

REGIONAL WINNER

Department for Environment and Water SA Land Cover

What was the problem?

A new set of land surface models are available that use satellite imagery to show land cover changes in South Australia. The SA Land Cover dataset allows, for the first time, mapping and measuring of changes in native vegetation and other types of land cover across South Australia through time, from 1987 – 2015. The dataset maps 17 land cover types across South Australia at unprecedented levels of detail and is freely available to support research into landscape changes. Until now, there has been no spatial land cover information available that was consistent over this time period and covered the whole of SA

What were the key outcomes?

The SA Land Cover dataset is a significant data resource that can provide valuable lines of evidence in addition to existing data. The data provides time series information relating to biodiversity conservation, food production, forestry, carbon capture and storage, water storage or urban development. Investigation and use of the mapping will improve our understanding of how well known land covers are represented and their trends over time.

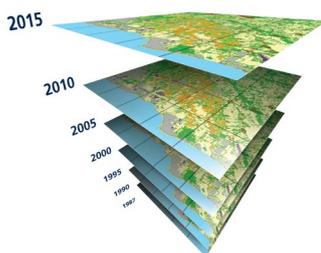
How did you address it?

The development of the SA Land Cover dataset required an approach that engaged key stakeholders from all Natural Resource Management regions of SA. It was an early statistical application of the satellite image archive now known as Digital Earth Australia, with modelling approaches developed by researchers in Victoria, so a collaborative project was designed between DEW, Geoscience Australia, the Australian Government and researchers associated with the Arthur Rylah Institute (ARI)

Undertaken in 2016 and 2017, the modelling was followed by post processing, analysis, interpretation and publishing of maps and documents. External peer review was undertaken then results and implications were discussed with departmental and key industry stakeholders. Final outputs including data, metadata, analysis of trends, policy implications and communication material, were published and released at the NRM science conference in Adelaide in April 2018.

For more information about this project or to contact the Department for Environment and Water, please visit their website: <https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/Home>

SA Land Cover 1987–2015



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and Water