



December 2021

2019 Tree canopy data

Who can access the data?

The [tree canopy data](#) is publicly accessible on SEED – the NSW Government's environmental data portal. Everyone, including state and local government agencies, can access related data shapefiles that present spatial and geographic data.

What can the data be used for?

Local governments can use the data to track and plan their tree canopies over time. Other stakeholders such as utility providers can use the data to see how the canopy interacts with their service infrastructure.

Where does the data come from?

The NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment has analysed vegetation imagery and digital aerial photography (for example, vegetation surface cover layer, tree height layer) from Geoscape Australia through a commercial subscription. The imagery of urban areas in Greater Sydney is at a 2-metre resolution.

How often is the data captured and updated?

The department last published canopy data in 2019 (a 2016 canopy capture). The most recent update (published in 2021) uses imagery captured across the 2019 calendar year.

The department is working on a long-term data strategy to release canopy data to stakeholders at more regular intervals.

How has the canopy data been analysed?

We have integrated the 2019 canopy imagery with the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) Mesh Block data. The department has used the NSW Digital Cadastral Database (showing property boundaries) to modify Mesh Blocks to also show roads and rail. Using modified Mesh Blocks allows users to see the percentage of canopy in each Mesh Block (properties), as well as for roads and rail.



What are Mesh Blocks?

Mesh Blocks are the smallest geographic unit compiled by the ABS. Mesh Blocks are designed to contain between 30 and 60 dwellings, based on census data. The ABS assign a broad land-use category to each Mesh Block, such as residential, commercial, primary production and parks.

Are the 2016 and 2019 datasets comparable?

Yes – for areas where the department has analysed canopy imagery for both 2016 and 2019, users can compare the 2 datasets. For Greater Sydney councils, Resilient Sydney's Environmental Performance Platform compares the data across local government areas, suburbs and Mesh Blocks from 2016 to 2019.

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