

# From monoliths to clusters:

transforming ALA's infrastructure

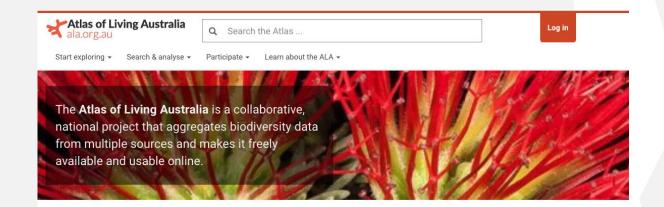
Matt Andrews | DevOps Manager 18 October 2018





The ALA is made possible by contributions from its many partners. It receives support through the Australian Government through the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) and is hosted by CSIRO.





Occurrence Records **78,235,179** 

122,429

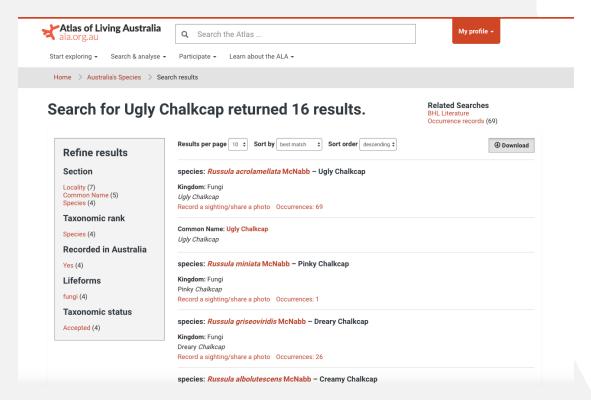
Data downloads 1,692,124 Registered users 42,427



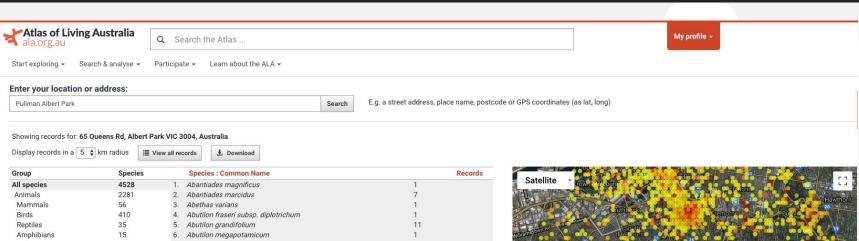












All species	4528	1. Abantiades magnificus	1
Animals	2281	2. Abantiades marcidus	7
Mammals	56	3. Abethas varians	1
Birds	410	4. Abutilon fraseri subsp. diplotrichum	1
Reptiles	35	5. Abutilon grandifolium	11
Amphibians	15	6. Abutilon megapotamicum	1
Fishes	156	7. Acacia acinacea	9
Molluscs	135	8. Acacia adunca: Wallangarra Wattle	1
Arthropods	1380	9. Acacia alpina: Alpine Wattle	2
Crustaceans	81	10. Acacia aspera	1
Insects	1230	11. Acacia baileyana: Bailey's wattle	5
Plants	1913	12. Acacia beckleri	1
Bryophytes	94	13. Acacia binervata	5
Gymnosperms	45	14. Acacia binervia: Coast Myall	1
Ferns and Allies	35	15. Acacia boormanii: Snowy River Wattle	6
Angiosperms	1720	16. Acacia brownii	2
Monocots	390	17. Acacia caesiella	4
Dicots	1330	18. Acacia cardiophylla	2
Fungi	219	19. Acacia clunies-rossiae: Kowmung Wattle	1
Chromista	8	20. Acacia cognata: Narrow-leaved bower wattle	6
Protozoa	1	21. Acacia consobrina	1
Bacteria	0	22. Acacia cultriformis	4
Algae	15	23. Acacia dealbata subsp. dealbata	1



Tips: you can fine-tune the location of the area by dragging the red marker icon

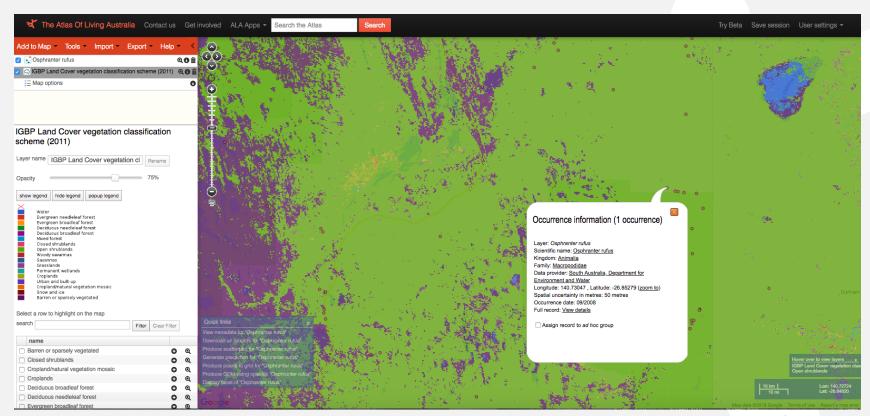




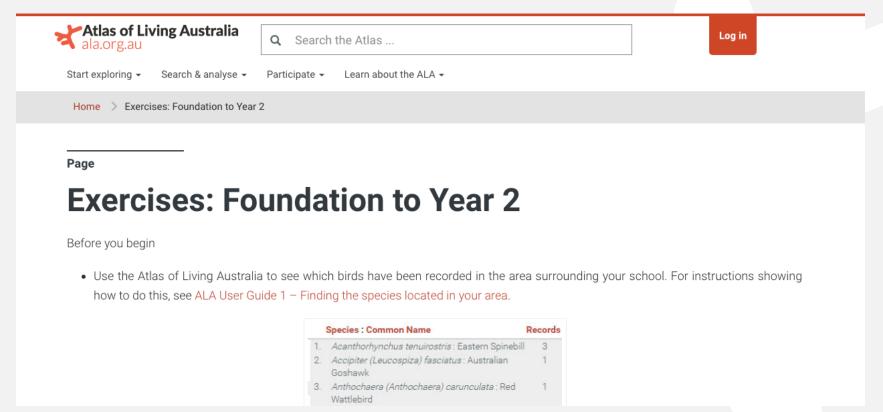


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Home > How to cite the ALA		
Knowledge Base  How to cite th	ne ALA	
Here are our guidelines on how to	o cite the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA).	
Citing is giving credit to other researc	hers and acknowledging their ideas.	Page contents:
How to cite the ALA as a w	hole	How to cite the ALA as a whole
To cite the ALA as a whole, use:		How to cite an ALA page
'Atlas of Living Australia website at	http://www.ala.org.au. Accessed 29 October 2015.'	How to cite data downloads

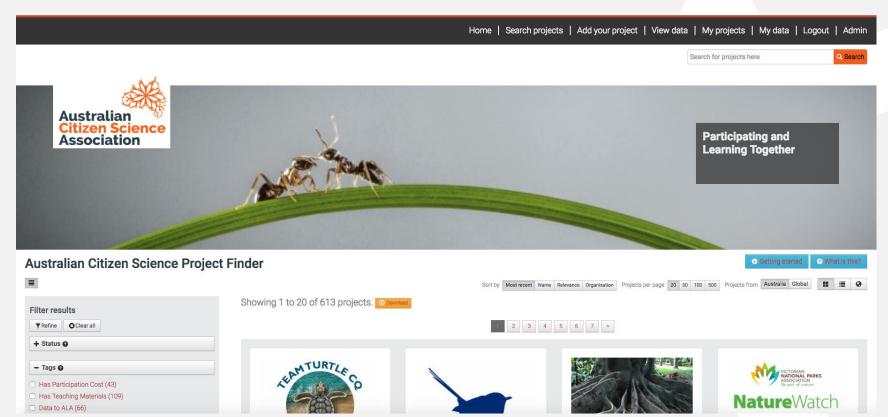














# **Atlas core services**

- BIE species search, taxonomy
- Biocache occurrences
- Collectory natural history collections
- DOI data downloads for publication
- Spatial portal spatial analysis
- Species lists
- User authentication



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## Core components

#### Atlas of Living Australia

Home page and general information about the ALA

#### Search the ALA

Search for species, datasets, regions, localities, layers and more

#### Occurrence records

Browse and search over 70 million species occurrence records

#### Australian species

Search or browse Australia's most recognisable species

#### Collections

Search or browse natural history collections and institutions

### Datasets

Search or browse datasets that contribute data to the ALA

#### Species lists

User contributed lists of species with associated conservation status, trait or locality information

# **Community Hubs**

### Australia's Virtual Herbarium (AVH)

Search Australia's herbaria specimen collection of over seven million plant, algae and fundi records

### Online Zoological Collections of Australian Museums (OZCAM)

Search Australia's zoological museums collection of over four million records

### Australian microorganisms information (AMRiN)

Information on Australian microorganisms

### Atlas of Prehistoric Australia (APA)

Search for occurrence records of organisms from Australia's prehistory

# Australian Moths Online (AMO)

Browse thousands of photographs of Australian Moths species

### Australian Seed Bank Partnership (ASBP)

An online resource for the review of conservation seed collections in Australia

# Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA)

MDBA Biodiversity Portal

# **Geospatial & mapping**

#### Spatial portal

Google Earth-like tool for discovering and analysing biodiversity and environmental data

### Explore your area

Discover what plants and animals are known to live near you

### Regions

A map based biodiversity discovery tool to browse states, local government area, biogeographic regions, etc

# Other ALA-developed tools

#### MERIT

Online reporting tool for the Department of the Environment and Energy

# Sensitive Data Service

Data pre-processing service that removes or obfuscates location data for sensitive species

## ZoaTrack

Calculate movement metrics and space use

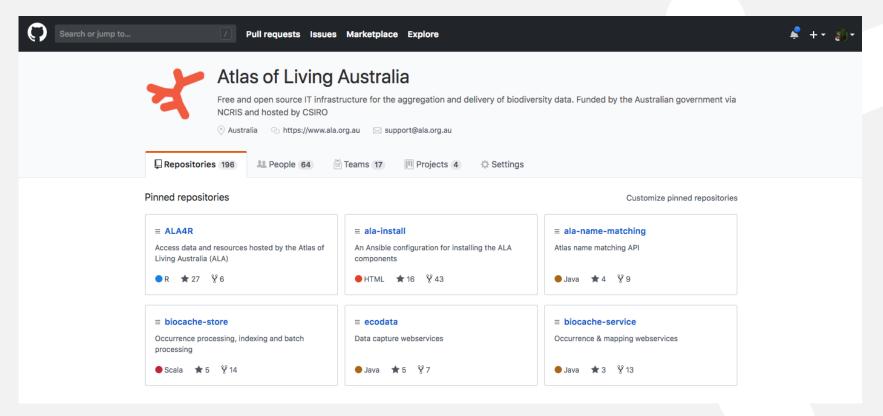


# Atlas usage

# Over the last year:

- 1.1 million user sessions
- 345,000 unique visitors
- 85% from Australia







Living Atlases Introduction Documentation & Links Participants Contact Events

# **Living Atlases**

Institution	Country	Language	Status
Atlas of Living Australia	Australia	English	Live
Canadensys	Canada	English & French	Live
CRBio	Costa Rica	Spanish & English	Live
GBIF Andorra	Andorra	Catalan	Live
GBIF France	France		Live
GBIF Spain	Spain	Spanish	Live
GBIF Sweden	Sweden	English & Swedish	Live
GBIF Portugal	Portugal	Portugese	Live
Instituto Chico Mendes de Conservação de Biodiversidad	Brazil	Portugese	Live
NBN Atlas	United Kingdom	English	Live
NBN Atlas Scotland	Scotland	English	Live
NBN Atlas Wales	Wales	English & Welsh	Live
NBN Atlas Isle of Man	Isle of Man	English	Live
Sistema Nacional de Datos Biologicos	Argentina	Spanish	Live



# Occurrence records

- An event: observation of a species
- Over 78 million in the ALA
- Typically ~1000 fields per record
- Over 120,000 species



# **More ALA stats**

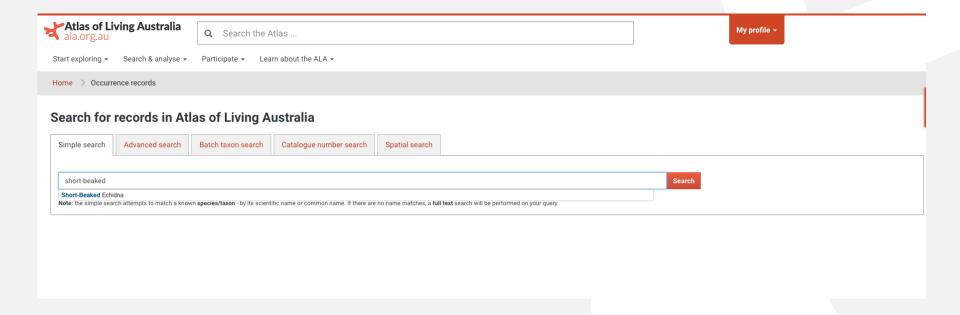
- Over 400 spatial layers
- Over 1 million images
- Over 1.5 million downloads
- Over 6000 datasets
- Over 40,000 users



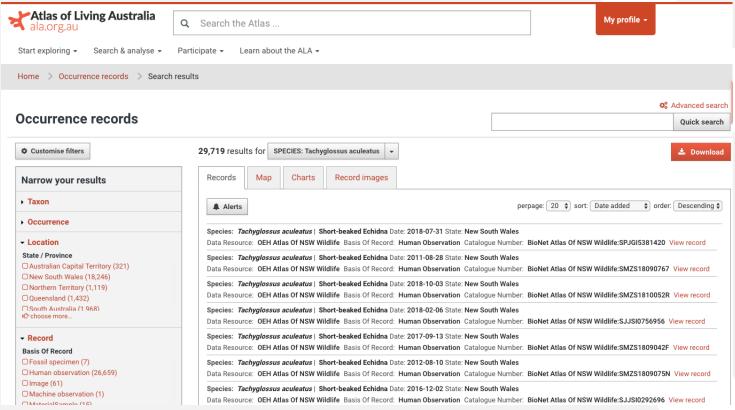
# **Atlas core services**

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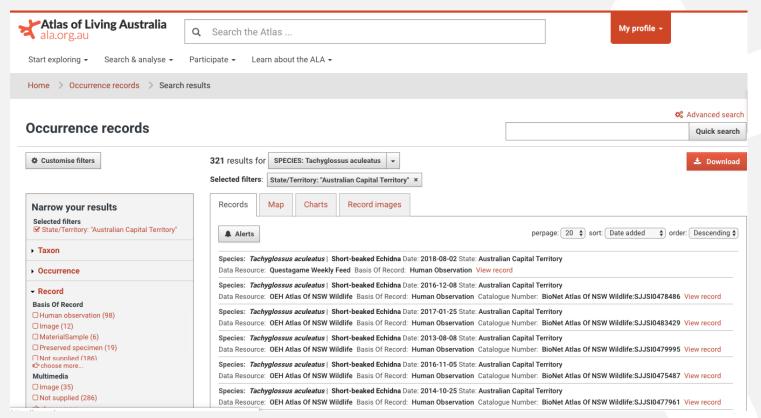




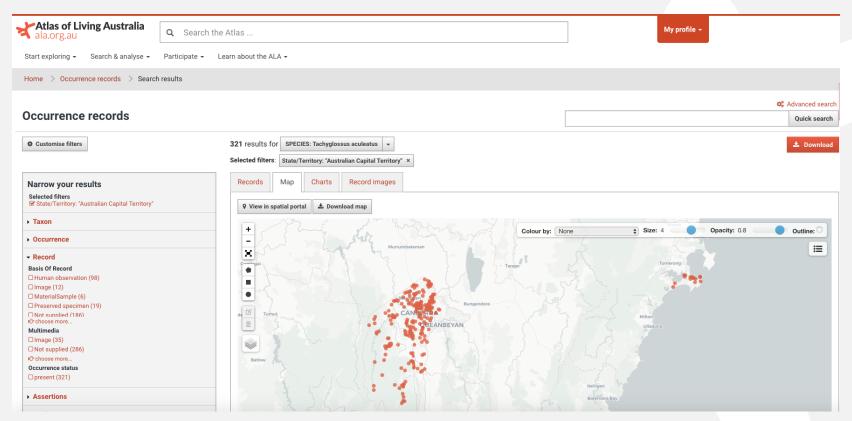




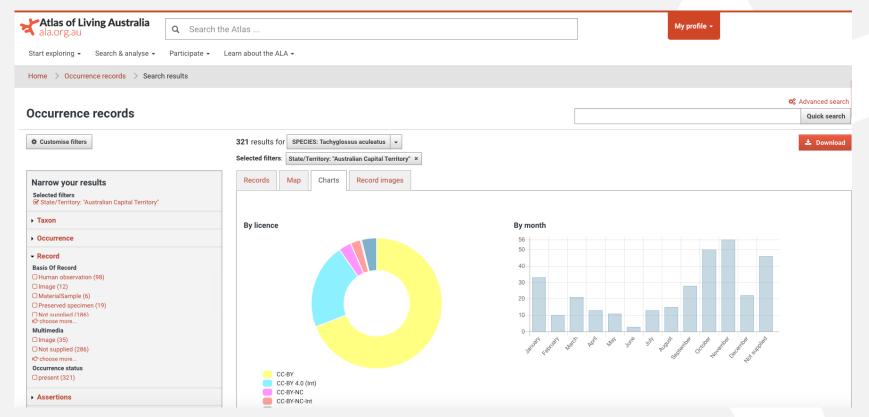




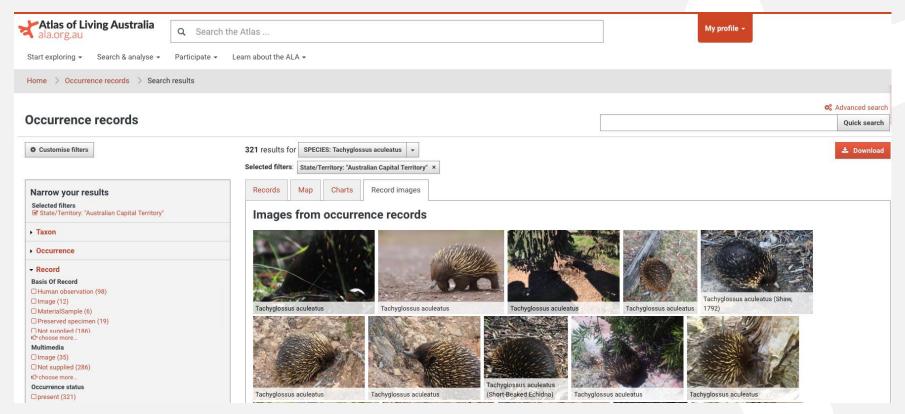




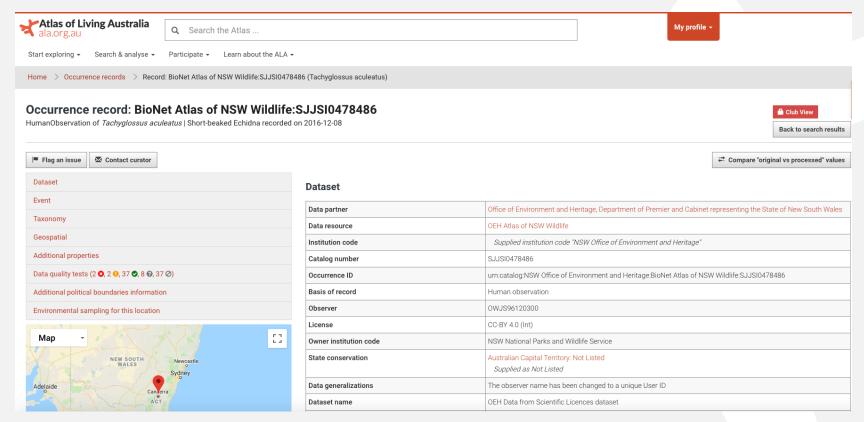














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### **Event**

Record date	2016-12-08 Supplied date "2016-12-08/2016-12-08"
Date precision	Day
Event time	06:00:00/08:20:00

# Taxonomy

Scientific name	Tachyglossus aculeatus
Taxon rank	Species
Common name	Short-beaked Echidna
Kingdom	Animalia
Phylum	Chordata
Class	Mammalia
Order	Monotremata
Family	Tachyglossidae
Genus	Tachyglossus
Species	Tachyglossus aculeatus
Taxonomic issue	No issues
Name match metric	Exact match The supplied name matched the name exactly.
Name parse type	wellformed



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# Geospatial

Country	Australia
State / Province	Australian Capital Territory Supplied as: "ACT"
Locality	Unincorporated ACT
Locality	locality withheld
Latitude	-35.222150414
Longitude	149.176642326
Geodetic datum	GDA94
Location remarks	locationRemarks withheld
Coordinate precision	0.00000001
Coordinate uncertainty in meters	1000.0
Georeference protocol	GPS
Location ID	LJJS10088098
Easting	698100
Northing	6100150
County	N/A
Biome	Terrestrial
Country code	AU
Zone	55



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# **Additional properties**

Bfmcs	N/A
Botanical division	Southern Tablelands
Dcterms bibliographic citation	BioNet Atlas of NSW Wildlife 4/09/2018 1:00 AM +10:00
Dcterms language	en
Dcterms modified	2017-11-15T12:44:08.06+11:00
Dcterms rights	Unknown
Dcterms rights holder	NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
Dcterms type	Event
Flora reserve	N/A
Geog extent	N/A
IBRA 7 Regions	South Eastern Highlands (ACT)
Map sheet number	8727 - CANBERRA
Mechanical hazard reduction description	N/A
Observation type	Scat
Potential impact	N/A
Profile id	N/A
Protected in nsw	true
Reserve	N/A
Source dataset name	OEH Data from Scientific Licences dataset



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			Data quality tests		
			Test name		Result
			Collection code not recognised ②		S Failed
			Institution code not recognised ②		<b>☉</b> Failed
			Data are generalised ②		<ul><li>Warning</li></ul>
			Coordinates converted to WGS84		<ul><li>Warning</li></ul>
			Basis of record not supplied		◆ Passed
			Basis of record badly formed 69		◆ Passed
			Invalid collection date 😯		◆ Passed
			Incomplete collection date ②		◆ Passed
			First of the month ②		◆ Passed
			Cultivated / escapee 0		◆ Passed
			Collector name unparseable ②		◆ Passed
			Missing catalogue number 3		◆ Passed
			Missing taxonomic rank 0		◆ Passed
			Name not supplied		◆ Passed
			Kingdom not recognised		◆ Passed
			Name not recognised ②		<b>⊘</b> Passed
			Invalid scientific name ()		◆ Passed

Name not in national checklists ()

Passed



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# Additional political boundaries information

Area Management		
ACT TAMS Reserves	MOUNT MAJURA NATURE RESERVE	
CAPAD 2012 Terrestrial	Mt Majura	
CAPAD 2014 Terrestrial	Mt Majura	
Collaborative Australian Protected Areas Database (CAPAD) 2010	Mt Majura	
Fallow practice - dominant (area)	No cereal producers	
Fallow practice - dominant (number)	No cereal producers	
GER Kosciuszko to Coast	GER Kosciuszko to Coast	
GER National Corridor	GER National Corridor	
GER Standard Boundary	GER Standard Boundary	
Global 200 priority ecoregions - Freshwater	Eastern Australia Rivers & Streams	
Global 200 priority ecoregions - Terrestrial	Eastern Asutralia Temperate Forests	
Great Eastern Ranges Initiative	GER Great Eastern Ranges Initiative	
Important Bird Areas (IBA) Australia	South-west Slopes of NSW IBA	
Irrigation practice - dominant	No irrigation	
Land use	Plantations	
Murray Darling Basin Authority Water Quality Zones	Upland	
Murray-Darling Basin Boundary	Murray-Darling Basin Boundary	
Murray-Darling Basin Ground Water Plan Areas	GW1	



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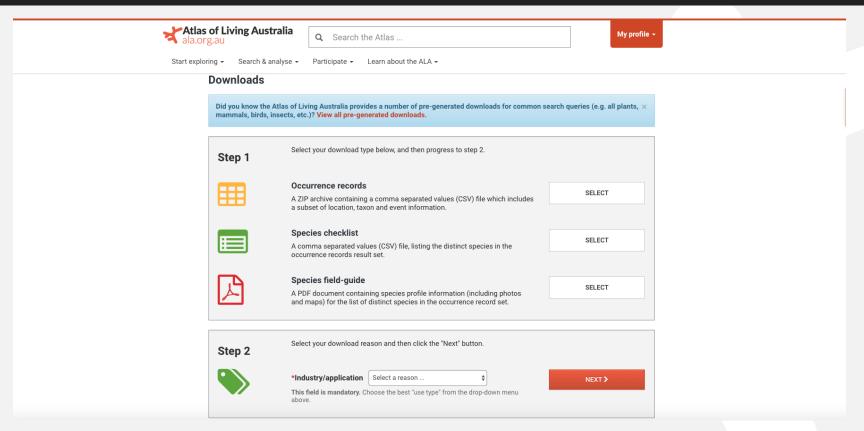
Area Management		
Beef numbers	5414.0 dse	
Dairy numbers	0.0 dse	
Natural resource management expenditure	2094150.0 \$	
Natural resource management expenditure - additional	1.0 \$/ha	
Sheep numbers	5032.0 dse	
Biodiversity		
Acacia – Miller et al 2012 - 0.5 degree	4.6961	
Amphibians (global) – Pyron & Wiens 2011 - 0.5 degree	3.381	
Endemism	0.07149399	
Endemism (Non-marine)	0.0813456	
Mammals – Fritz et al 2009 - 0.5 degree	0.6197	
Migratory species (2008)	5.0 frequency	
Occurrence Density	2456.716 frequency	
Shannon Diversity (H)	3.8230948 index	
Species Richness	6.740741 frequency	
Threatened communities (2008)	1.0 frequency	
Threatened species (2008)	8.0 frequency	



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Climate		
2030A1BMk35M: Aridity index - annual mean	0.5146562	
2030A1BMk35M: Aridity index - month max	1.0274676	
2030A1BMk35M: Aridity index - month min	0.22283153	
2030A1BMk35M: Evaporation - annual mean	123.169586 mm	
2030A1BMk35M: Evaporation - month max	225.89 mm	
2030A1BMk35M: Evaporation - month min	41.36 mm	
2030A1BMk35M: Growth index C3 macrotherm plants - annual mean	0.07 index	
2030A1BMk35M: Growth index C3 mesotherm plants - annual mean	0.23 index	
2030A1BMk35M: Growth index C4 megatherm plants - annual mean	0.05 index	
2030A1BMk35M: Humidity - annual mean relative 3pm	68.596695 %	
2030A1BMk35M: Humidity - month max relative 3pm	80.652405 %	
2030A1BMk35M: Humidity - month min relative 3pm	57.366062 %	
2030A1BMk35M: Precipitation - annual mean	48.629166 mm	
2030A1BMk35M: Precipitation - driest month	38.32 mm	
2030A1BMk35M: Precipitation - equinox seasonality ratio	1.182357	
2030A1BMk35M: Precipitation - max difference between successive months	0.48290327 mm/day	
2030A1BMk35M: Precipitation - min difference between successive months	-0.4990968 mm/day	
2030A1BMk35M: Precipitation - solstice seasonality ratio	1.3194355	
2030A1BMk35M: Precipitation - spring or autumn season	0.18099916	
2030A1BMk35M: Precipitation - summer or winter season	0.31692347	







# Biocache

data store: Apache Cassandra

• search: Apache Solr

biocache applications







# Biocache

- data store: Apache Cassandra
- search: Apache Solr
- biocache applications:
- biocache-hub: front end (browsers)
- biocache-service: web services
- biocache-store: data handling



# Old biocache

- one Cassandra server
- one Solr server
- one biocache-hub server
- a pair of servers for biocache-service
- biocache-store with Cassandra



# Data cycle

- data quality checks
- initial import into Cassandra
- processing
- environmental sampling
- fully processed records in Cassandra
- generate indexes for Solr



#### Old biocache

- any maintenance caused downtime
- any server issue caused downtime
- reaching hard limits on data size
- data cycle extremely slow and brittle



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- data cycle extremely slow and brittle:
- processing and sampling: six days
- indexing: 24 hours



#### Old biocache

- any maintenance caused downtime
- any server issue caused downtime
- reaching hard limits on data size
- data cycle extremely slow and brittle:
- processing and sampling: 6 days
- indexing: 24 hours
- no scalability



# **Designing a solution**



### **Designing a solution**

- latest versions of Cassandra and Solr
- Cassandra cluster
- Solr Cloud cluster
- applications in load balanced pools



## **IO** improvements

Cassandra from 1 to 4 nodes



## **IO** improvements

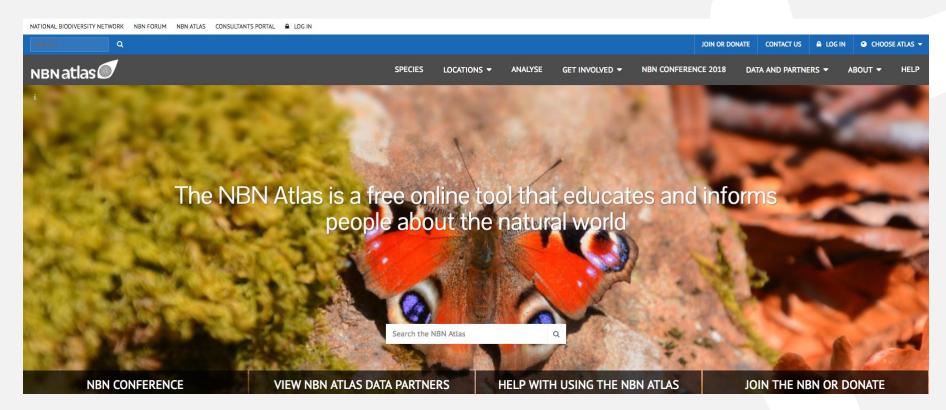
- Cassandra from 1 to 4 nodes
- biocache-store to 4 separate servers



### **Building the solution**

- Cassandra: single-node version 1 to clustered version 3
- Solr: single-node version 4 to clustered version 6







#### **Initial UK version**

- Cassandra: four nodes
- Solr: eight nodes
- Fast, fault-tolerant data ingestion
- Larger number of occurrences, but much smaller width (number of fields)



### **AU version development**

- Around 18 months elapsed, 2-5 developers
- Fewer occurrence records, but much wider data (more fields)
- Needed to maintain backwards compatibility for most types of request



#### **AU version development**

- Around 18 months elapsed, 2-5 developers
- Fewer occurrence records, but much wider data (more fields)
- Needed to maintain backwards compatibility for most types of request
- Iterative configuration testing in multiple components



#### **AU version development**

- Performance initially much lower than legacy
- Eventually got performance to similar level
- Costs slightly higher
- Switched to new version in July 2018



- Processing and sampling:
- Old system 6 days, often repeated due to low fault tolerance



- Processing and sampling:
- Old system 6 days, often repeated due to low fault tolerance
- New system 11 hours, highly fault tolerant



- Processing and sampling:
- Old system 6 days, often repeated due to low fault tolerance
- New system 11 hours, highly fault tolerant
- Indexing:
- Old system 24 hours



- Processing and sampling:
- Old system 6 days, often repeated due to low fault tolerance
- New system 11 hours, highly fault tolerant
- Indexing:
- Old system 24 hours
- New system 3.5 hours
- Now indexing every few days



#### Robustness

- clustered Cassandra and Solr can now tolerate having a node go down
- biocache applications (biocache-hub and biocache-service) now pooled behind load balancers, can tolerate a server going down



## **Scalability**

- expanding Cassandra or Solr capacity is relatively straightforward
- expecting to be able to handle future major expansion of data width (species traits)



#### Biocache

data store: Apache Cassandra

• search: Apache Solr

biocache applications







## Thank you

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