

Verification and rules for identification of high conservation value

Value	Verification rules
Vegetation-related values <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EECs • rare vegetation types • overcleared vegetation types • vegetation in overcleared landscapes. 	<p>Vegetation is not of high conservation value if it is in poor condition, as defined in section 5.3.</p> <p>The vegetation community descriptions and listing of diagnostic species and associated environmental parameters in Tozer et al. (2006) should be consulted for on-ground verification of vegetation type.</p> <p>The final determinations for EECs under the TSC Act and EPBC Act are the key documents in deciding whether a patch of vegetation is an EEC.</p>
Old-growth vegetation	<p>Old growth is largely defined by the current canopy structure, which should largely consist of senescing or mature trees. Regrowth should be less than 30% of the canopy. There should also be negligible evidence of disturbances such as logging or catastrophic fires.</p> <p>The old-growth layer in this RCP is probably the least accurate of all information provided. Thus it is suggested the occurrence of mapped old-growth features should be confirmed or checked on the ground.</p>
Threatened fauna	<p>The data provided by the RCP ties verified records to mapped vegetation polygons. The Atlas of NSW Wildlife can be consulted to determine what threatened fauna records are involved. Until an appropriate survey demonstrates otherwise, the mapped habitat should be regarded as important habitat. Important habitat contributes to the viability of local threatened fauna populations and can include, but is not limited to, essential breeding resources, foraging resources and connectivity corridors. The Threatened Species Web Tool will provide further assistance in habitat identification and advises what other fauna species should be considered.</p>
Threatened flora	<p>The data provided by the RCP ties verified records to mapped vegetation polygons. The Atlas of NSW Wildlife can be consulted to determine what threatened plant records are involved. Targeted surveys for the identified plant species should occur within the proposed development or planning area. The Threatened Species Web Tool advises what other plant species should be considered.</p>
Significant aquatic habitats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nationally important wetlands • catchments of significant lakes and estuaries • habitat of migratory wetland species 	<p>The key question is whether a planning or development decision is within, or affects, the catchment of these environmental assets identified in the RCP, and (as required by the SCRS) whether this impact will have a neutral or beneficial effect.</p>

Value	Verification rules
Statutory conservation protection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conservation and property agreements • declared wilderness • SEPP 14 wetlands • SEPP 26 rainforest 	<p>These assets have surveyed or described tenure boundaries. Verification is a matter of determining whether the planning or development decision occurs within a defined area.</p>