National Environmental Vocabulary Service

A common language for environmental information available as open data

sensor: satellite

sensor: temperature

land use: agriculture

species: eucalyptus

What is the National Environmental Information Infrastructure Vocabulary Service?

The National Environmental Information Infrastructure (NEII) Programme in collaboration with Australian National Data Service (ANDS) and CSIRO now support the NEII Environmental Vocabulary Service accessible at www.neii.gov.au/vocabulary.

The service is the infrastructure developed to host nationally important environmental vocabularies providing a platform to create, curate and publish environmental vocabularies. It also delivers the ability to query vocabularies and terms, and identify and navigate hierarchies of terms.

Why do we need an Environmental Vocabulary Service?

Environmental vocabularies, often expressed as controlled lists or glossaries underpin many of our workflows, systems and methods for describing the environment. However, these are typically stored and managed in individual organisations or systems making discovery, access and re-use difficult. A vocabulary service provides a publically accessible single point of truth for these terms to support better information discovery and re-use.

Technical overview

It uses PoolParty software as an editor to create and manage Simple Knowledge Organisation System compliant vocabularies. The Research Vocabularies Australia publisher provides a user-friendly interface to publish and manage vocabularies to make it easier to view, edit or delete published vocabularies. This combined with an NEII-hosted instance of the CSIRO SISSVoc linked data API provides programmatic access and additional customisation.

All vocabularies are available through both the RVA and the NEII portals. Vocabularies available through the NEII are a subset of all RVA vocabularies with content synchronised nightly.

How can I contribute to the National Environmental Vocabulary Service?

The NEII programme works with its partners in the NEII Reference Group to on-board new environmental vocabularies. Contact environment@bom.gov.au for more information on how to publish your vocabulary.

More information is available at www.neii.gov.au/vocabulary.

Using the NEII Environmental Vocabulary Service

The NEII environmental vocabulary service can be used and accessed in a variety of ways:

1   NEII Vocabulary Service Portal

www.neii.gov.au/vocabulary

Nationally important environmental vocabularies are available through the portal by theme, title, custodian details and program. This includes vocabularies created by the NEII programme and partner vocabularies hosted in **Research Vocabularies Australia** that have been registered with the NEII.

2   NEII Linked to DATA API

www.neii.gov.au/vocabulary/SISSVoc-API

The NEII instance of **SISSVoc** complements the RVA SISSVoc providing additional customisation and improving redundancy. RVA provides a detailed technical overview for accessing the Linked Data API. Users can also navigate to SISSVoc content through the **NEII Vocabulary Service Portal**.

3   Research Vocabularies Australia Portal

vocabs.ands.org.au

NEII relevant environmental vocabularies available in the NEII portal are also all accessible through the **Research Data Australia Portal**. Vocabulary content remains identical with the RDA portal offering complementary functionality.
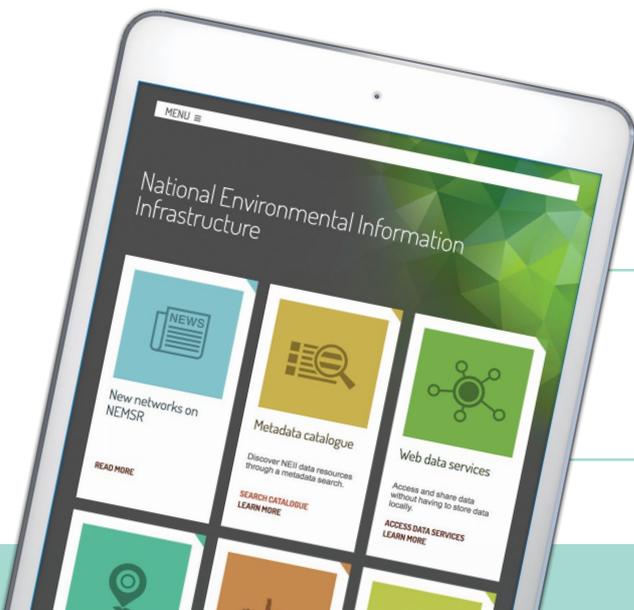
4   Research Data Australia Widget

vocabs.ands.org.au/vocabs/page/widget_explorer

The RDA widget is functionality provided by **Research Vocabularies Australia** to allow vocabularies to be embedded in other software applications through JQuery code.

More NEII products and services

www.neii.gov.au

The National Environmental Information Infrastructure (NEII) is an information platform designed to improve, discovery, access and re-use of nationally significant environmental data.

Australian Government

Australian Research Data Commons

CSIRO