



15 September 2010

ABARE–BRS releases its latest national land use map for 2005–06

Land use has a profound impact on Australia's natural resources and agricultural production.

ABARE–BRS recently released the *Land Use of Australia, Version 4, 2005–06*, a national scale land use map of Australia for the year 2005–06.

It is the latest to be completed in a series of digital national land use maps produced by ABARE–BRS, accompanying earlier maps for 1992–93, 1993–94, 1996–97, 1998–99, 2000–01, and 2001–02.

Readily available and nationally consistent land use mapping is required to help plan for and achieve sustainable natural resource use, agricultural productivity and prosperous regional communities.

The national land use map is in strong demand for national and regional scale land use assessments, reporting and for strategic planning and evaluation (such as setting regional investment priorities and developing programs for natural resource management).

Land use maps are also used in national scale modelling applications, such as national carbon accounting and wind and water erosion assessments.

National scale land use mapping uses a modelling approach to integrate agricultural commodity data, satellite imagery and other land use information.

The next national scale dataset planned will be based on the 2010–11 Agricultural Commodity Census. Development of this dataset will begin once the appropriate data are publicly available.

Land Use of Australia, Version 4, 2005–06, was constructed by ABARE–BRS, the economic and scientific agency within the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, as part of the Australian Collaborative Land Use and Management Program (ACLUMP).

The 2005–06 national land use map, along with previous versions, are available for free download from www.abare-brs.gov.au.

Finer scale land use data produced by ACLUMP state and territory partners are also available from this website.

This data, or 'catchment scale' land use data is produced by combining state cadastre, public land databases, fine-scale satellite data, other land cover and use data, and information collected in the field.

For general media enquiries, contact DAFF media on 02 6272 3232 or media@daff.gov.au.