How to Export VIS Flora Survey Data

Quick Guide for the BioNet Atlas Database

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This document provides a quick guide on how to export Vegetation Information System (VIS) Flora Survey data to CSV and text files to be used with GIS software eg. ArcGIS and MS Excel.

The VIS Flora Survey module holds systematic flora/vegetation survey data.

Data is usually sampled at a plot or quadrat of specified area (eg 20 x 50 m) and can include detailed and comprehensive site characteristics, including vegetation structure.

Typically it includes a measure of cover and/or abundance measures for all floristic plant species ("full floristics"), or components of the vegetation such as dominant species only, or perennial species only.
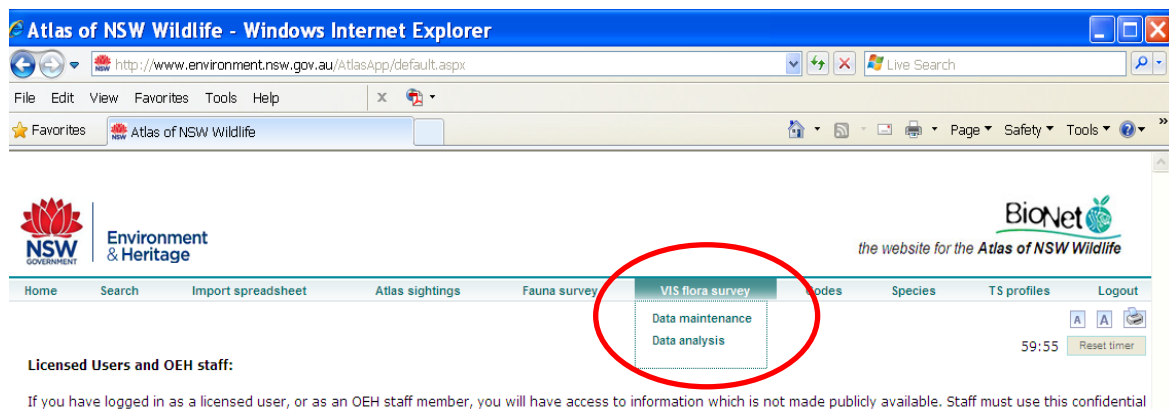
1. Login to the BioNet database

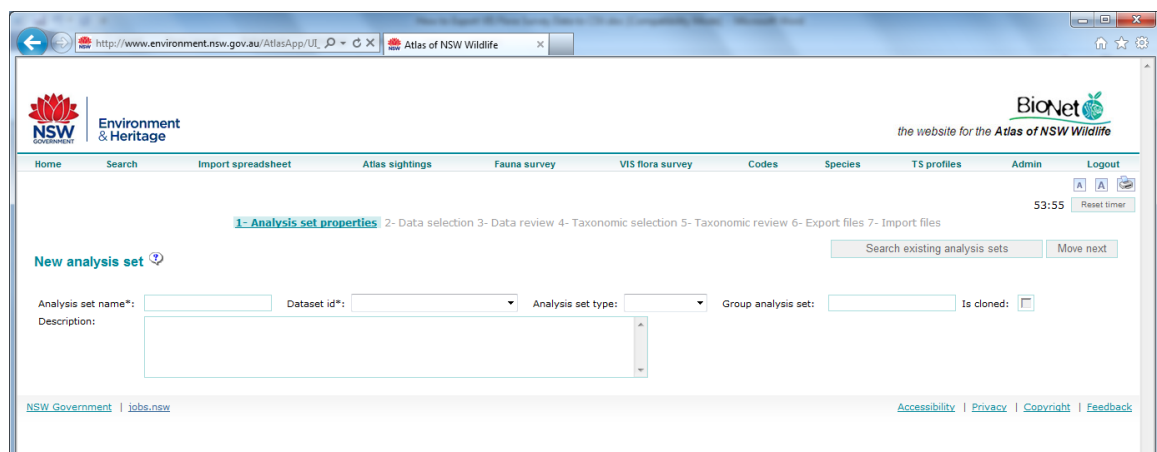Register and obtain access to the database by clicking on the link below

http://www.bionet.nsw.gov.au/

2. Select sites by creating an 'analysis dataset'

Select **VIS flora survey** from the menu bar and then **Data analysis**

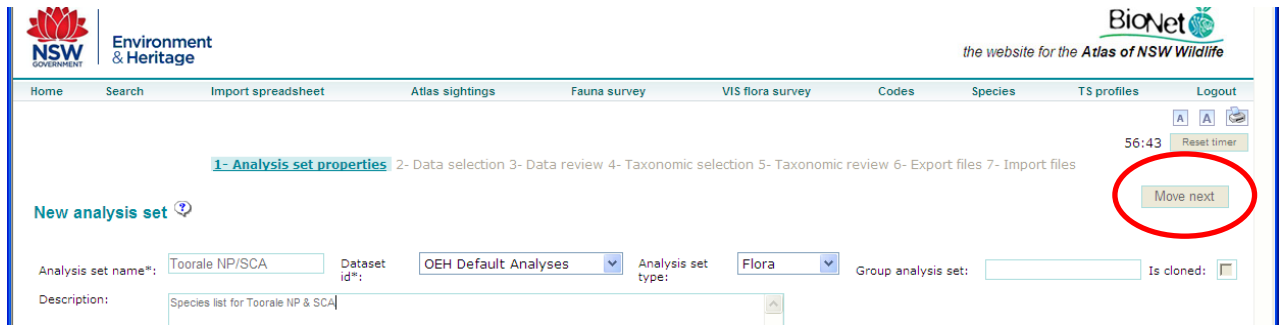The **1 – Analysis set properties** page will appear

To generate a new 'analysis dataset', enter the following details:

Analysis set name: Give your Analysis set a name, eg 'Toorale NP/SCA'

Dataset ID: Select '*OEH Default Analyses'* from the dropdown list

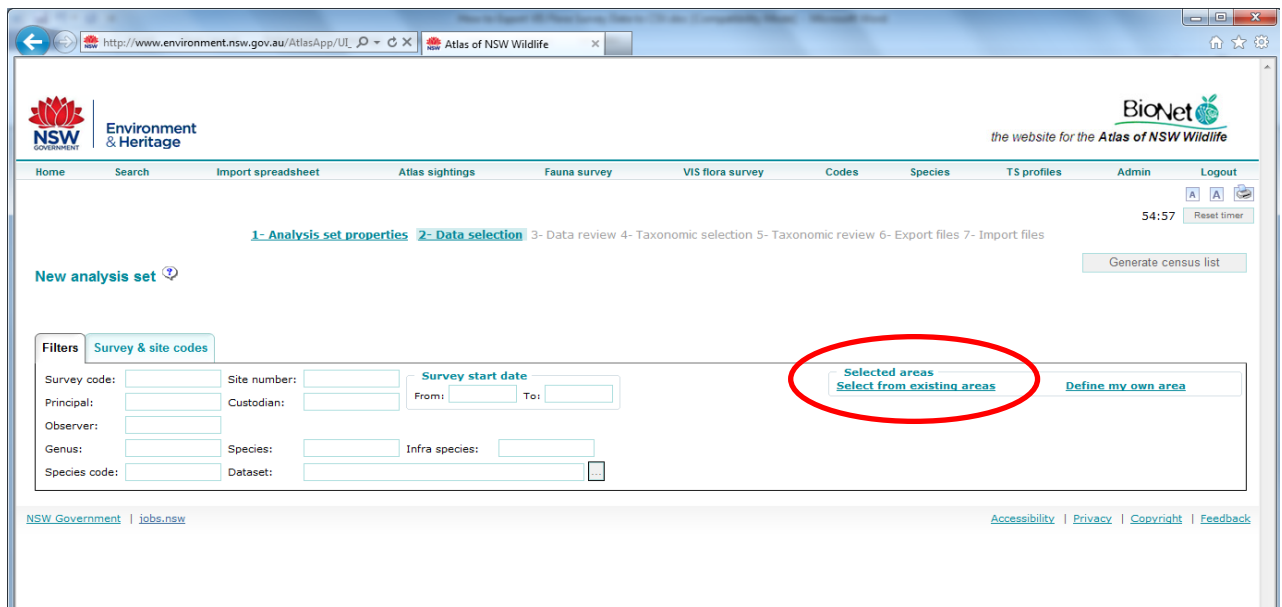**Analysis set type:** Select '*Flora'*

Click on **Move Next**

The **2 – Data selection** page will appear

If you are searching for one or more pre-defined areas, such as one or more NPWS reserves

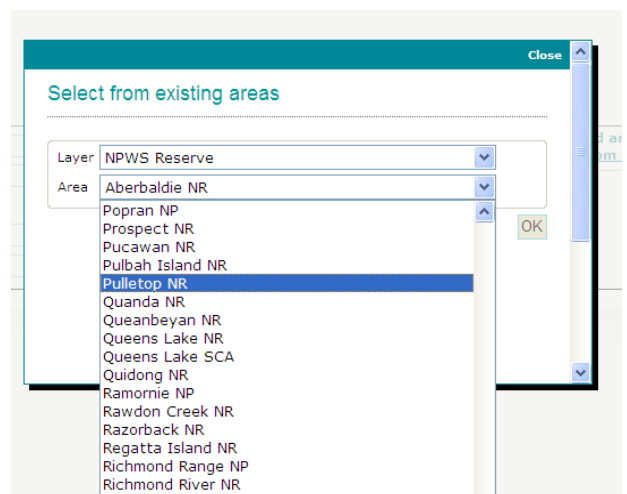Click on **Select from existing areas**

A pop-up window will appear

Select **Layer** as *NPWS Reserve* from dropdown list

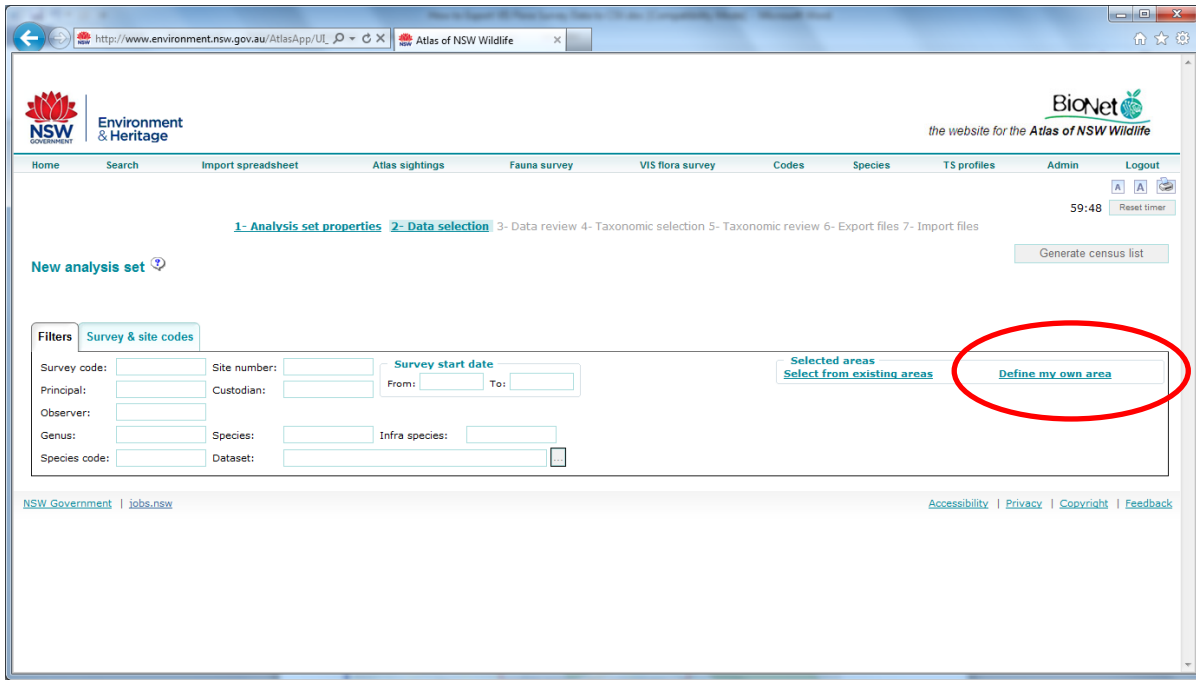Select **Area** as *Pulletop NR* from dropdown list

Click **OK**
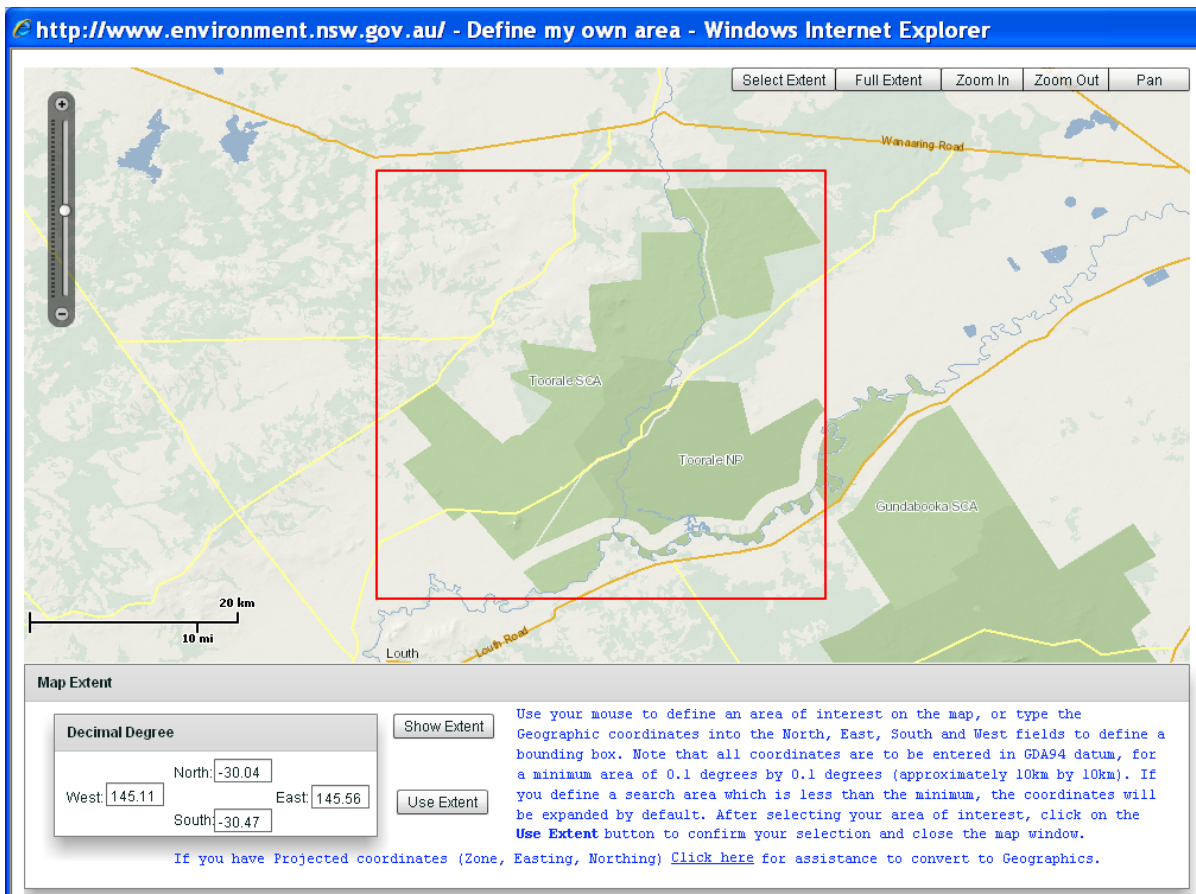
Repeat selection to add extra reserves

If you wish to perform a search on a bounding box or search an area that is not included in the list of pre-defined areas, you can nominate a bounding box that bounds the entire area of interest

Click **Define my own area**

A pop-up window will appear showing a map

Using the menu on top right hand side

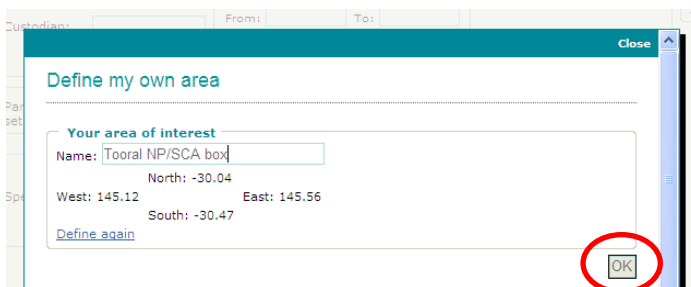Select **Zoom In** and **Zoom Out** to find your area of interest

Click on **Select Extent** and draw a square around area of interest
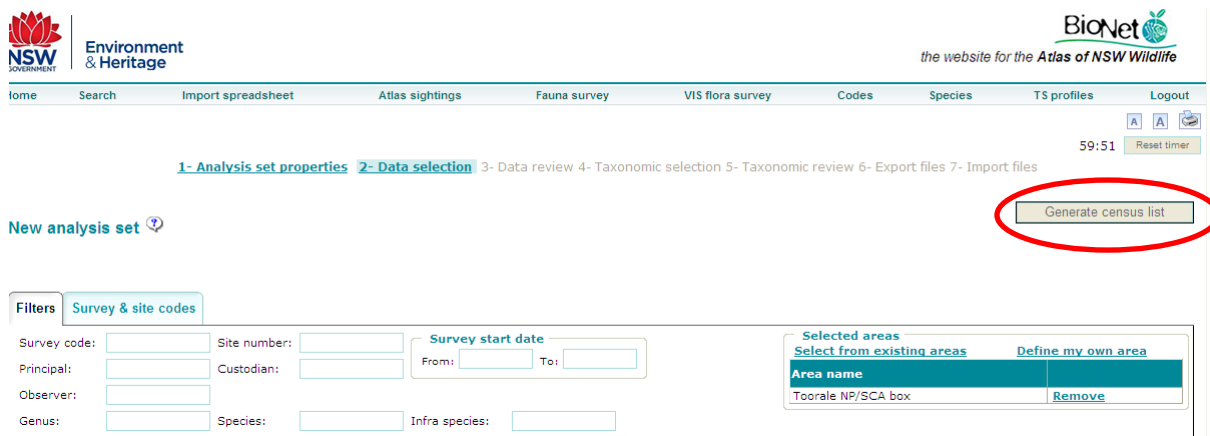
Click **Use Extent**

A pop-up window will appear
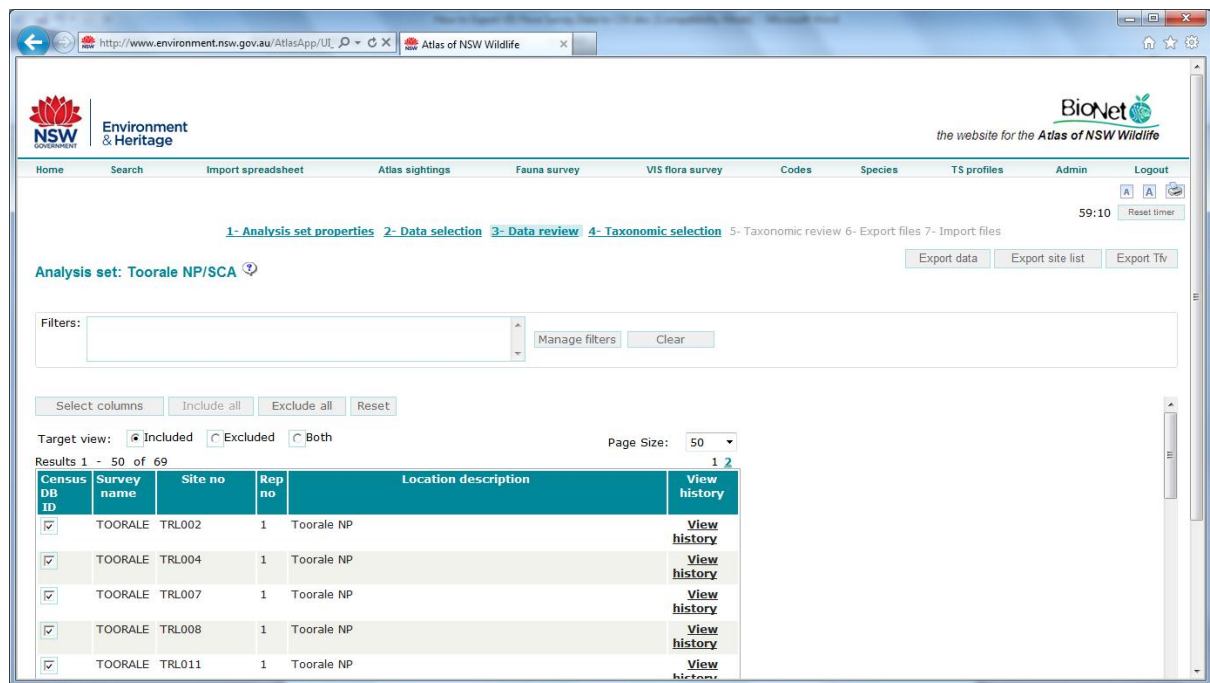
Enter a name in the **Name** box
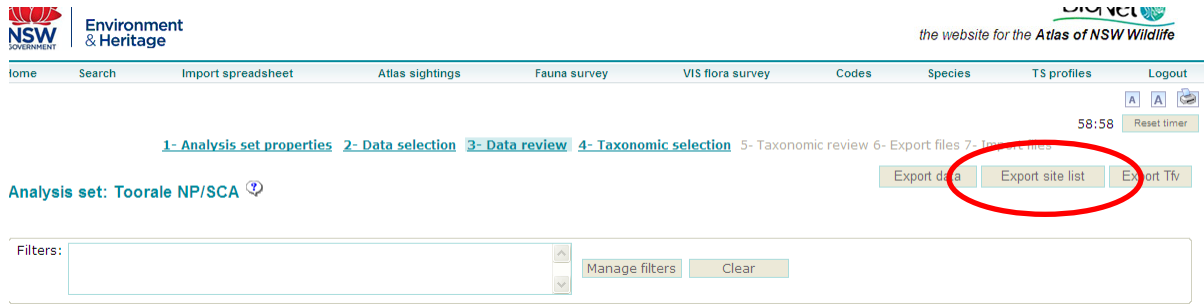
Click **OK**

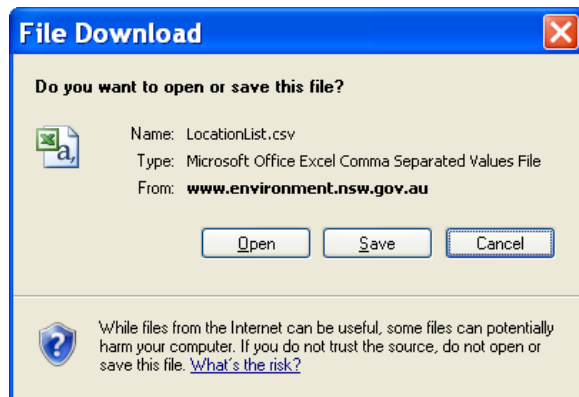Click **Generate census list**

The **3 - Data review** page will appear

3. Exporting site locations

Click on **Export site list**

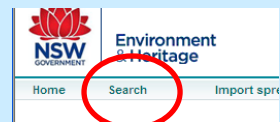A **File Download** pop up will display

Save *LocationList.csv*

Browse to an appropriate location to save the text file if you are intending to update and export regularly.

You now have a list of the Survey and Site IDs and their location.

4. Exporting species lists and site floristics

Remember this option gives a species list only from floristic survey sites.
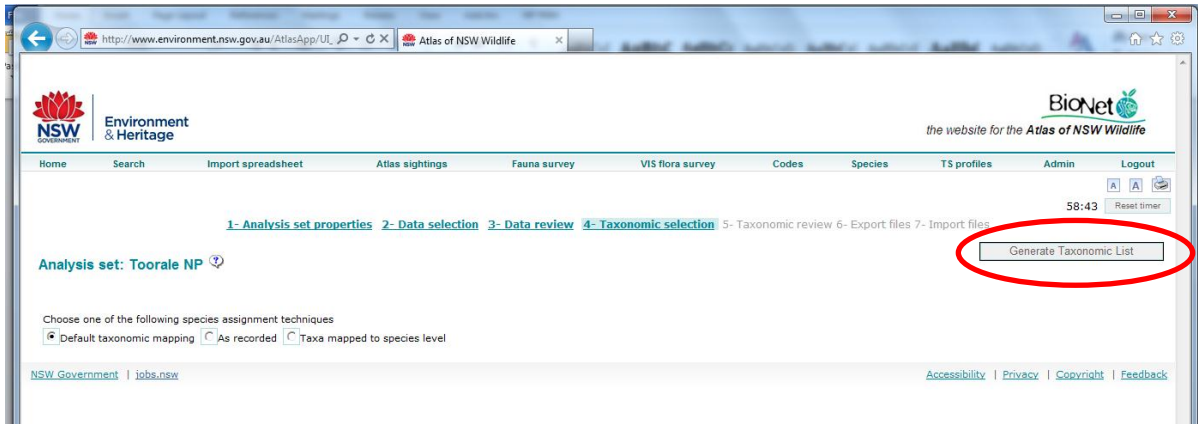
If you want a complete species list of all plant records in the park, search here:
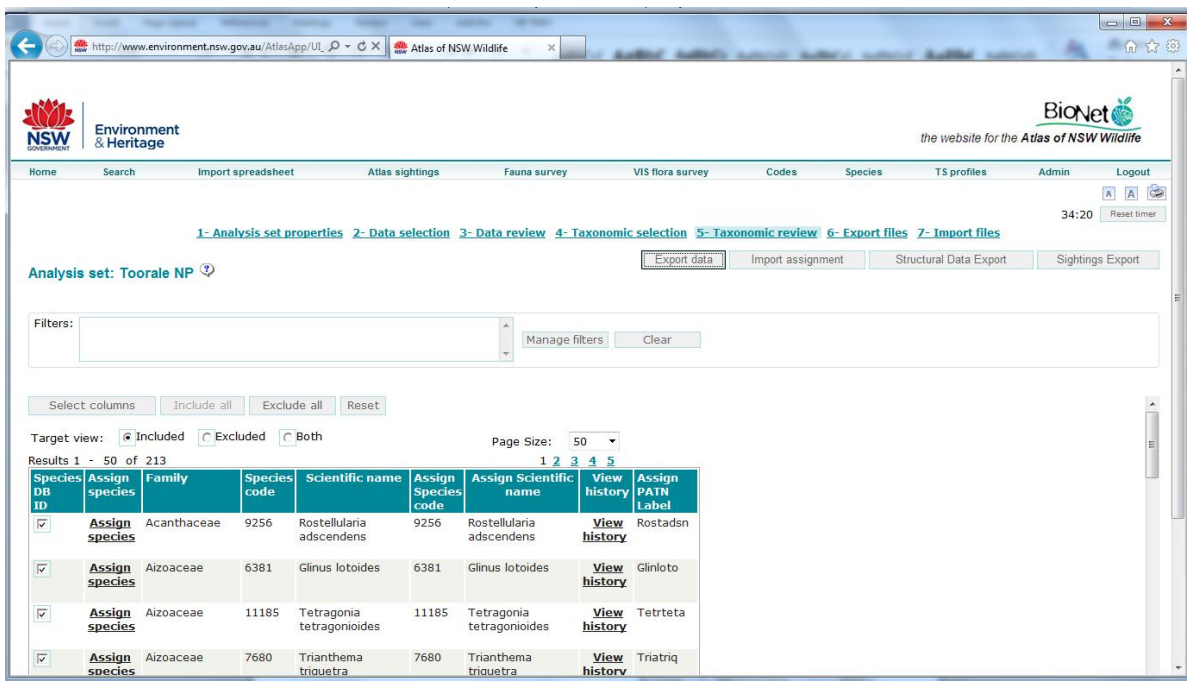

Click on **4 – Taxonomic selection**

Default taxonomic mapping will already be selected.
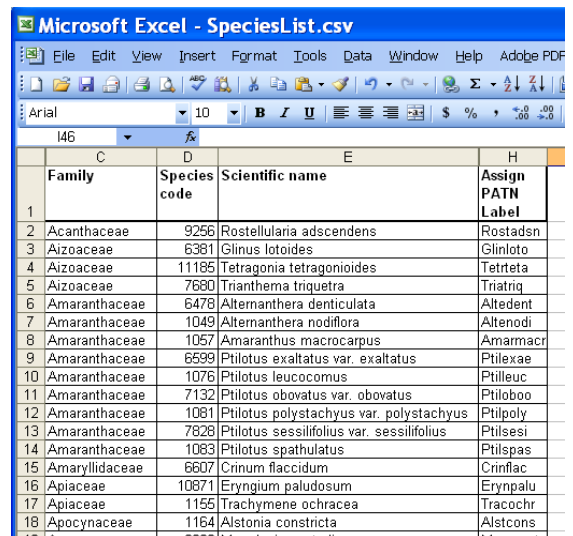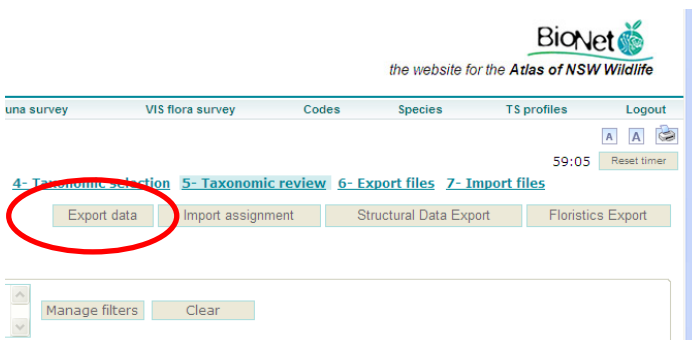
Click on **Generate taxonomic list**

The **5 – Taxonomic review** page appears

To export a species list from the floristic sites
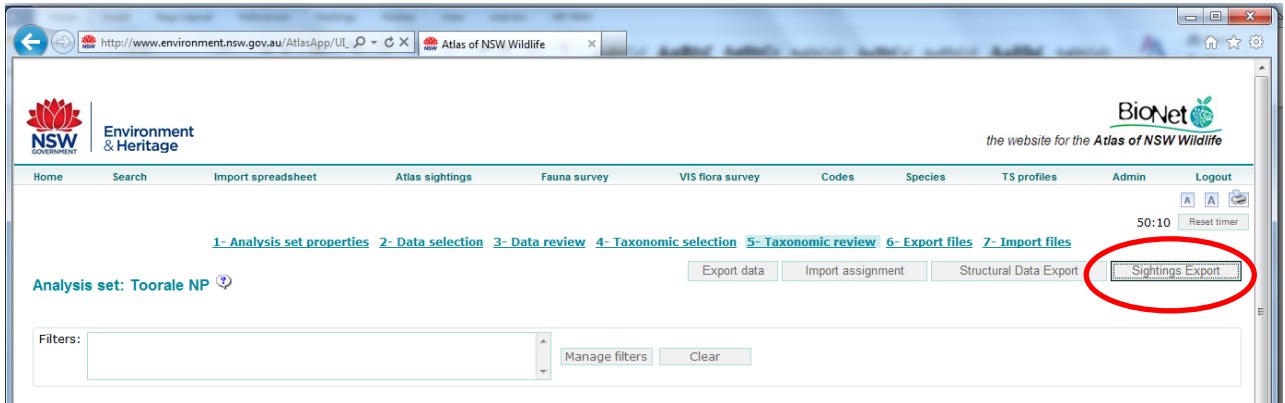
Click on **Export data**

Save *Specieslist.csv*

This text file can be opened in MS Excel
NOTE common names are not included

To export a list of all species in each site, formatted like an Atlas download
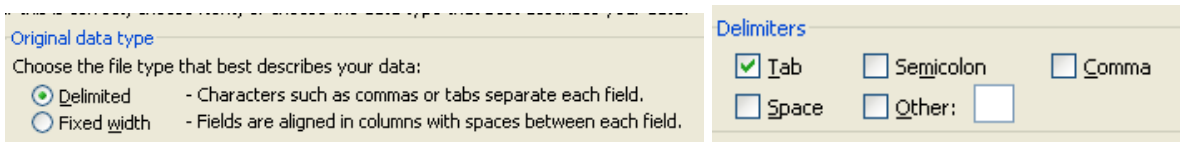

Click on **Sightings Export**

Save *SightingsData.txt*

This text file can be imported into MS Excel.
The **Text Import Wizard** will start automatically.

Use the default settings, but ensure the data type and delimiters are correct:

Step 1   Step 2

For further information:

Refer to the VIS Flora Survey Guide
http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/atlas/restricted/120557VISFS.pdf

Refer to the BioNet Atlas Guide for more detailed steps and information about exporting Atlas records to ArcMap http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/atlas/AtlasOEH.pdf

Contact the Biodiversity Information Systems Team email atlas@environment.nsw.gov.au

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