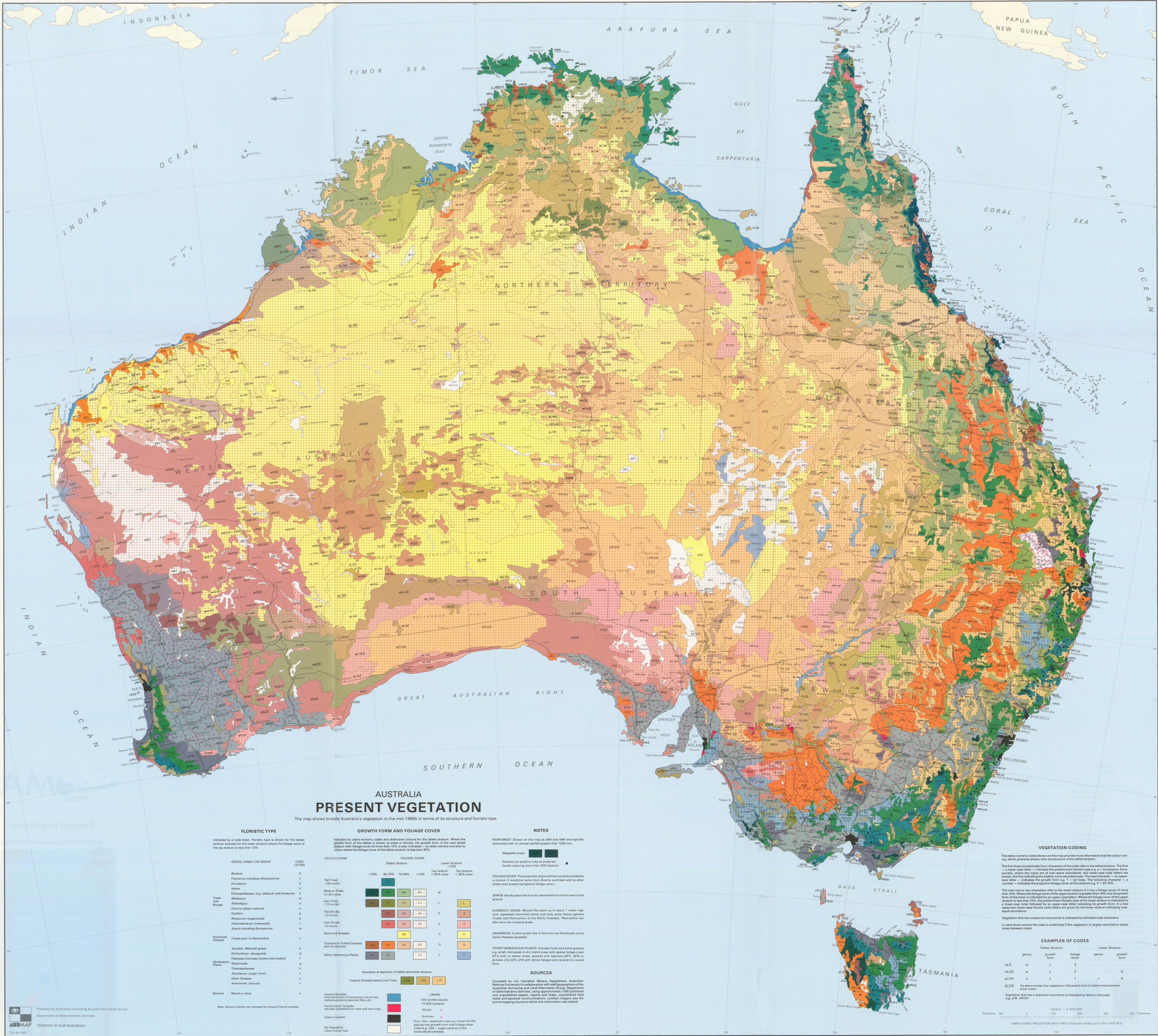




AUSTRALIA PRESENT VEGETATION

The map shows broadly Australia's vegetation in the mid-1980s in terms of its structure and floristic type.

FLORISTIC TYPE

Indicated by a code letter. Floristic type is shown for the tallest stratum and also for the lower stratum where the foliage cover of the top stratum is less than 10%.

GENUS, FAMILY OR GROUP	CODE LETTER
Banksia	b
Casuarina including Allocasuarina	c
Eucalyptus	e
Hebe	h
Chenopodiaceae (e.g. saltbush and bluebush)	k
Mitella	m
Nitidulopsis	n
Oreocarya (shear-oak)	o
Coniferae	p
Myoporum (sugarwood)	q
Heterostichum (scaevola)	r
Acacia including Racosperma	w
Hummock Grasses	i
Triodia and/or Plectrachne	t
Asteraceae (Mitchell grass)	a
Dichanthium (blugrass)	d
Faboaceae (includes clovers and medics)	f
Gramineae	g
Chenopodiaceae	k
Sorghum (sorghum cane)	s
Other Grasses	v
Asteraceae (daisies)	z
General	x

Note: Genus or family not indicated for areas of littoral complex.

GROWTH FORM AND FOLIAGE COVER

Indicated by alpha-numeric codes and distinctive colours for the tallest stratum. Where the growth form of the tallest is shown as trees or shrubs, the growth form of the next tallest stratum with foliage cover of more than 10% is also indicated — by letter symbol and also by colour where the foliage cover of the tallest stratum is less than 30%.

GROWTH FORM	FOLIAGE COVER			
	Tallest Stratum	30-70%	10-30%	<10%
Tall Trees >30 metres	T1	T2	T3	T4
Medium Trees 10-30 metres	M1	M2	M3	M4
Low Trees <10 metres	L1	L2	L3	L4
Tall Shrubs >2 metres	S1	S2	S3	S4
Low Shrubs <2 metres	L1	L2	L3	L4
Hummock Grasses	H1	H2	H3	H4
Tussocky or Tufted Grasses and Graminoids	G1	G2	G3	G4
Other Herbaceous Plants	F1	F2	F3	F4

Examples of depiction of tallest and lower stratum:

Littoral Complex	Blue	CROPS	One symbol equals 10 000 hectares
Horsetail Complex	Red	WATER	Water
Urban Complex	Black	Summer	Summer
No Vegetation	White	Non-seasonal crops	Non-seasonal crops are shown by the appropriate growth form and foliage cover code (e.g. v14 = larger cereal or in the horsetail complex).

NOTES

RAINFOREST: Shown on this map as xM4 and xM4 and typically associated with an annual rainfall greater than 1200 mm.

Mappable areas

Patches too small to map as areas but locally covering more than 500 hectares.

FOLIAGE COVER: The proportion of ground that would be shaded by a stratum if sunshine came from directly overhead and no other strata were present (projective foliage cover).

SHRUB: Woody plant that is multi-stemmed from or from near to the ground.

HUMMOCK GRASS: Mound-like plant up to about 1 metre high with repeatedly branched stems and long spiny leaves (genus Triodia and Plectrachne of the family Poaceae). Plectrachne can also occur as a tussock grass.

GRAMINOID: A plant grass-like in form but not floristically of the family Poaceae (grasses).

OTHER HERBACEOUS PLANTS: Includes forbs and some grasses, e.g. small Chenopods in dry inland areas with sparse foliage cover (e.g. v11 and, in wetter areas, grasses and legumes (e.g. v13, v14 or grass only (v13, v14) with dense foliage cover grazed to a sward form).

SOURCES

Compiled by J.A. Canadian (Botany Department, Australian National University) in collaboration with staff geographers of the Australian Surveying and Land Information Group, Department of Administrative Services, using approximately 1500 published and unpublished papers, reports and maps, unpublished field notes and personal communications. Land-use imagery was the prime mapping source to which this information was related.

VEGETATION CODING

The alpha-numeric codes shown on this map provide more information than the colour coding, which primarily shows only the structure of the tallest stratum.

The first three (occasionally four) characters of the code refer to the tallest stratum. The first — a lower-case letter — indicates the predominant floristic type (e.g. e = Eucalyptus, Occasus), where two types are of near-equal abundance, two lower-case code letters are shown, the first indicating the slightly more abundant type. The next character — an upper-case letter — indicates the growth form (e.g. T = tall trees). The following character — a number — indicates the projective foliage cover of this stratum (e.g. 3 = 30-70%).

The next one or two characters refer to the lower stratum if it has a foliage cover of more than 10%. Where the foliage cover of the upper stratum is greater than 10% only the growth form of the lower is indicated (by an upper-case letter). Where the foliage cover of the upper stratum is less than 10%, the predominant floristic type of the lower stratum is indicated by a lower-case letter followed by an upper-case letter indicating its growth form. In a few cases two lower-case floristic code letters are given for the lower stratum indicating near-equal abundance.

Vegetation that has a seasonal occurrence is indicated by italicized code characters.

In sand dune country the code is underlined if the vegetation is largely restricted to stable areas between dunes.

EXAMPLES OF CODES

Tallest Stratum	genus	growth form	foliage cover	Lower Stratum	genus	growth form
vL3	w	L	3			
vL2G	w	L	2	G		
vL1H	e	L	1	t	H	
vL1H	e	L	1	t	H	

As above except that vegetation indicated is that of stable areas between dune crests.

Vegetation that has a seasonal occurrence is indicated by italics in the code e.g. vY3, vS12F.