BACKGROUND

- Move the existing woody vegetation paragraph 5 to paragraph 4.
- ADD as last paragraph - A new method for calculating the rate of clearing has been applied for the 2014–15 period, and to all previously reported SLATS clearing periods (as shown in Figure 1). Refer to the full 2014–15 SLATS report for further information.

KEY FINDINGS

2014–15 period

- 296 000 ha/year of woody vegetation was cleared, statewide. This was similar to the statewide woody vegetation clearing figure in 2013–14 of 295 000 ha/year.
- 114 000 ha/year of remnant woody vegetation was cleared, statewide, representing 38% of the total woody vegetation clearing (Table 1). This compared to 100 000 ha/year of remnant woody vegetation clearing in 2013–14 (35% of total woody vegetation clearing).

91% of cleared woody vegetation was replaced by pasture in 2014–15. The remaining 9% was replaced by crop, forestry, mining, infrastructure and settlements.

29% of woody vegetation clearing in 2014–15 had previously been cleared.

*All reported rates and percentages are approximate only. Rates are rounded to the nearest 1000 ha/year and percentages are rounded to the nearest whole percentage.

WOODY VEGETATION CLEARING

As illustrated in Figure 1, woody vegetation clearing in 2014–15 (296 000 ha/year) continued a similar trend from 2013–14 (295 000 ha/year).

BIOGEOGRAPHIC REGIONS

The Brigalow Belt and Mulga Lands biogeographic regions etc etc .... 130 000 ha/year and 65 000 ha/year of woody vegetation were cleared etc etc.... (Figure 2). This compared to 132 000 ha/year and 108 000 ha/year of woody vegetation clearing in the Brigalow Belt and Mulga Lands regions in 2013–14, respectively. In the ‘other’ category, woody vegetation clearing rates changed significantly in the Gulf Plains region (18 000 ha/year in 2014–15 compared to 4 000 ha/year in 2013–14) and in the Mitchell Grass Downs region (26 000 ha/year in 2014–15 compared to 14 000 ha/year in 2013–14).

DRAINAGE DIVISIONS

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108 000 ha/year of woody vegetation was cleared in 2014–15 in the GBR catchments (Figure 4). This compared to 105 000 ha/year of woody vegetation clearing in 2013–14.
Land cover change in Queensland in 2014–15
2014–15 Statewide Landcover and Trees Study Report

Executive Summary

June 2016


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Citation

For further details including definitions, methodology and statewide analyses, please refer to the 2014–15 SLATS Report at:


Prepared by

Remote Sensing Centre
Science Division
Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation
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The spatial distribution and intensity of woody vegetation clearing in Queensland for the 2014–15 period is shown in Figure 5.

Figure 5. Woody vegetation clearing in Queensland 2014–15. Individual cell area = 17 500 hectares

Total clearing rate
2014–15
(,000 ha/year)
0
0 to ≤ 0.1
0.1 to ≤ 0.5
0.5 to ≤ 1.0
1.0 to ≤ 2.0
2.0 to ≤ 5.0
> 5.0

June 2016

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The study detects changes in woody vegetation using Landsat satellite imagery. Images captured approximately one year apart are compared using a combination of automated and manual mapping techniques to produce a statewide map of land cover change.

Woody vegetation encompasses both woody remnant and woody regrowth vegetation as defined by the VMA. Some examples of woody vegetation include undisturbed and disturbed native woodlands, timber plantations and exotic species.

To facilitate comparison between analysed periods, results are reported as woody vegetation clearing rates in thousands of hectares per year (,000 ha/year) for all of Queensland.

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**KEY FINDINGS**

**2014–15 period**

- 296,000 ha/year of woody vegetation was cleared, statewide. This was similar to the statewide woody vegetation clearing figure in 2013–14 of 295,000 ha/year.
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- 91% of cleared woody vegetation was replaced by pasture in the 2014–15 period. The remaining 9% was replaced by crop, woody mining, infrastructure and settlements.
- 29% of the 2014–15 mapped woody vegetation clearing had previously been cleared one or more times since 1988.

**Table 1. Clearing by woody vegetation type (,000 ha/year)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Non-remnant</th>
<th>Remnant</th>
<th>Total clearing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014–15</td>
<td>182 (62%)</td>
<td>14 (3%)</td>
<td>296</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rates are rounded to the nearest 1000 ha/year and percentages are rounded to the nearest whole percentage.

**DRAINAGE DIVISIONS**

The Murray-Darling and North East Coast divisions continued to record the highest woody vegetation clearing rates in 2014–15. 119,000 ha/year and 115,000 ha/year were cleared in those regions (Figure 3). In 2013–14 comparatively, 153,000 ha/year of woody vegetation clearing occurred in the Murray-Darling and 111,000 ha/year in the North East Coast divisions. In the ‘other’ category, woody vegetation clearing rates changed significantly in the Gulf Rivers division (21,000 ha/year in 2014–15 compared to 7,000 ha/year in 2013–14) and in the Lake Eyre division (38,000 ha/year in 2014–15 compared to 20,000 ha/year in 2013–14).

**GREAT BARRIER REEF (GBR) CATCHMENTS**

108,000 ha/year of woody vegetation was cleared in 2014–15 in the GBR catchments (Figure 4). This compared to 105,000 ha/year of woody vegetation clearing in 2013–14.

The GBR catchments are a subset of the North East Coast drainage division indicated in Figure 3.

![Figure 1. Historic woody vegetation clearing in Queensland](image)

![Figure 2. Woody vegetation clearing in key biogeographic regions as a percentage of total clearing in Queensland (Table 1)](image)

![Figure 3. Woody vegetation clearing in key drainage divisions as a percentage of total clearing in Queensland (Table 1)](image)

![Figure 4. Woody vegetation clearing in the Great Barrier Reef catchments as a percentage of total clearing in Queensland (Table 1)](image)
For further details including definitions, methodology and statewide analyses, please refer to the main 2014-15 SLATS report at: https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/vegetation/mapping/slats-reports/

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June 2016

Figure 5. Woody vegetation clearing in Queensland 2014-15. Individual cell area = 17 500 hectares

The spatial distribution and intensity of woody vegetation clearing in Queensland for the 2014–15 period is shown in Figure 5.
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The study detects changes in woody vegetation using Landsat satellite imagery. Images captured approximately one year apart are compared using a combination of automated and manual mapping techniques to produce a statewide map of land cover change.

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**KEY FINDINGS**

**2014–15 period**

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Table 1. Clearing by woody vegetation type (,000 ha/year)

As illustrated in Figure 1, woody vegetation clearing in 2014–15 (296,000 ha/year) was similar to that of the 2013–14 period (205,000 ha/year).

**BIOGEOGRAPHIC REGIONS**

![Figure 2. Woody vegetation clearing in key biogeographic regions as a percentage of total clearing in Queensland (Table 1)](image)

The Brigalow Belt and Mulga Lands continued to record the highest woody vegetation clearing rates in 2014–15. 130,000 ha/year and 65,000 ha/year were cleared in those regions (Figure 2). In 2013–14 comparatively, 132,000 ha/year of woody vegetation clearing occurred in the Brigalow Belt and 108,000 ha/year in the Mulga Lands. In the ‘other’ category, woody vegetation clearing rates changed significantly in the Gulf Rivers division (21,000 ha/year in 2014–15 compared to 7,000 ha/year in 2013–14) and in the Lake Eyre division (38,000 ha/year in 2014–15 compared to 20,000 ha/year in 2013–14).

**GREAT BARRIER REEF (GBR) CATCHMENTS**

![Figure 4. Woody vegetation clearing in the Great Barrier Reef catchments as a percentage of total clearing in Queensland (Table 1)](image)

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* The GBR catchments are a subset of the North East Coast drainage division indicated in Figure 3.
STATEWIDE WOODY VEGETATION CLEARING
2014–15

Figure 5. Woody vegetation clearing in Queensland 2014–15. Individual cell area = 17 600 hectares.

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For further details including definitions, methodology and statewide analyses, please refer to the main 2014–15 SLATS report at:

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Table 1. Clearing by woody vegetation type (1000 ha/year)

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The Brigalow Belt and Mulga Lands continued to record the highest woody vegetation clearing rates in 2014-15. 119 000 ha/year and 115 000 ha/year were cleared in those regions (Figure 2). In 2013-14 comparatively, 153 000 ha/year of woody vegetation clearing occurred in the Murray-Darling and 111 000 ha/year in the North East Coast divisions. In the 'other' category, woody vegetation clearing rates changed significantly in the Gulf Rivers division (21 000 ha/year in 2014-15 compared to 7 000 ha/year in 2013-14) and in the Lake Eyre division (38 000 ha/year in 2014-15 compared to 20 000 ha/year in 2013-14).

GREAT BARRIER REEF (GBR) CATCHMENTS

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The Great Barrier Reef (GBR) catchments continued to record the highest woody vegetation clearing rates in 2014-15. 119 000 ha/year and 115 000 ha/year were cleared in the other regions (Figure 5). This compared to 153 000 ha/year in 2013-14.

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STATEWIDE WOODY VEGETATION CLEARING 2014–15

Total clearing rate 2014-15 (,000 ha/year)

- 0
- 0 to ≤ 0.1
- 0.1 to ≤ 0.5
- 0.5 to ≤ 1.0
- 1.0 to ≤ 2.0
- 2.0 to ≤ 5.0
- > 5.0

The spatial distribution and intensity of woody vegetation clearing in Queensland for the 2014–15 period is shown in Figure 5.

Figure 5. Woody vegetation clearing in Queensland 2014–15. Individual cell area = 17,500 hectares

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June 2016
WOODY VEGETATION CLEARING

Figure 1. Historic woody vegetation clearing in Queensland

As illustrated in Figure 1, woody vegetation clearing in 2014–15 (296 000 ha/year) was similar to that of the 2013–14 period (295 000 ha/year).

BIOGEOGRAPHIC REGIONS

Figure 2. Woody vegetation clearing in key biogeographic regions as a percentage of total clearing in Queensland (Table 1)

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GREAT BARRIER REEF (GBR) CATCHMENTS

Figure 4. Woody vegetation clearing in the Great Barrier Reef catchments as a percentage of total clearing in Queensland (Table 1)

108 000 ha/year of woody vegetation was cleared in 2014–15 in the GBR catchments (Figure 4). This compared to 105 000 ha/year of woody vegetation clearing in 2013–14.

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Citation

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Integration and Application Network, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (ian.umces.edu/magelibrary/)

Phone: 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

August 2016
BACKGROUND

The Statewide Landcover and Trees Study (SLATS) is a vegetation monitoring initiative of the Queensland Government undertaken by the Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation (DSITI).

The maps and statistics derived from SLATS support the Vegetation Management Act 1999 (VMA) administered by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM).

The study detects changes in woody vegetation using Landsat satellite imagery. Images captured approximately one year apart are compared using a combination of automated and manual mapping techniques to produce a statewide map of land cover change.

Woody vegetation encompasses both woody remnant and woody regrowth vegetation as defined by the VMA. Some examples of woody vegetation include undisturbed and disturbed native woodlands, timber plantations and exotic species.

To facilitate comparison between analysed periods, results are reported as woody vegetation clearing rates in thousands of hectares per year (,000 ha/year) for all of Queensland.3

A new method for calculating the rate of clearing has been applied for the 2014–15 period, and to all previously reported SLATS clearing periods (as shown in Figure 1). Refer to the full 2014–15 SLATS report for further information.

KEY FINDINGS

2014–15 period
• 296 000 ha/year of woody vegetation was cleared, statewide. This was similar to the statewide woody vegetation clearing figure in 2013–14 of 295 000 ha/year.
• 114 000 ha/year of remnant woody vegetation was cleared, statewide, representing 38% of the total woody vegetation clearing (Table 1). This compared to 100 000 ha/year of remnant woody vegetation clearing in 2013–14 (35% of total woody vegetation clearing).
• 91% of cleared woody vegetation was replaced by pasture in the 2014–15 period. The remaining 9% was replaced by crop, forestry, mining, infrastructure and settlements.
• 29% of the 2014–15 mapped woody vegetation clearing had previously been cleared one or more times since 1988.

Table 1. Clearing by woody vegetation type (,000 ha/year)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Non-remnant</th>
<th>Remnant</th>
<th>Total clearing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014–15</td>
<td>182 (62%)</td>
<td>14 (38%)</td>
<td>296</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3 Rates are rounded to the nearest 1000 ha/year and percentages are rounded to the nearest whole percentage.

WOODY VEGETATION CLEARING

As illustrated in Figure 1, woody vegetation clearing in 2014–15 (296 000 ha/year) was similar to that of the 2013–14 period (295 000 ha/year).

BIOGEOGRAPHIC REGIONS

The Brigalow Belt and Mulga Lands continued to record the highest woody vegetation clearing rates in 2014–15. 130 000 ha/year and 65 000 ha/year were cleared in those regions (Figure 2). In 2013–14 comparatively, 132 000 ha/year of woody vegetation clearing occurred in the Brigalow Belt and 108 000 ha/year in the Mulga Lands. In the 'other' category, woody vegetation clearing rates changed significantly in the Gulf Plains region (18 000 ha/year in 2014–15 compared to 4 000 ha/year in 2013–14) and in the Mitchell Grass Downs region (26 000 ha/year in 2014–15 compared to 14 000 ha/year in 2013–14).

GREAT BARRIER REEF (GBR) CATCHMENTS

108 000 ha/year of woody vegetation was cleared in 2014–15 in the GBR catchments (Figure 4). This compared to 105 000 ha/year of woody vegetation clearing in 2013–14.

The Murray-Darling and North East Coast divisions continued to record the highest woody vegetation clearing rates in 2014–15. 119 000 ha/year and 115 000 ha/year were cleared in those regions (Figure 3). In 2013–14 comparatively, 153 000 ha/year of woody vegetation clearing occurred in the Murray-Darling and 111 000 ha/year in the North East Coast divisions. In the 'other' category, woody vegetation clearing rates changed significantly in the Gulf Rivers division (21 000 ha/year in 2014–15 compared to 7 000 ha/year in 2013–14) and in the Lake Eyre division (38 000 ha/year in 2014–15 compared to 20 000 ha/year in 2013–14).

GREAT BARRIER REEF (GBR) CATCHMENTS

The GBR catchments are a subset of the North East Coast drainage division indicated in Figure 3.
Executive Summary

Land cover change in Queensland in 2014–15
Statewide Landcover and Trees Study Report
A scientific report

STATEWIDE WOODY VEGETATION CLEARING
2014–15

The spatial distribution and intensity of woody vegetation clearing in Queensland for the 2014–15 period is shown in Figure 5.

Figure 5. Woody vegetation clearing in Queensland 2014–15. Individual cell area = 17,500 hectares

For further details including definitions, methodology and statewide analyses, please refer to the main 2014–15 SLATS report at:

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