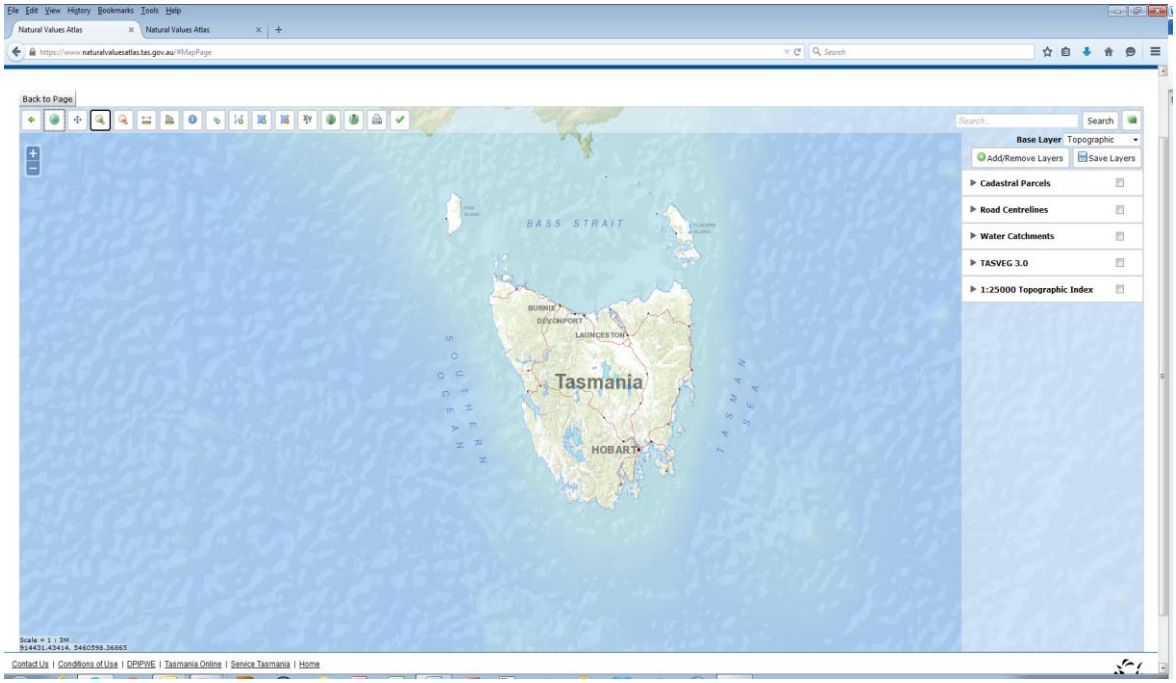
9. Return the search area to the NVA by clicking on the ✔ button

10. Click Request Report.

11. While waiting for a report you should refresh the download page by clicking the refresh button to see if you report has been generated.

12. One the report has been generated you will be able to click on the download link to download/open your report

NVA Map Interface



Using the NVA map interface you can navigate around the map, zoom in zoom out, and query map layers and identify or draw features 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. **You need to activate each tool by clicking on it prior to using it.**

Map tools:

 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.)

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 anther 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 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

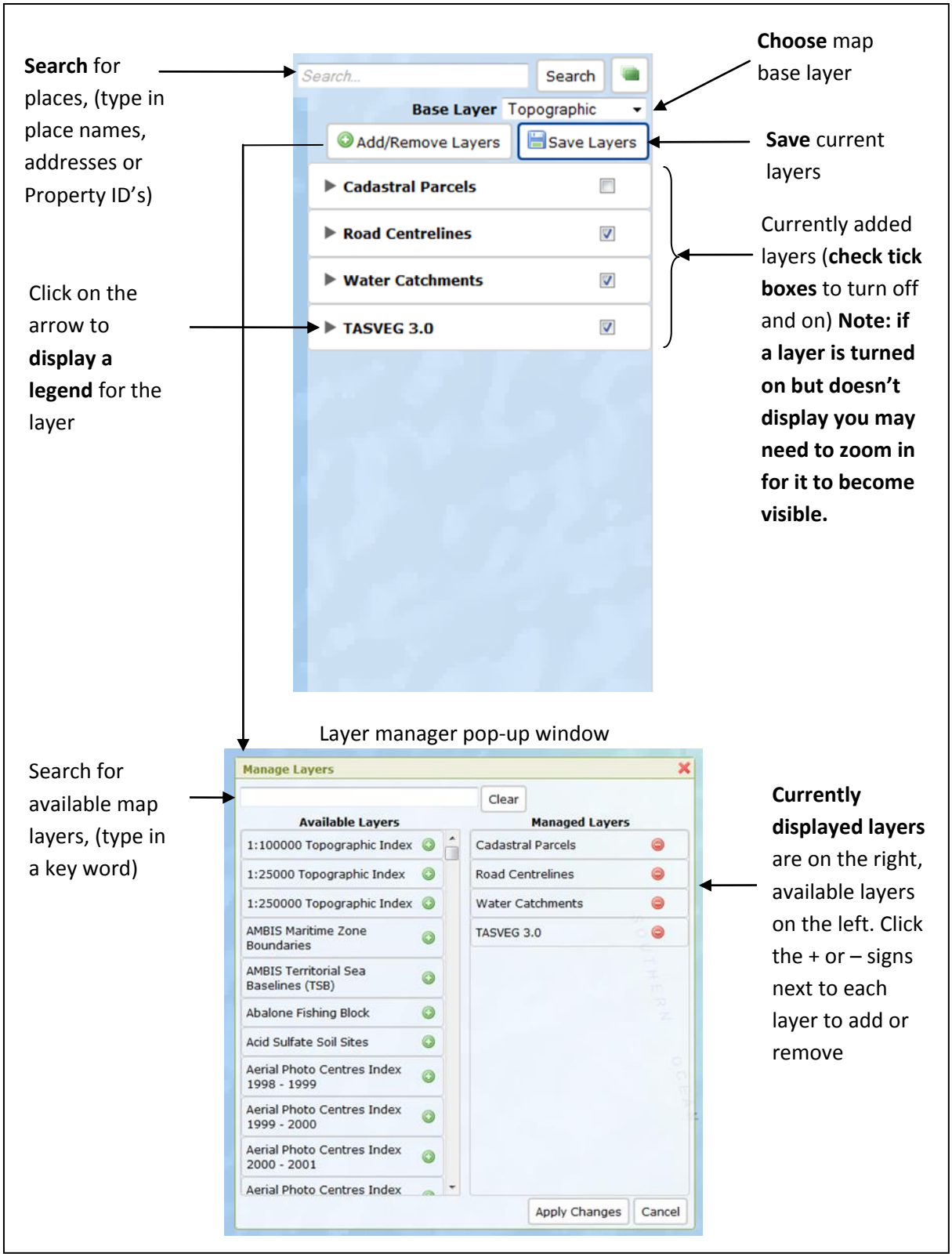
The Layer management area (see diagram next page) allows you to add layers of map data to your map view

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.

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.

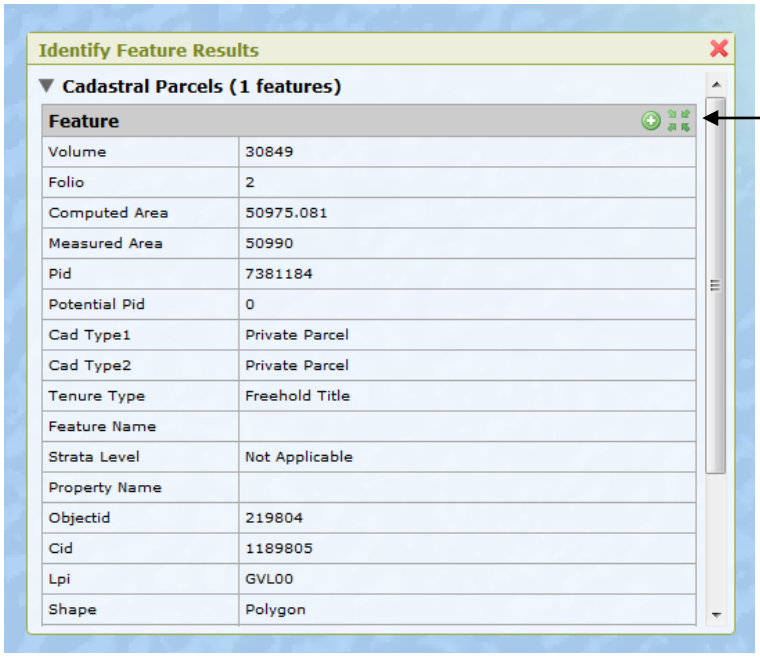
If you don't see the processing symbol, and the layers you have chosen still don't appear on the map it's likely you not have zoomed in close enough to display this layer (complex layers are not displayed when you are zoomed out as they would make the map unreadable.) Zoom in closer until the layer becomes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



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.