



Using NatureMaps to identify plant communities

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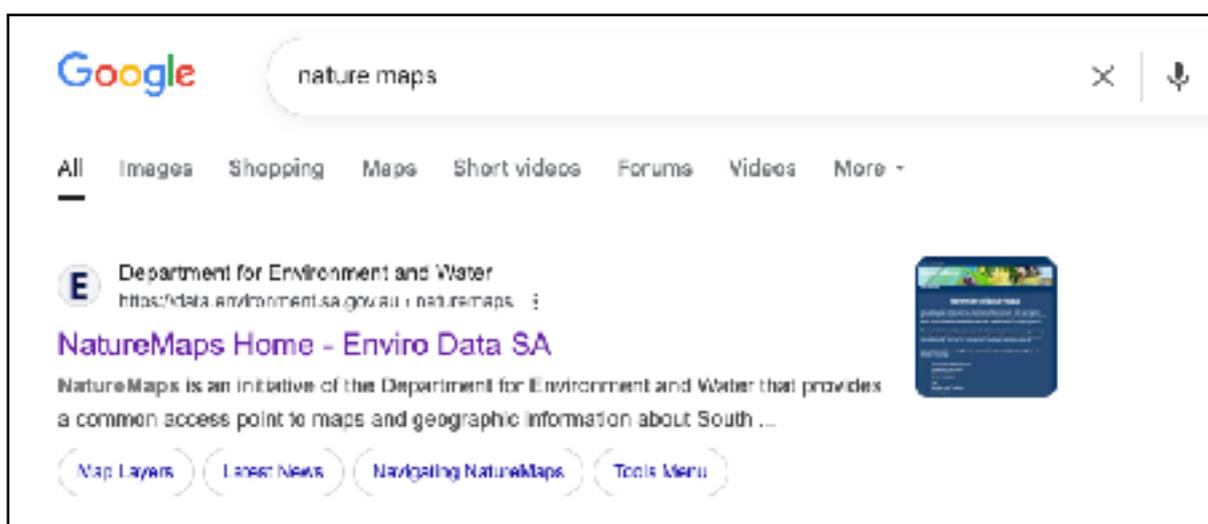
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Setting NatureMaps to identify plant communities

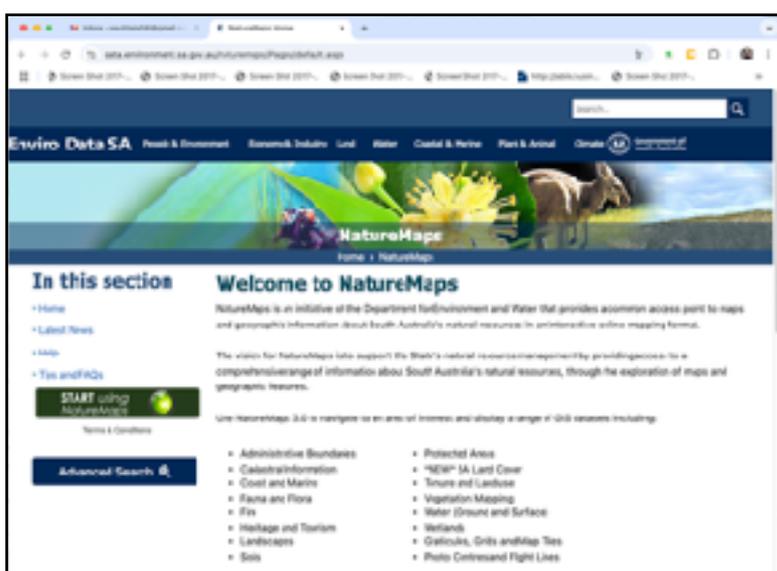
One of the best uses of NatureMaps is to locate plant communities which pre-existed European settlement. This procedure explains how to set NatureMaps for this purpose, then to use the vegetation key or ID to identify the upper, middle, and lower storey of the plant community.

Follow the procedure below:

1. Use your browser to locate NatureMaps. In the image below, a Google search yields the following:

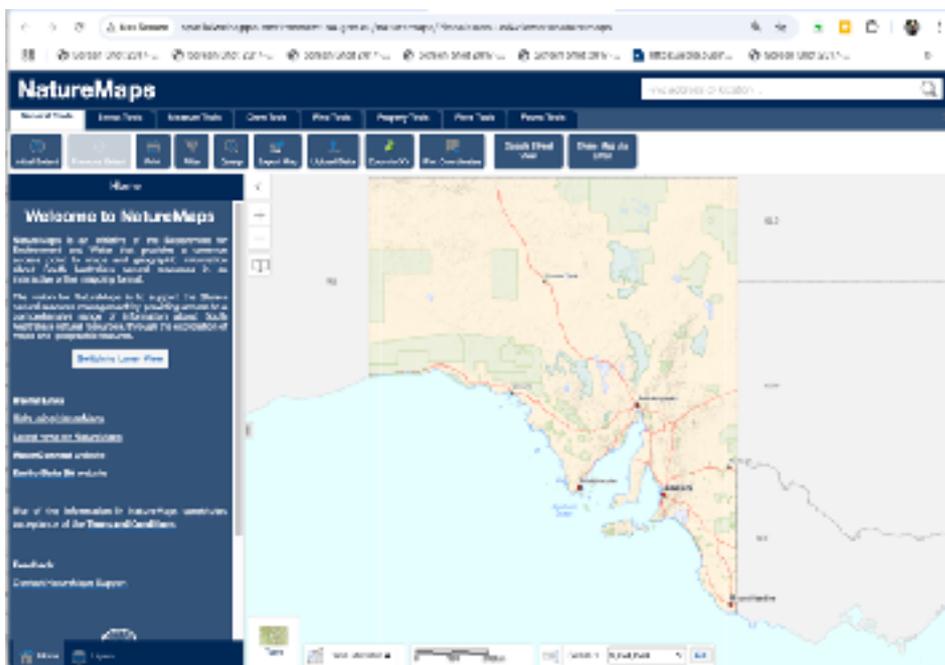


2. Click the link to NatureMaps Home - Enviro Data SA to open the welcome page as shown in the image below:



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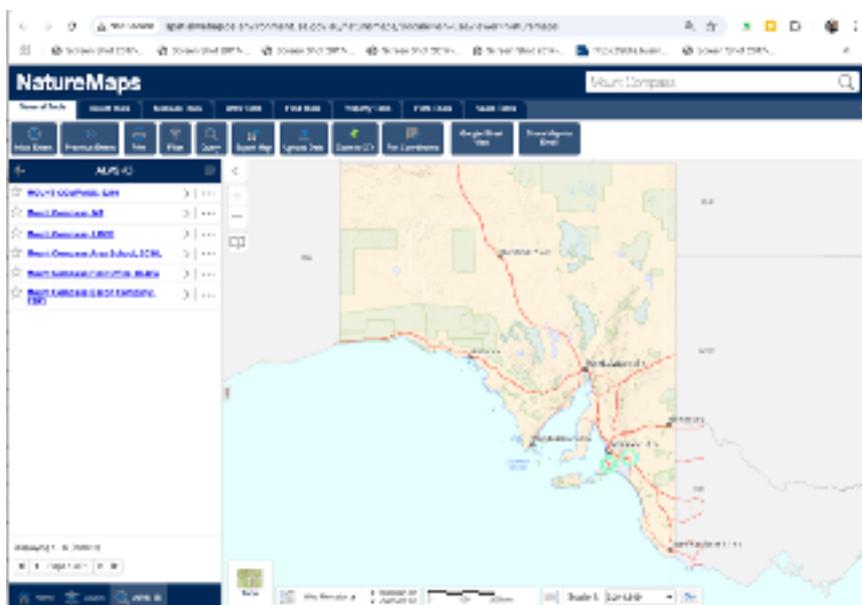
3. Click the **Start using NatureMaps** button to reveal the main mapping tool with layer menus and location search field as shown below:



4. Click the **Switch to Layer view** button located in the left panel to reveal the list of layer options.
5. In the Layer menu, locate and select the following:
 - a. Tick the **Vegetation** check box to reveal sub-options.
 - b. Tick the **Pre-European Vegetation** sub-option check box.
 - c. Tick the **Overlays** check box to reveal sub-options.
 - d. Tick the **Contours** and **Topography** overlay sub-options.

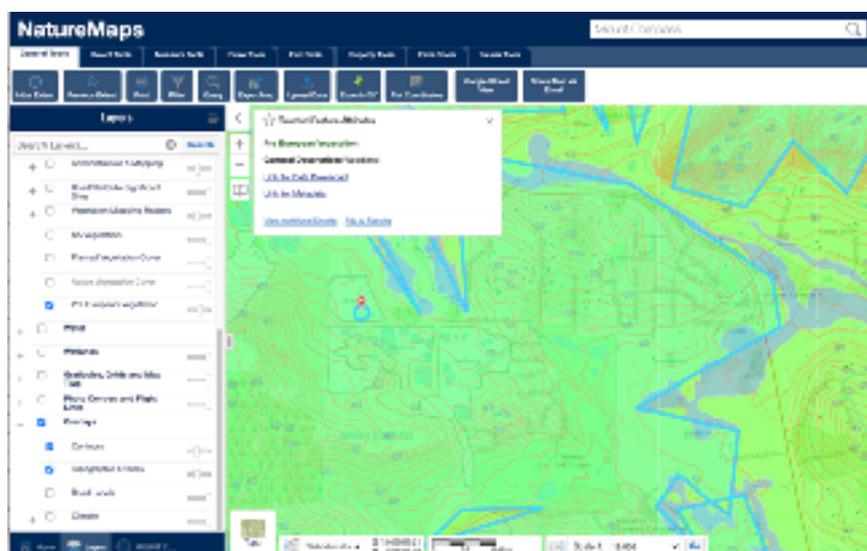
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6. In the top left corner of the NatureMaps display, select a location of interest. In the image below, the town of Mount Compass has been selected.



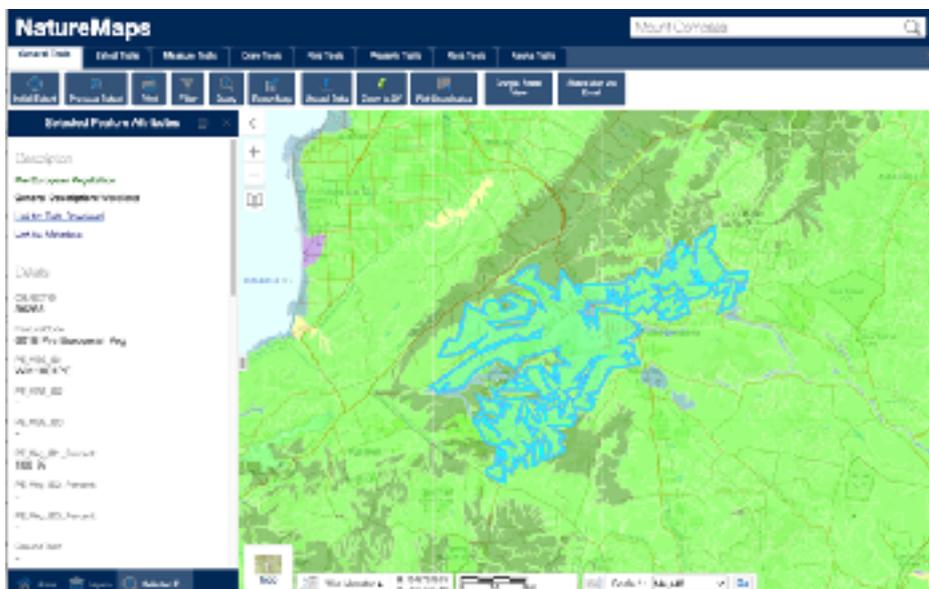
7. Click Mount Compass 5210 to select specifically the town proper. NatureMaps refocusses the map to Mount Compass and surrounding area.

8. Click any point on this map to reveal the area of a plant community as shown in the image below:



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9. To identify the specific information about the plant community, click **View Additional Details** in the option menu. This reveals the vegetation key for the plant community as shown below:



10. Use the [Native plant species lists](#) to search for the plant community key which matches the one shown in the **Description > Details** panel. In the case of the selection previously made, the plant community key is: WM1801PE.

11. This key is located under the *H4: Brown stringy bark (*Eucalyptus baxteri*) +/- pink gum (*E. fasciculosa*) +/- cup gum (*E. cosmophylla*) low woodland (ML0404PE, ML0405PE, WM1801PE)*. Click on the [Short list](#) link to reveal the PDF containing list of plants which are available generally at native nurseries or click on the [Complete list](#), which lists all plant species for the given community.

12. Repeat this process to find other plant communities immediately surrounding Mount Compass; the dominant being:

- H3: Swamp gum (*Eucalyptus ovata*) woodland (SE0011PE, SL0301PE): [Short list](#) | [Complete](#).
- H4: Brown stringy bark (*Eucalyptus baxteri*) +/- pink gum (*E. fasciculosa*) +/- cup gum (*E. cosmophylla*) low woodland (ML0404PE, ML0405PE, WM1801PE): [Short list](#) | [Complete](#).
- H39: Silky tea-tree (*Leptospermum lanigerum*) shrub land (AP0031PE): [Short list](#) | [Complete](#).
- H1: Stringy bark (*Eucalyptus obliqua*) open forest (ML0101PE): : [Short list](#) | [Complete](#)

References

- Government of South Australia 2024, Native plant species list, viewed on 16 August, 2021, <<https://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/hf/landscapes-hills-and-fleurieu-stewardship-program/care-for-native-vegetation-and-undertake-revegetation/caring-for-existing-vegetation/native-plant-species-lists>>. This page provides a list of plants which are endemic to woodlands and wetlands in the Fleurieu region and on the Adelaide Plain.