

# Where in the world is Wally the Wombat?

**Dr Mike Fleming**  
Science Division

# Outline

- When do you need a scientific licence
- What is the Atlas of NSW Wildlife
- How you can access the Atlas
- How can you contribute to the Atlas
- How it can help with dreaded Form L

## Background

- Anyone involved in research, education or conservation of native animals that is likely to cause harm requires a Scientific Licence from NPWS.
- All Scientific Licences require Animal Ethics approval from an AEC.
- Wildlife studies should be carried out in accordance with the ARRP guidelines on wildlife research.
- Wildlife surveys must submit all sightings to the Atlas of NSW Wildlife.

## Atlas of NSW Wildlife

- Database of recorded sightings of flora and fauna in NSW
- Existed in various formats since 1980's
- Single largest sightings database in NSW
- Managed by Office of Environment and Heritage

## The Atlas contains

- Sightings of plants, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, some invertebrates, some fungi and some fish
- Threatened species, non-threatened species and exotic species
- Over 6.8 million recorded sightings for general release (Sept 2013)

## Limitations to the Atlas database

- Atlas data is NOT comprehensive, quite patchy across NSW
- Mix of historical and current data
- Number of recorded sightings does not equal actual abundance of a given species
- Does not record the absence of a species
- Focus is on threatened species, so common, widespread and introduced species are often under represented

## Accessing Atlas data

Go to:-

[www.bionet.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bionet.nsw.gov.au)

From Environment homepage:-

Nature Conservation>Atlas of NSW Wildlife


# BioNet Homepage

HOME | ATLAS SEARCH | VIS FLORA SURVEY

You are here: [Home](#) > [BioNet](#)

## NSW BioNet

**the website for the Atlas of NSW Wildlife**  
*a whole-of-government system for flora and fauna sightings information*



BioNet is a portal for accessing government-held information about plants and animals in NSW. It is supported by several NSW government agencies, including:

- Office of Environment and Heritage
  - National Parks and Wildlife
  - Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust
- Department of Primary Industries
  - Forests NSW
  - Fisheries NSW - data coming in 2013
- Australian Museum

Via BioNet, you can:

- search and map records of flora and fauna sightings held in the Atlas of NSW Wildlife  
[Learn more about the Atlas](#)
- submit your own sightings records to the Atlas  
[Learn more about contributing](#)
- search for more detailed vegetation site data through the Atlas's Vegetation Information System (VIS) flora survey module  
[Learn more about the VIS](#)

Records in the Atlas come from a variety of sources, including from members of the public and scientific surveys. An Atlas search will retrieve species records from across the entire Atlas database, including records held in the fauna and VIS flora survey modules.

**Public access**

Public users, please click on the relevant link below to search the Atlas, interrogate the VIS Flora survey module or consult the VIS user manual:

- [Atlas search](#)
- [VIS flora survey](#) and [VIS user manual](#)


**Login access**

OEH staff, licensed users and registered users: [Login here](#)

Non-OEH staff and new users can [apply for a login](#) to the Atlas system. This will provide you with:


Tips for improved user experience

- To view maps, [install Adobe Flash](#).
- To print maps in pdf format you will need [Adobe pdf reader](#).
- For the site to function correctly, you will need to allow pop-up windows to display.



Other useful links:

- [Profiles for NSW threatened species](#)
- [DPI sightings data for threatened and protected fish](#)
- [PlantNET](#)
- [Australian Museum](#)
- [Australia's Virtual Herbarium](#)
- [Online Zoological Collections of Australian Museums](#)
- [Atlas of Living Australia](#)





# Public Search

## Atlas search

This atlas contains recorded sightings of plants, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, some fish, and some (mainly endangered) invertebrates. Use the search form below to find recorded sightings and maps of plants or animals in a particular area. Find out [more](#).

### 1. Which species or group?

- All entities    Animals    Plants    Fungi    Communities    Threats    Endangered populations    Search for a species or group of species (e.g. birds)

### 2. Legal status?

- All records    Select records that fall under one or more categories

### 3. What area?

- Entire area    Select a geographic area    Define my own area (Remember that you must select an area at least 10km x 10km. If you select a smaller area, the search area will be automatically extended to approximately 10km x 10km.)

### 4. Period of records?

- All records    Select records for a specific time period

### DISCLAIMER

- By submitting a search you accept that data in the Atlas come from a number of different sources and are only indicative; the data cannot be considered a comprehensive inventory and may contain errors and omissions.

Submit search

# Public Search - Species

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  Animals
  Plants
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  Communities
  Threats
  Endangered populations
  Search for a species or group of species (e.g. birds)

Search for term

wombat

Go

Term selected: Common Wombat Common Name; Vombatus ursinus

### Species

Select one from the list below

[Common Wombat](#) Common Name ; Vombatus ursinus

[Northern Hairy-nosed Wombat](#) Common Name ; Lasiorhinus krefftii

[Southern Hairy-nosed Wombat](#) Common Name ; Lasiorhinus latifrons

[Wombat Berry](#) Common Name ; Eustrephus latifolius

[Wombats](#) Common Name ; Vombatidae

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- All records
  Select records for a specific

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### Species categories

- Threatened in NSW
  Threatened Nationally
  Protected in NSW
  CAMBA
  JAMBA
  ROKAMBA
  Exotic
  Native

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Submit search

# Public Search - Area

## 3. What area?

- Entire area     Select a geographic area     Define my own area (Remember that you must select an area at least 10km x 10km. If you select a smaller area, the search area will be automatically extended to approximately 10km x 10km.)

### Geographic area

Choose a layer type...

Go

Choose a layer type...

Botanical Division

CMA

CMA cut by IBRA Subregion

Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia

4. LGA

NPWS Reserve

SF Flora Reserve

State Forest

Topographic Map Name

Topographic Map Number

Records for a specific time period

## 4. Period of records?

- All records     Select records for a specific time period

### DISCLAIMER

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Submit search

# Public Search – Submit

**1. Which species or group?**

All entities    Animals    Plants    Fungi    Communities    Threats    Endangered populations    Search for a species or group of species (e.g. birds)

Search for term

Term selected: Common Wombat Common Name; Vombatus ursinus

---

**2. Legal status?**

All records    Select records that fall under one or more categories

---

**3. What area?**

Entire area    Select a geographic area    Define my own area (Remember that you must select an area at least 10km x 10km. If you select a smaller area, the search area will be automatically extended to approximately 10km x 10km.)

---

**4. Period of records?**

All records    Select records for a specific time period

---

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# Atlas - Results

## Search results

### Which species or group?

- All entities
  Animals
  Plants
  Fungi
  Communities
  Threats
  Endangered populations
  Search for a species or group of species (e.g. birds)

Search for term

Enter at least 3 letters and click Go

Term selected: Common Wombat Common Name; Vombatus ursinus

- [Download records](#)
[Save species list](#)
[View map](#)

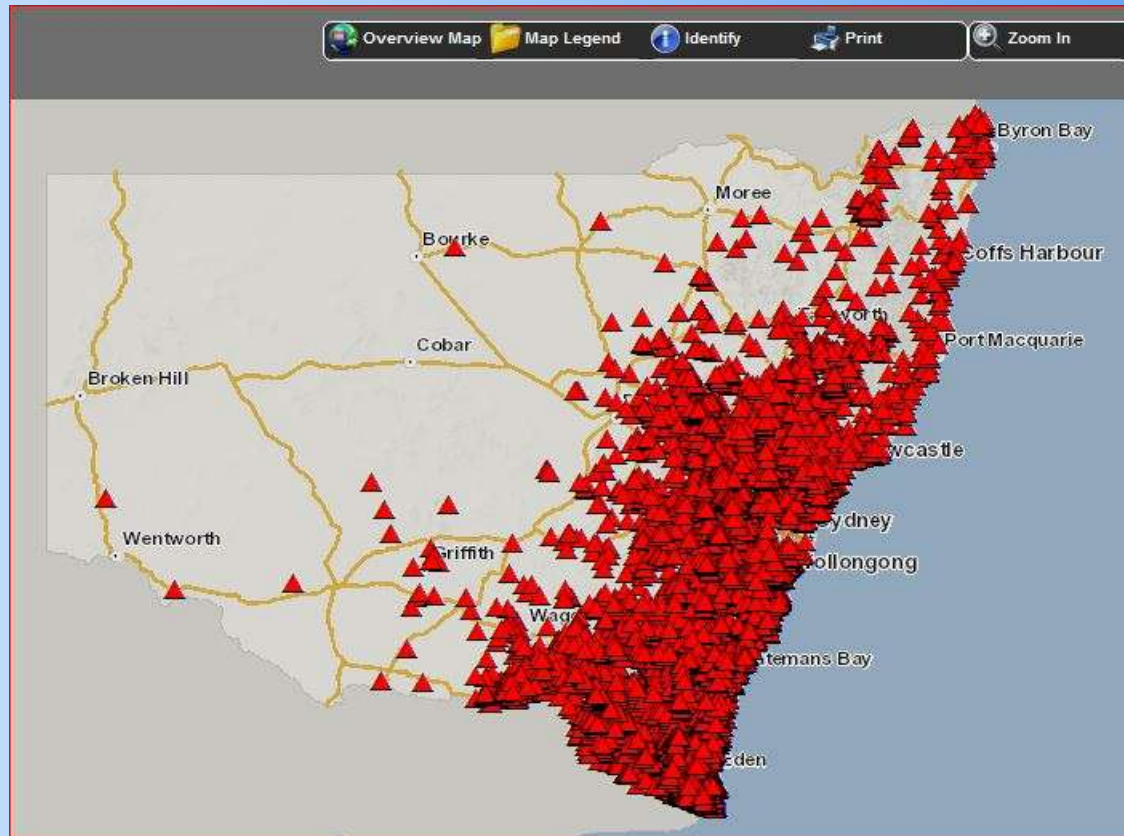

Search criteria: Public Report of all valid Records of Common Wombat (Species: Vombatus ursinus) returned a total of 16,427 records of 1 species.  
Report generated on 30/09/2013 8:27 PM.

### Displaying 1-1 of 1 species below

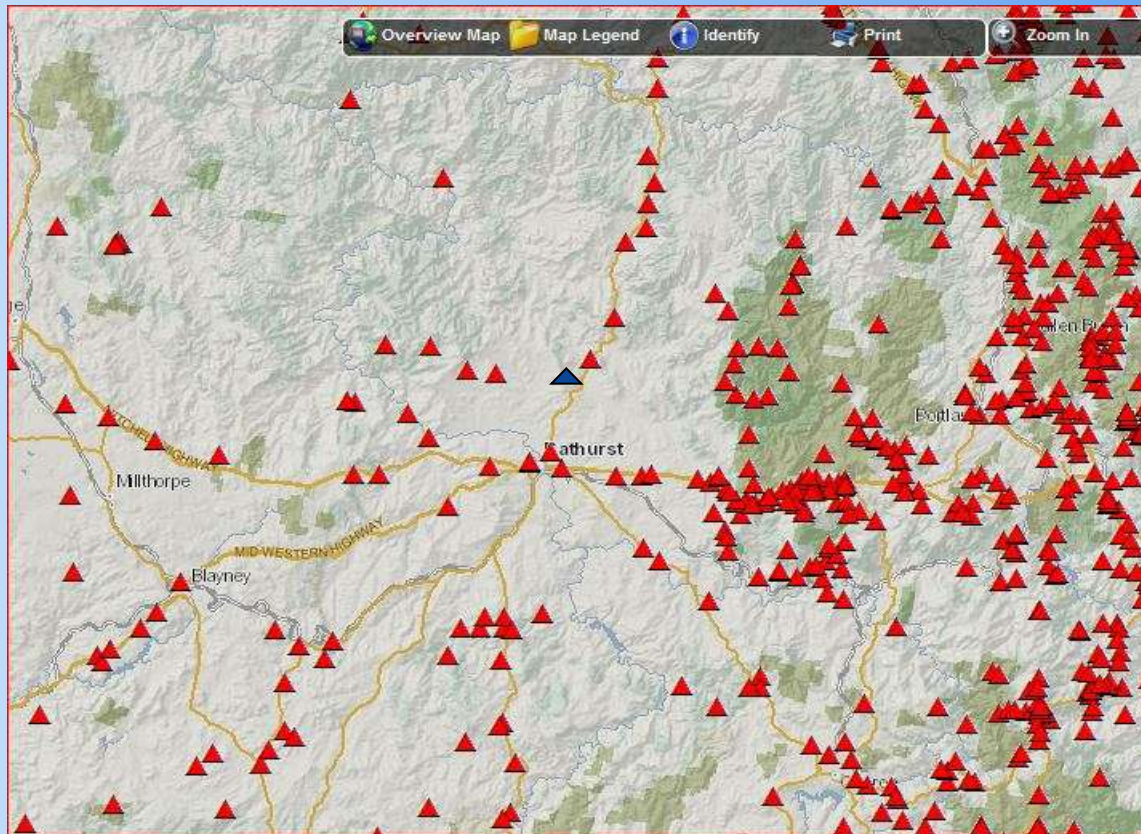
To map records for individual species, select up to 5 species then click "view map".  
To map all records, click on "view map" (without selecting any species first).

	Common name	Scientific name	Map [ Clear all ]	NSW status	Comm. No. of status records
<b>Animalia</b> <b>Mammalia</b> Vombatidae	Common Wombat	Vombatus ursinus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	P	16,427

# 1. Atlas – Distribution Map



# Atlas – Distribution Map of Wally





## 2. Atlas – search by area

**Search criteria:** Public Report of all Valid Records of Threatened (listed on TSC Act 1995) Animals in SUTHERLAND SHIRE LGA returned a total of 4,806 records of 106 species.  
 Report generated on 30/09/2013 8:55 PM.

[Show all entities](#)


### Displaying 1-100 of 106 species below

To map records for individual species, select up to 5 species then click "view map".  
 To map all records, click on "view map" (without selecting any species first).

1 2

	Common name	Scientific name	Map [ Clear all ]	NSW status	Comm. status	No. of records	
	Pink Robin	Petroica rodinogaster	<input type="checkbox"/>	V,P		1	
<b>Mammalia</b>	Spotted-tailed Quoll	Dasyurus maculatus	<input type="checkbox"/>	V,P	E	2	
<b>Dasyuridae</b>							
<b>Peramelidae</b>	Southern Brown Bandicoot (eastern)	Isoodon obesulus obesulus		E1,P	E	K	
<b>Phascolarctidae</b>	Koala	Phascolarctos cinereus	<input type="checkbox"/>	V,P	V	102	
<b>Burramyidae</b>	Eastern Pygmy-possum	Cercartetus nanus	<input type="checkbox"/>	V,P		62	
<b>Petauridae</b>	Yellow-bellied Glider	Petaurus australis	<input type="checkbox"/>	V,P		1	
	Squirrel Glider	Petaurus norfolcensis		V,P		K	
<b>Pteropodidae</b>	Grey-headed Flying-fox	Pteropus poliocephalus	<input type="checkbox"/>	V,P	V	186	

# Threatened Species Profile



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## Threatened species

- Threatened Species Day
- Search for threatened species
- Find by region
- Find by habitat
- Find by region and habitat
- Find by type of species
- Threatened ecological communities
- Key threatening processes
- Recovery and threat abatement
- Threatened Species Conservation Act
- Legislation, schedules and registers
- Licences, agreements, regulations and policies
- Scientific Committee
- Threatened species listing news and publications
- Survey and assessment guidelines
- Critical habitat protection

You are here: [Home](#) > [Threatened species](#) > [Search for threatened species](#)

## Koala - profile

**Scientific name:** *Phascolarctos cinereus*

**Conservation status in NSW:** [Vulnerable](#)

**Commonwealth status:** [Vulnerable](#)

**Profile last updated:** 17 Sep 2013

### Description

The Koala is an arboreal marsupial with fur ranging from grey to brown above, and is white below. It has large furry ears, a prominent black nose and no tail. It spends most of its time in trees and has long, sharp claws, adapted for climbing. Adult males weigh 8 - 12 kg and adult females weigh 5 - 8 kg. During breeding, males advertise with loud snarling coughs and bellows.

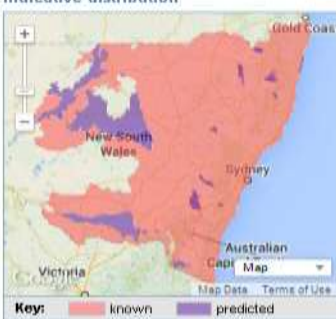
### Distribution

The Koala has a fragmented distribution throughout eastern Australia from north-east Queensland to the Eyre Peninsula in South Australia. In NSW it mainly occurs on the central and north coasts with some populations in the west of the Great Dividing Range. It was briefly historically abundant in the 1890s in the Bega District on the south coast of NSW, although not elsewhere, but it now occurs in sparse and possibly disjunct populations. Koalas are also known from several sites on the southern tablelands.

### Habitat and ecology

- Inhabit eucalypt woodlands and forests.
- Feed on the foliage of more than 70 eucalypt species and 30 non-eucalypt species, but in any one area will select preferred browse species.
- Inactive for most of the day, feeding and moving mostly at night.
- Spend most of their time in trees, but will descend and traverse open ground to move between trees.
- Home range size varies with quality of habitat, ranging from less than two ha to several hundred hectares in size.
- Generally solitary, but have complex social hierarchies based on a dominant male with a territory overlapping several females and sub-ordinate males on the periphery.


### Indicative distribution




**Key:** ■ known ■ predicted

The areas shown in pink and purple are the sub-regions where the species or community is known or predicted to occur. They may not occur throughout the sub-region but may be restricted to certain areas. ([click here](#) to see geographic restrictions). The information presented in this map is only indicative and may contain errors and omissions.

### Sounds

  
 Recording © David Stewart  
 Nature Sound by David Stewart

### Images



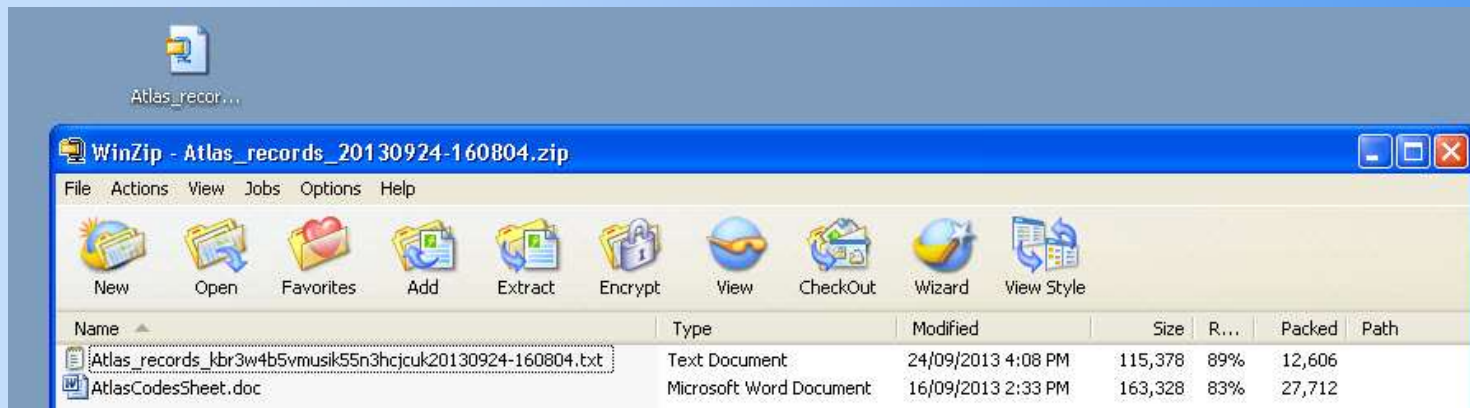
Koala Image 1 of 4.  
[View slideshow](#)

### Related information

- [Combining a map-based public survey with an estimation of site occupancy to determine the recent and changing distribution of the koala in NSW \(www - 843c8\)](#)
- [Far South Coast - Koala Management Framework \(PDF - 1.8MB\)](#)
- [Koala - General Fact Sheet](#)
- [Koala habitat in NE NSW \(PDF - 183kB\)](#)
- [Koala Recovery Plan \(PDF - 3MB\)](#)
- [Koala surveys in the coastal forests of the Berrigui/Mumbulla area, 2007-09. An interim report \(PDF - 700kB\)](#)
- [National Koala Conservation Strategy](#)

## 3. Atlas - Download Records

- Zip file contains two files, text file and a document file
- Text file containing the data records and;
- The Atlas codes sheet contains information on how to load data into GIS and explains codes and information received in download



# Atlas - Download Records into Excel

Microsoft Excel - Cowra\_mapsheet\_Recs\_Nov09.xls

File Edit View Insert Format Tools Data Window Help

H1 exotic

	G	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
1	scientific_name	scommonname	legal_status	firstdate	lastdate	number	source	latitude	longitude
14219	Tachyglossus aculeatus	Short-beaked Echidna	P	01/01/1980	30/06/2004	1	4	-33.65743	148.77856
14220	Tachyglossus aculeatus	Short-beaked Echidna	P	01/01/1980	30/06/2004	2	4	-33.74904	148.87255
14221	Tachyglossus aculeatus	Short-beaked Echidna	P	01/07/2004	30/06/2006	1	4	-33.45886	148.67957
14222	Tachyglossus aculeatus	Short-beaked Echidna	P	05/09/1993	05/09/1993	1	4	-33.91864	148.85629
14223	Tachyglossus aculeatus	Short-beaked Echidna	P	09/08/1999	28/11/1999	6>	4	-33.82446	148.69651
14224	Tachyglossus aculeatus	Short-beaked Echidna	P	17/12/1998	18/01/1999	1	4	-33.94639	148.83304
14225	Tachyglossus aculeatus	Short-beaked Echidna	P	15/03/2002	15/03/2002	1	4	-33.92575	148.53625
14226	Antechinus flavipes	Yellow-footed Antechinus	P	26/01/1788	09/07/1918	1	1	-34.03333	148.55
14227	Antechinus flavipes	Yellow-footed Antechinus	P	10/08/1964	10/08/1964	1	1	-33.83333	148.68333
14228	Antechinus flavipes	Yellow-footed Antechinus	P	15/03/2002	15/03/2002	1	4	-33.92575	148.53625
14229	Sminthopsis crassicaudata	Fat-tailed Dunnart	P	26/01/1788	17/06/1943	1	1	-33.83333	148.68333
14230	Macrotis lagotis	Bilby	E4	01/01/1800	01/01/1932	1	4	-33.88332	148.18332
14231	Vombatus ursinus	Common Wombat	P	01/07/2004	30/06/2006	2	4	-33.85029	149.01793
14232	Vombatus ursinus	Common Wombat	P	01/07/2004	30/06/2006	1	4	-33.78194	149.01901
14233	Vombatus ursinus	Common Wombat	P	01/07/2004	30/06/2006	1	4	-33.95320	148.95833
14234	Vombatus ursinus	Common Wombat	P	01/07/2004	30/06/2006	1	4	-33.97880	148.53745
14235	Vombatus ursinus	Common Wombat	P	01/07/2004	30/06/2006	1	4	-34.03278	148.55714
14236	Vombatus ursinus	Common Wombat	P	01/07/2004	30/06/2006	2	4	-33.59715	148.58752

## Atlas - Submitting Sightings

1. Observer Name
2. Species Name
3. Date of sighting
4. Location details
  - Location description
  - Geographic coordinates (Latitude and Longitude), or Projected coordinates (Zone, Easting, Northing)
  - Datum (AGD, GDA)
  - Accuracy
  - GPS

## Atlas Sightings Data Entry Spreadsheet

- A modified Excel spreadsheet for recording species sightings that includes validating fields.
- Setup for Scientific Licence clients i.e. Ecological consultants and University researchers.
- Shows all the fields held in the database. Only a subset are required
- Download from Atlas website

## Wildlife Observations and Form L

- Records held in the Atlas can be easily summarised for annual reporting
- Procedure category is determined from observation type (usually 1 or 3)
- Numbers of animals is recorded
- Single data entry process to meet NPWS Scientific Licence and AEC reporting requirements

## A role for AECs

- Encourage wildlife researchers to submit their observations into the Atlas of NSW Wildlife
- AECs make use of the Atlas for maps and species profiles when assessing wildlife protocols
- Use the Atlas as a source of information for wildlife observations when completing Form L.



# Thank You



OEH Images