NSW GOVERNMENT

Department of Planning and Environment

How to access Vegetation Condition Benchmark Data from BioNet

Quick guide for BioNet Vegetation Classification
June 2022

Cover photo: Brigalow-Gidgee woodland/shrubland in the Mulga Lands and Darling Riverine Plains Bioregions. Barry Collier/DPE

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Vegetation Condition Benchmark information for a Plant Community Type (PCT) is maintained in the BioNet Vegetation Classification database. This document provides a quick guide on how to view the benchmark information and to export the benchmark data.

How to view benchmark data for individual PCTs

1. Login to the BioNet Vegetation Classification application

Register and access the application (use your email as your login ID) using this link:

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NSWVCA20PRapp/LoginPR.aspx

2. Search for PCT/s

Step 1: Access this function by clicking on ‘View a PCT’ on the dropdown menu on the ‘PCT DATA’ tab on the top navigation bar.

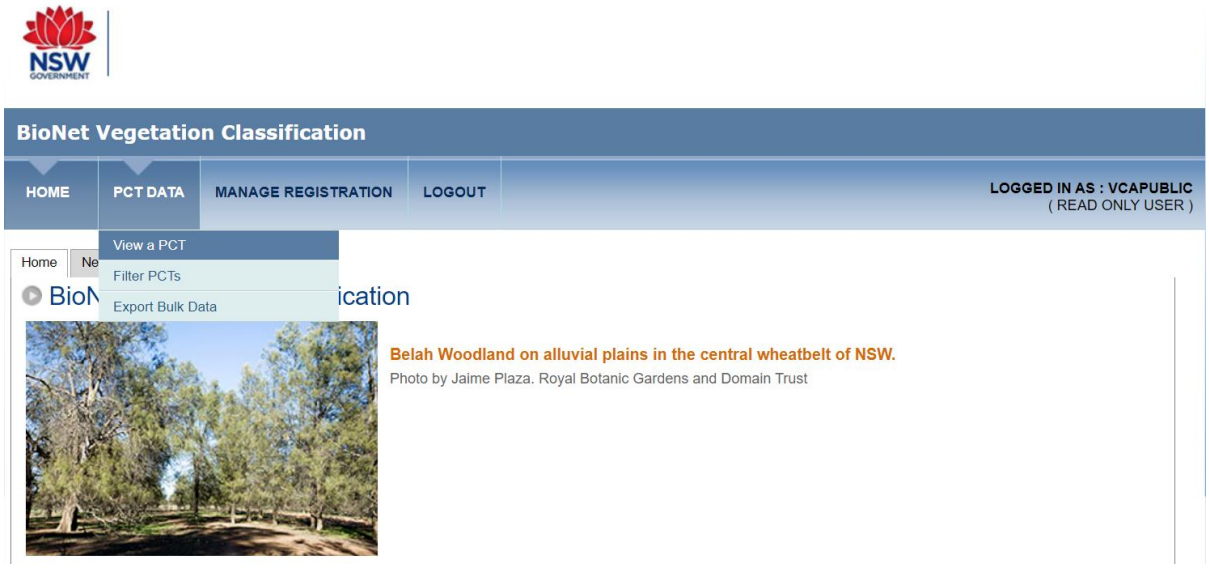

Figure 1 BioNet Vegetation Classification homepage

3. Search and view PCT data

Step 1: Specify the PCT ID or other parameters in the State-wide Search fields.

How to use the search fields

The fields for the 'State-wide Search' are either text fields (the first 4 fields) or dropdown menu fields (the bottom 6 fields).

The additional fields allow you to search Local Government Area (LGA), and/or by threatened ecological communities (TEC) (by TEC Act or TEC Name).

For the text fields, type in the terms or partial terms and hit 'Enter' on your keyboard, or the 'search' button at the bottom of the screen. For example, entering 'red gum' in the PCT Name field will retrieve all PCTs with 'red gum' in their name.

To use one of the dropdown fields, click the dropdown arrow next to the relevant field, then click to select the desired option.

Multiple search terms can be used and you can specify how you want the terms to interact to create a customised search. Options are to set a condition where ALL terms must be met, or where ANY of the terms are met. These 2 types of interactions are chosen via the and/or dropdown to the right of the relevant field.

As an example, for the 2 search terms Vegetation Class (Keith 2004) = Alpine Herbfields and IBRA Subregion = Snowy Mountains, the following results are obtained:

- A list of 50 PCTs is retrieved when the 2 interaction terms are left with the default option of 'or'. This is the list of all PCTs that are either in the Snowy Mountains IBRA Subregion or are attributed the Alpine Herbfields Vegetation Class.
- A list of 2 PCTs is retrieved when the 2 interaction terms are set to 'and'. This is the list of all PCTs that are both in the Snowy Mountains IBRA Subregion, and attributed to the Alpine Herbfields Vegetation Class.

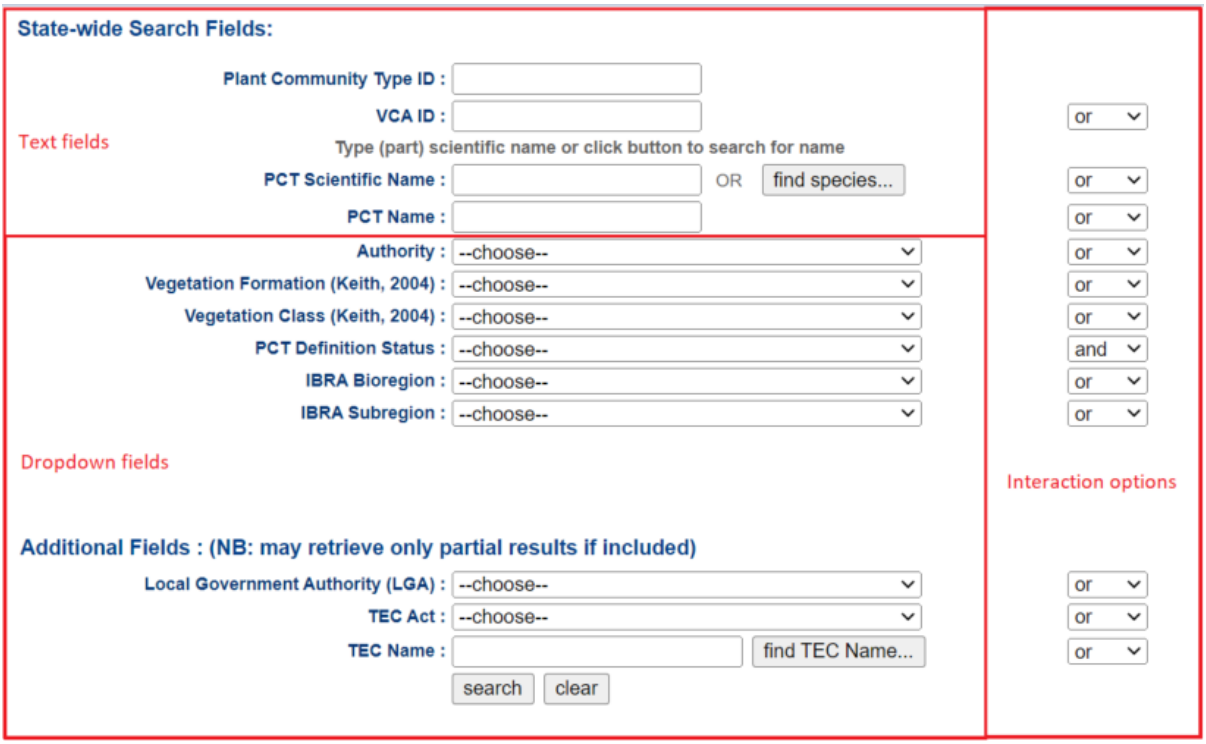

Figure 2 Use the text fields, dropdown menu items and interaction terms to customise your search for PCT/s

Step 2: Show results by selecting the ‘search’ button. The system will display the results in the area below the search fields at the bottom of the page. This will also display how many records match your search term(s).

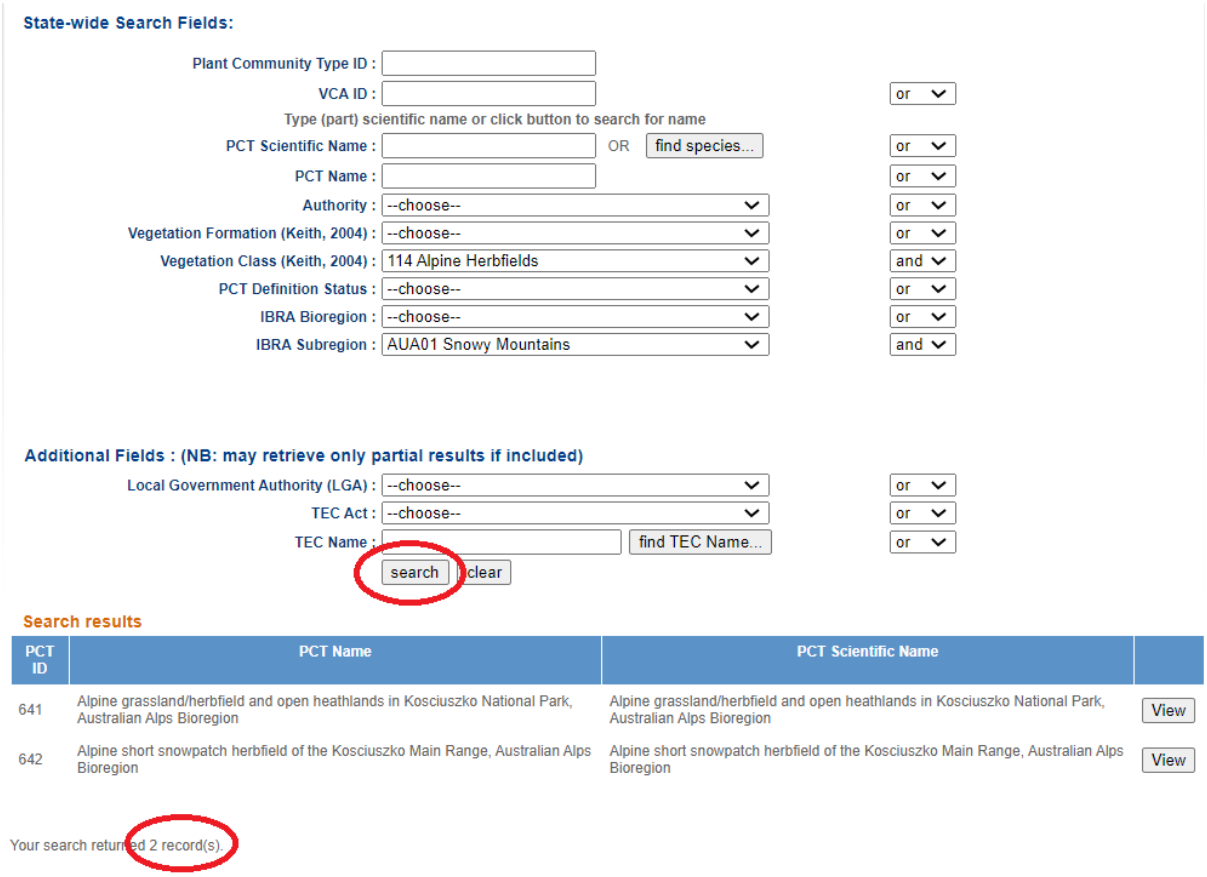

Figure 3 Search for PCT data

4. Select PCT and view Vegetation Condition Benchmark information

Step 1: Choose the ‘View’ option in the search results to view the details of the selected PCT.

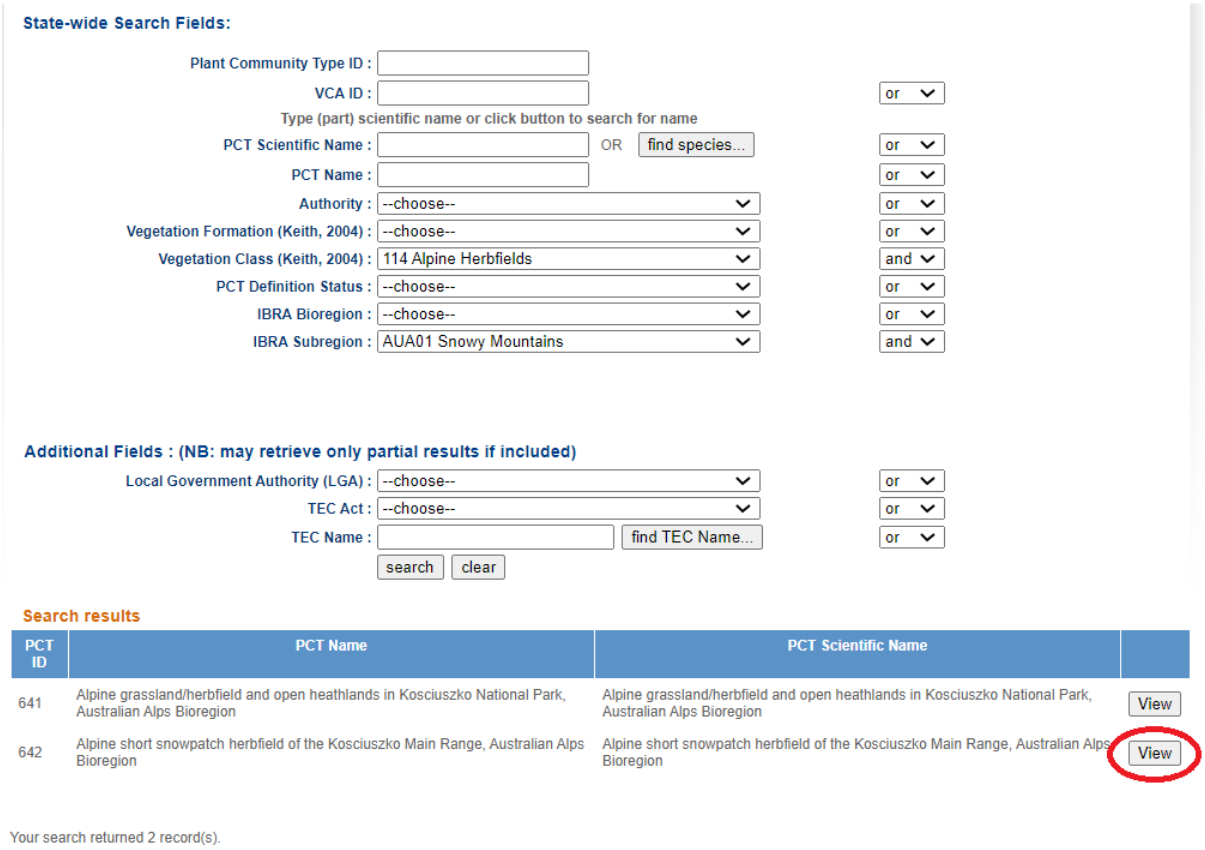

Figure 4 Select the PCT record to view its details

Step 2: Select the ‘Threatened Biodiversity, TECs & Benchmarks’ tab.

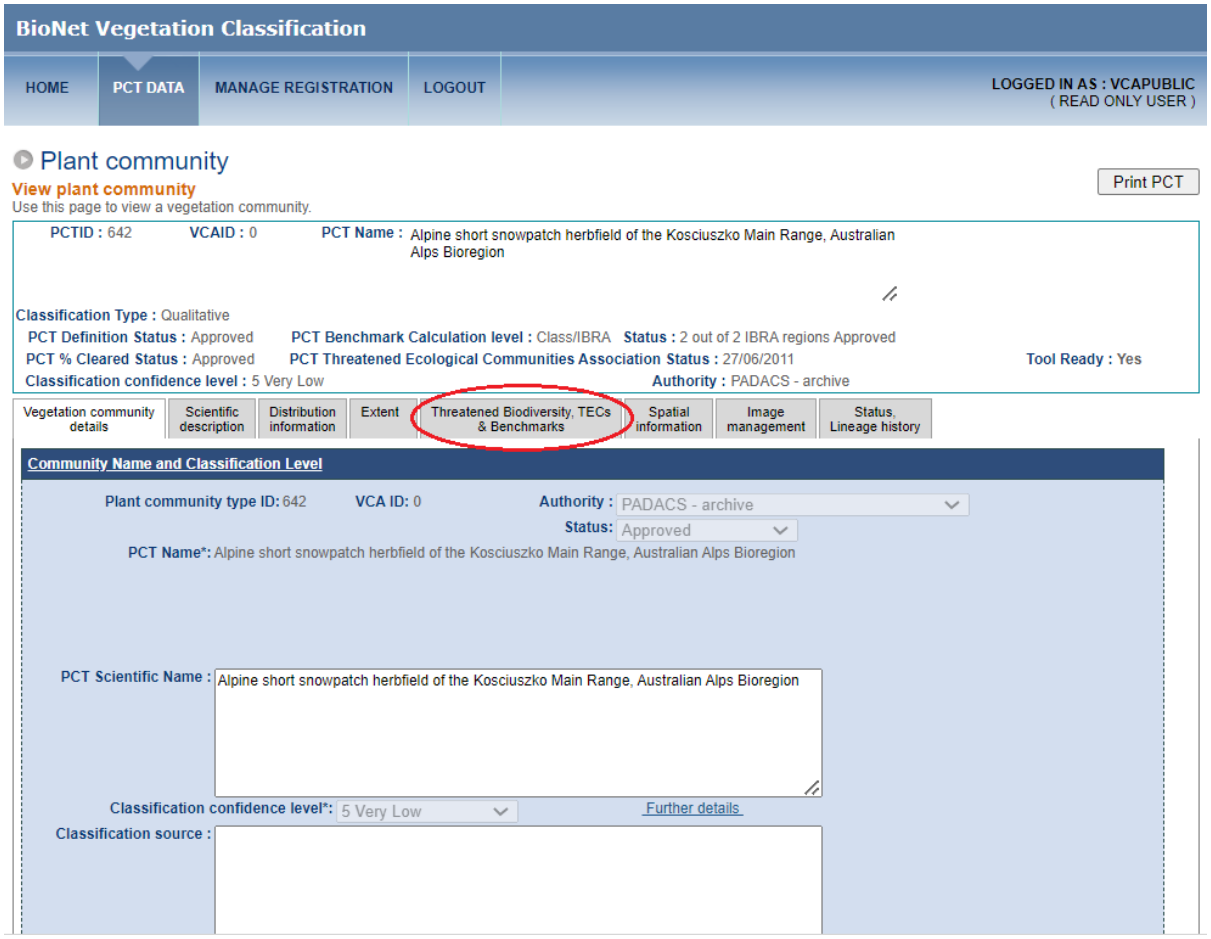

Figure 5 Open the ‘Threatened Biodiversity, TECs & Benchmarks’ tab

Step 3: Choose the ‘Community Condition Benchmarks’ section to expand the list of benchmarks for the selected PCT.

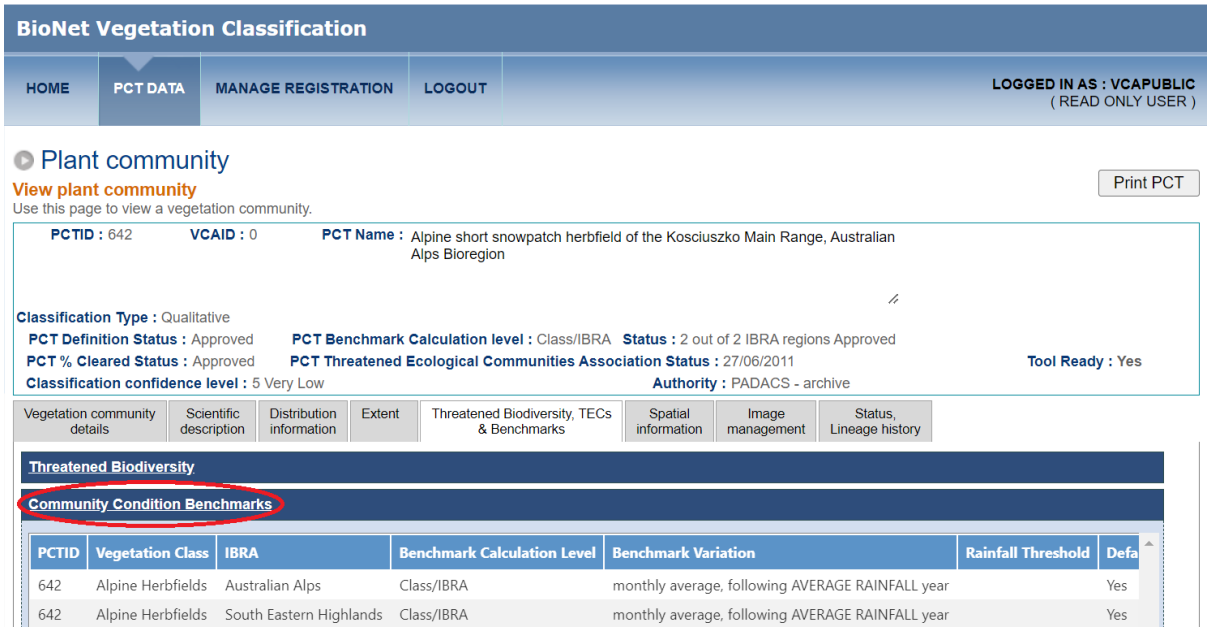

Figure 6 View benchmark information for the selected PCT

How to export benchmark data

5. Select ‘Export Bulk Data’ from the ‘PCT DATA’ dropdown menu

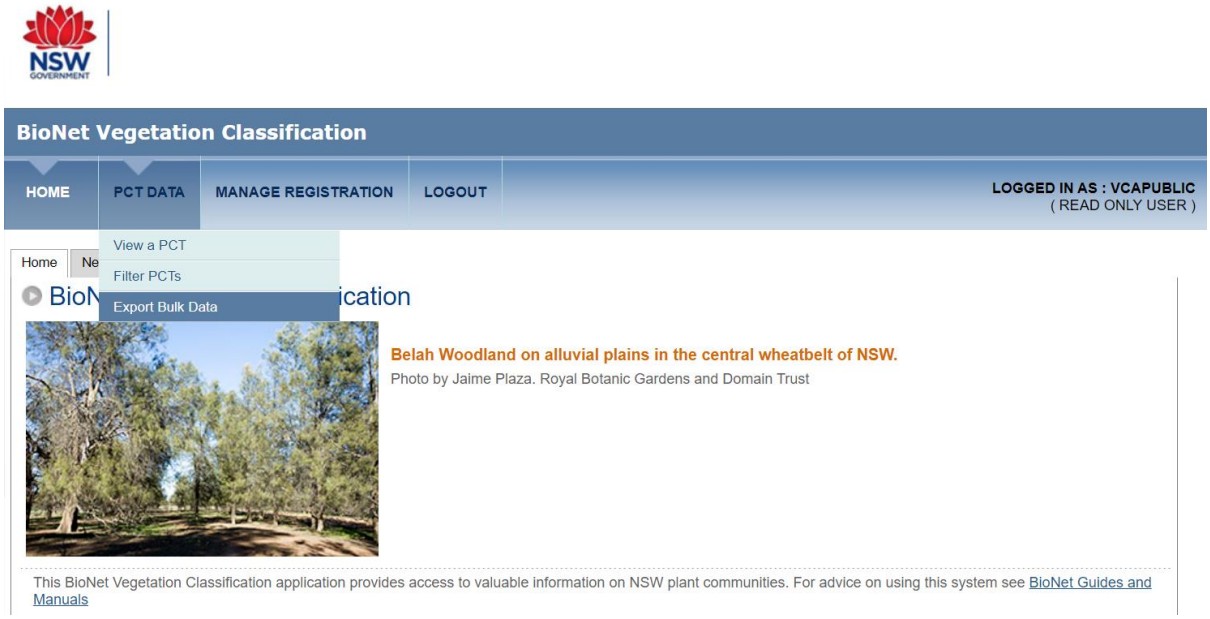

Figure 7 Export bulk data

6. Click on the 'PCT Vegetation Condition Benchmarks data' hyperlink

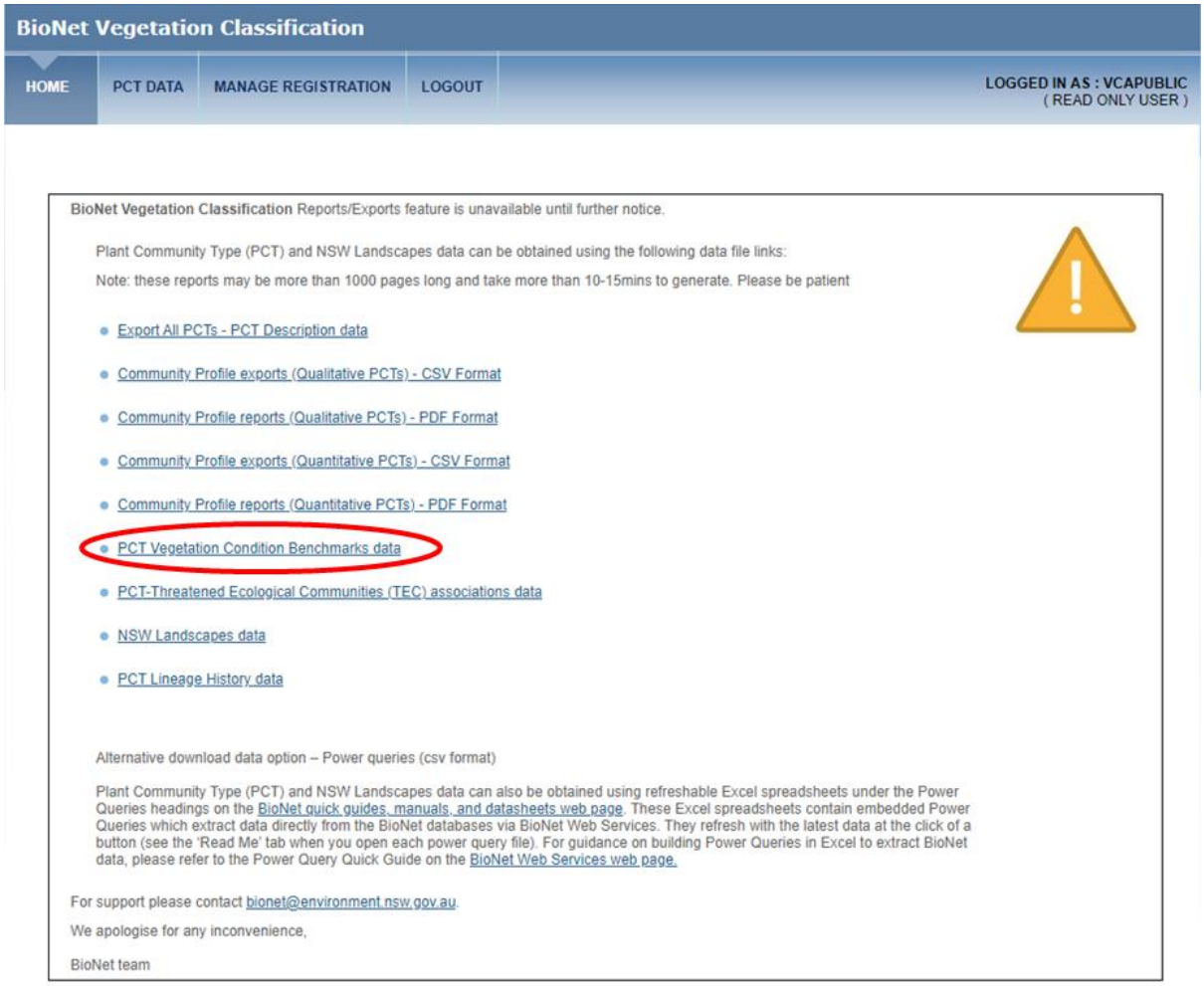

Figure 8 Click the hyperlink to produce a csv export of Vegetation Condition Benchmark data for all PCTs

How to access benchmark data using BioNet Web Services

The simplest way to access benchmark data directly from BioNet Web Services is to download a copy of the pre-prepared 'BioNet Plant Community Types Benchmarks data' Power Query. This can also be accessed by navigating to the BioNet resources webpage directly or via the link from the 'Export Bulk Data' menu item in the BioNet Vegetation Classification application.

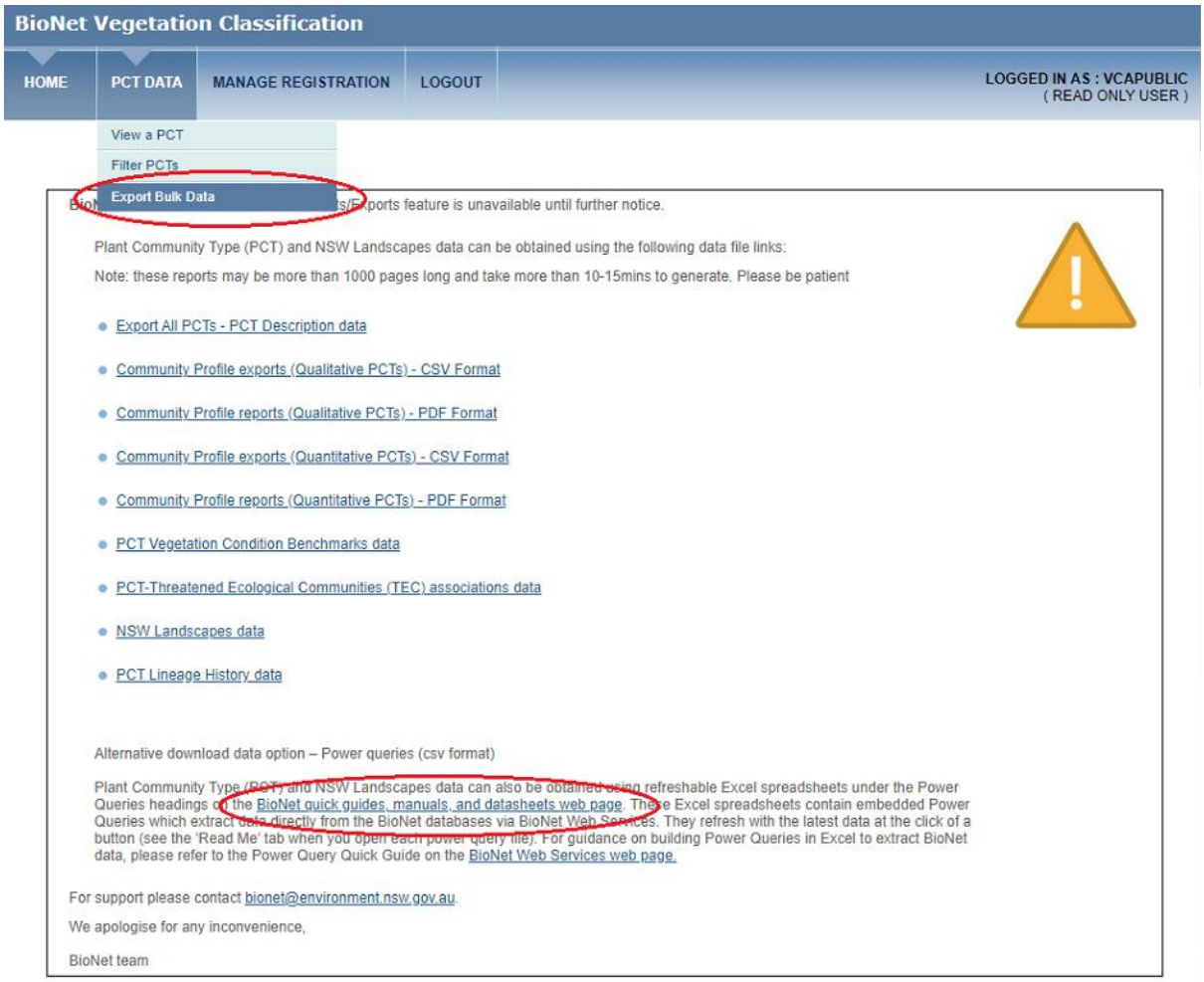

Figure 9 Navigate to the BioNet Power Queries from within the BioNet Vegetation Classification application

Alternatively, you can build your own Power Query to tap into the power of the BioNet Web Services.

This section provides instructions for producing a Power Query in Excel that can be saved and refreshed at any time to download up-to-date data from the BioNet Web Services.

Step 1: Open Microsoft Excel.

Step 2: Open the ‘Data’ menu

Step 3: Click on the ‘Get Data’ icon, then select ‘From Other Sources’ and click on ‘From OData Feed’.

Note: For more information on how to access the BioNet Web Services using Excel and Power Query refer to *How to access the BioNet Web Service using Excel and Power Query: A BioNet Quick Guide*.

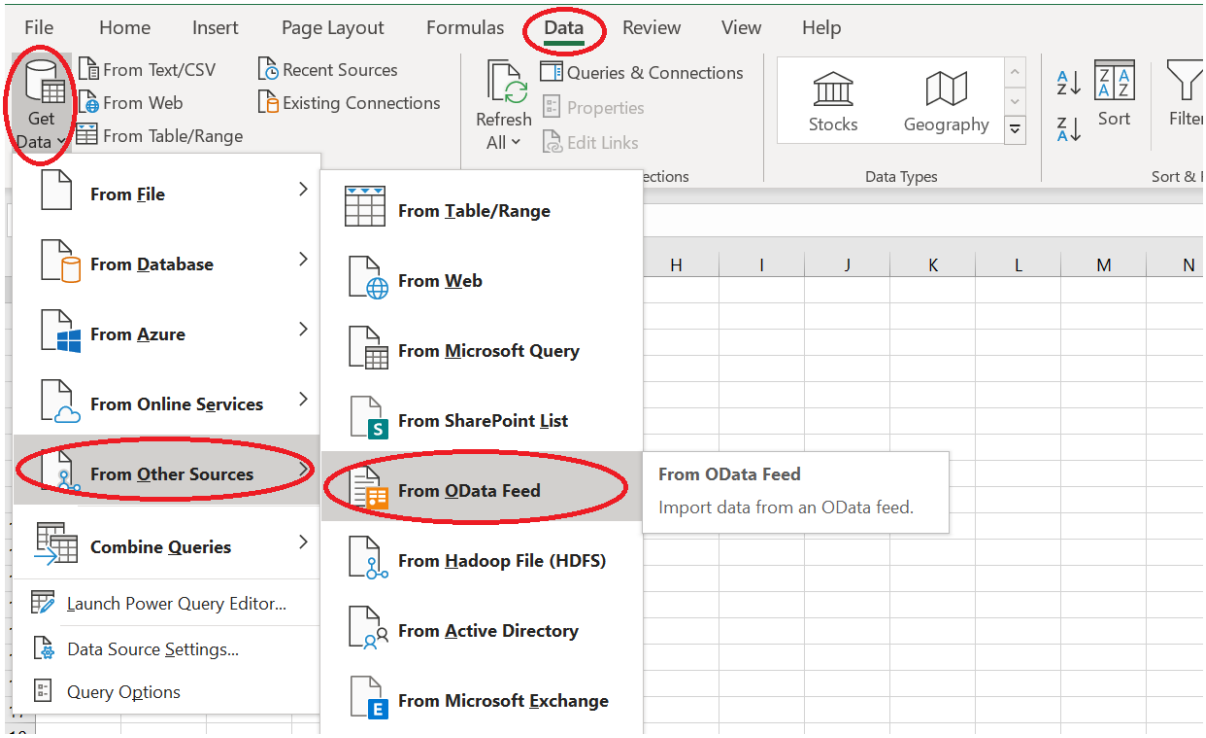

Figure 10 Steps to select 'OData Feed' in Excel

Step 4: In the OData feed URL dialogue box enter https://data.bionet.nsw.gov.au/biosvcapp/odata and click ‘OK’.

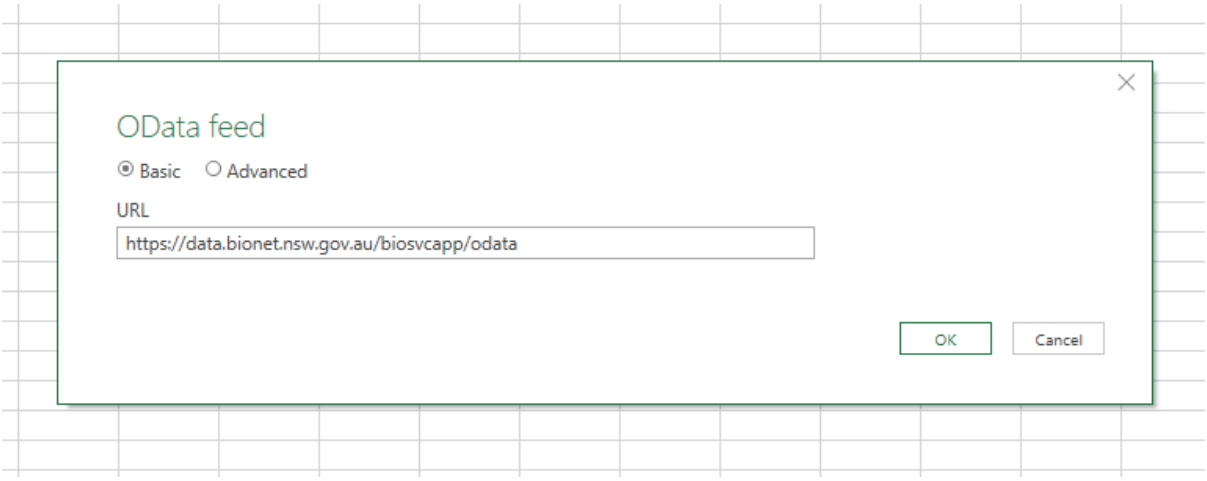

Figure 11 Specify the BioNet Web Services URL

7. Select the PCT benchmark entity set in BioNet Web Services

Step 1: Select the option ‘VegetationClassification_PCTBenchmarks’ in the ‘Navigator’ popup.

Step 2: Click on ‘Transform Data’ to preview full details for the first 1,000 data rows.

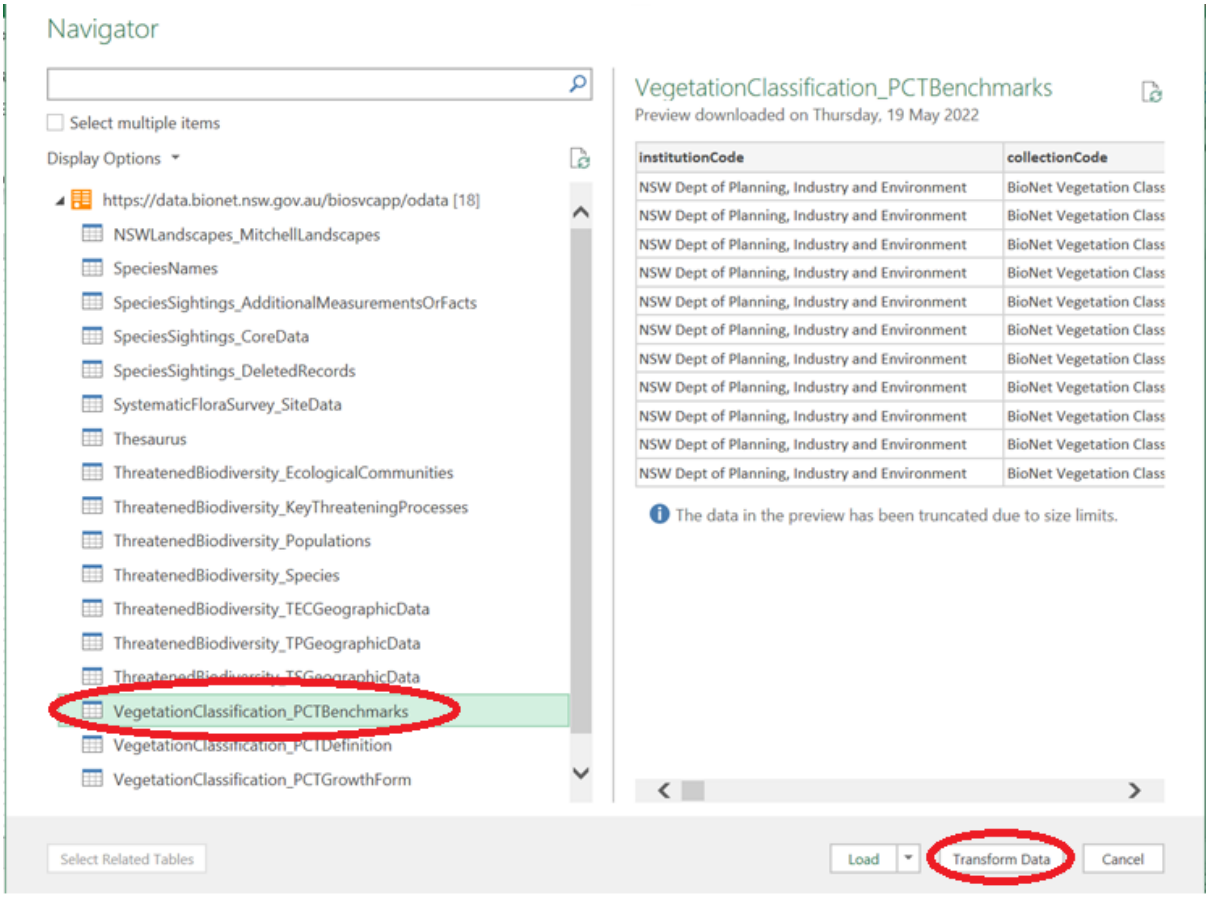

Figure 12 Select PCT benchmarks web service

Step 3: Benchmarks by PCT will be displayed in the Power Query Editor.

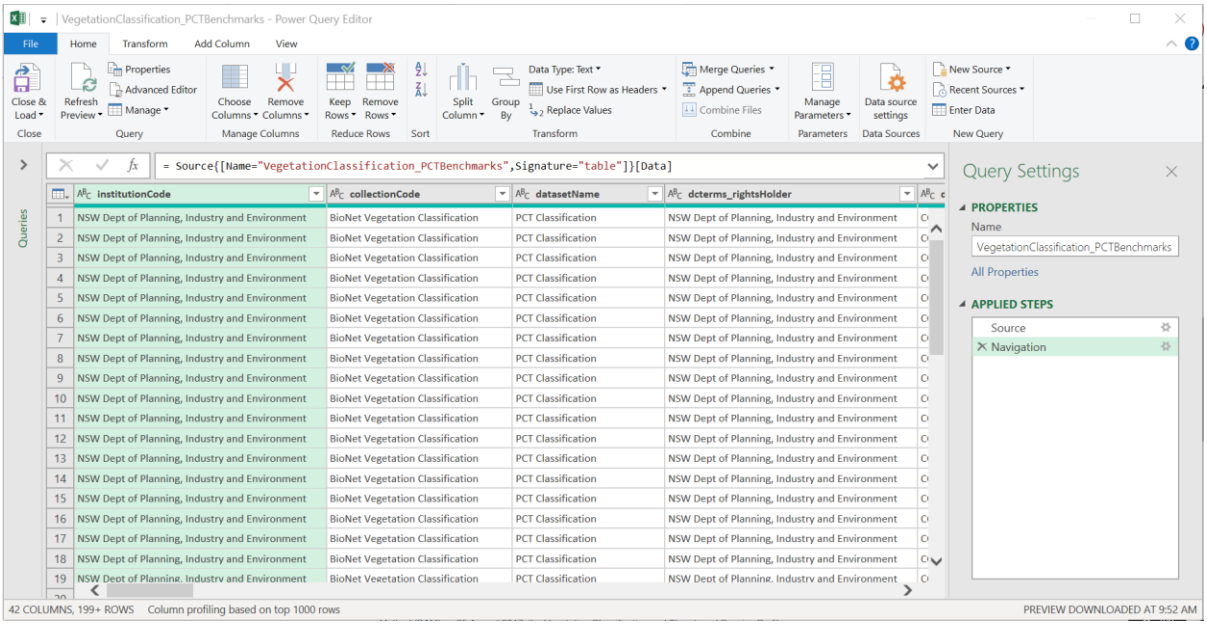

Figure 13 Benchmarks by PCT data displayed in Power Query Editor

Step 4: Selecting only the columns of data you are interested in makes the download quicker and more efficient. This is not a mandatory step.

Click on ‘Choose Columns’ on the Home tab. Now check the columns you need on the ‘Choose Columns’ popup, and click ‘OK’. The chosen columns will be displayed (Figure 15).

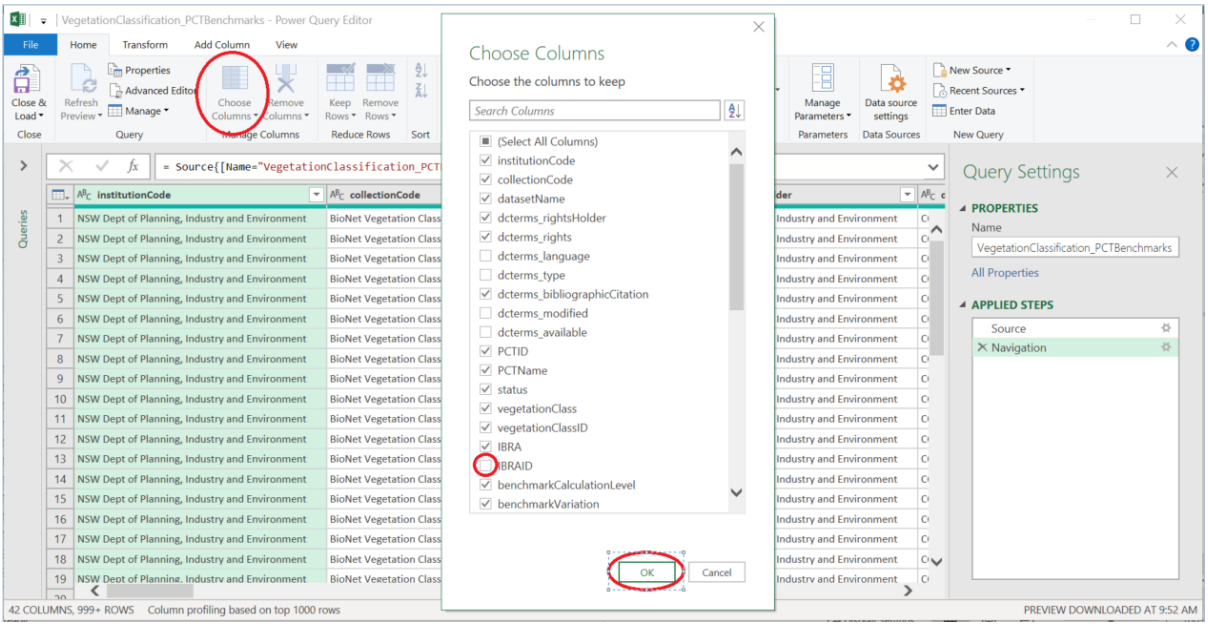

Figure 14 Choose only the desired columns for a smaller and quicker data download

Step 5: Click on the ‘Close and Load’ button to load your data into your spreadsheet.

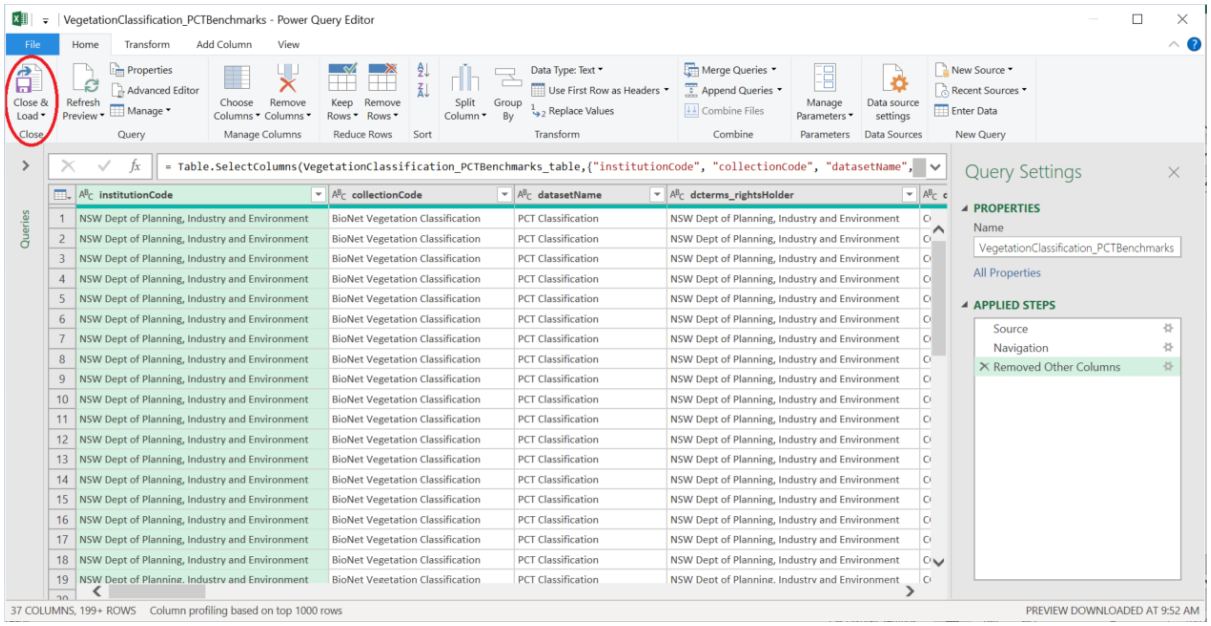

Figure 15 Selected columns displayed in Power Query Editor (top 1,000 rows only)

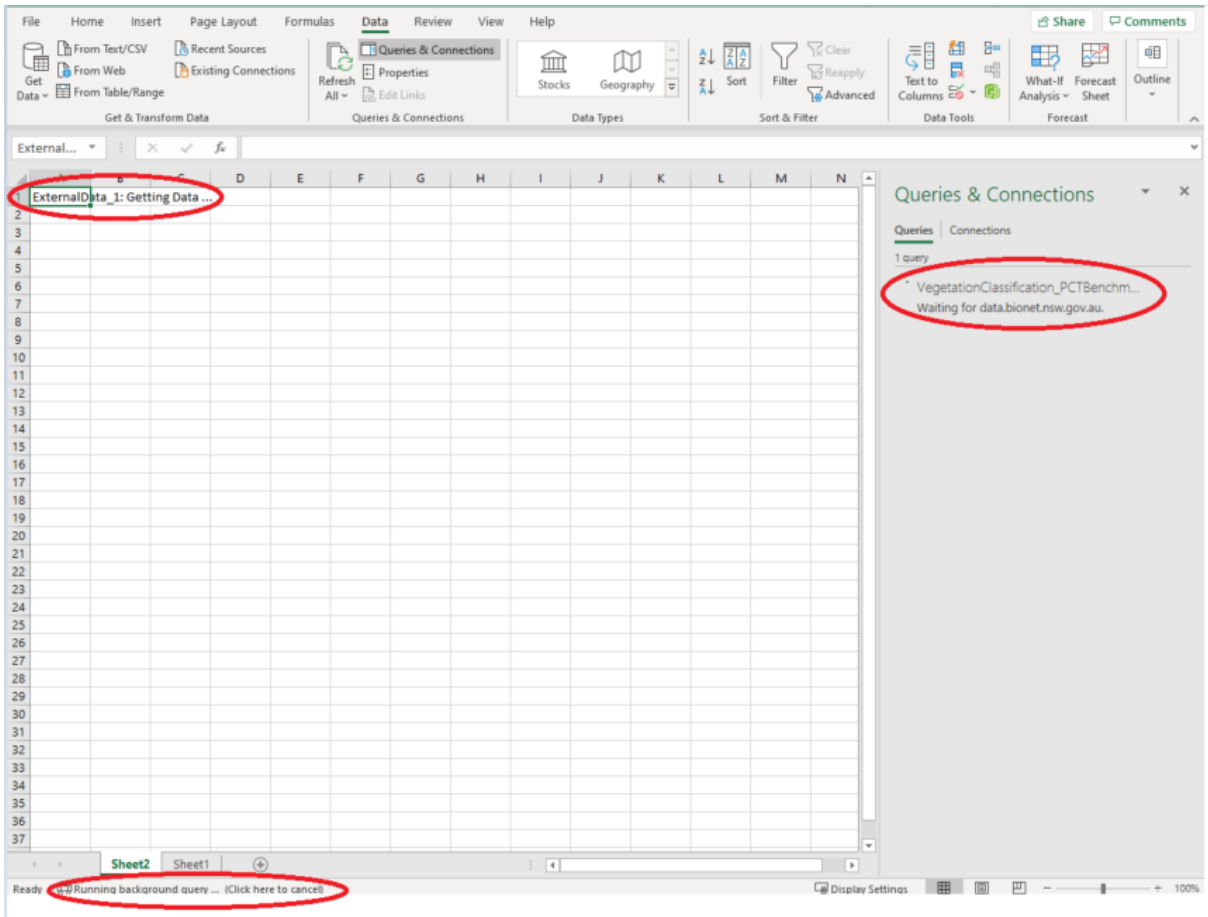

Figure 16 Execution of Power Query: up-to-date data being retrieved via the BioNet Web Services

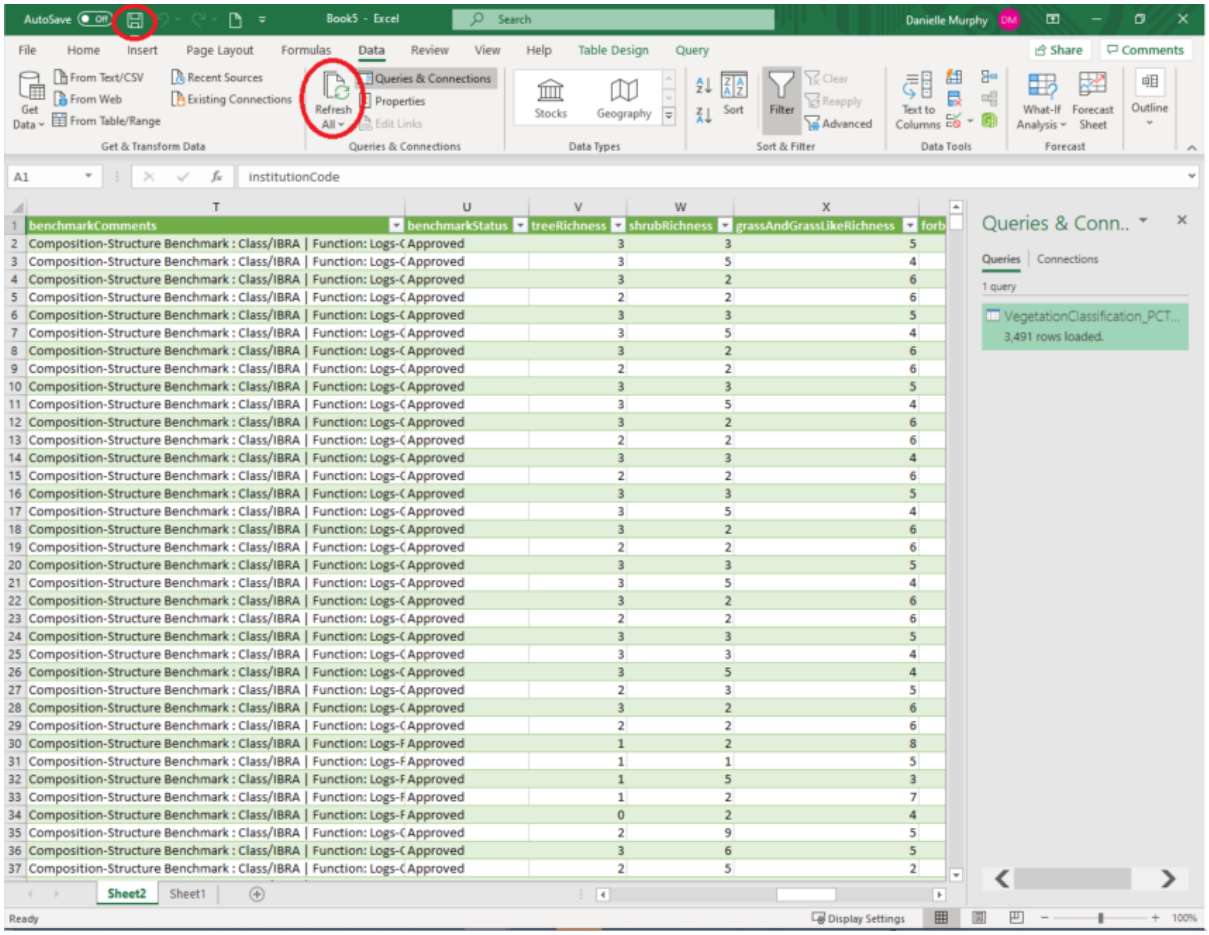

Figure 17 Spreadsheet populated with benchmark data

Step 6: Save the Excel spreadsheet.

Step 7: To obtain up-to-date data at any time, open the ‘Data’ menu and click on ‘Refresh All’. Wait for the Power Query to run. Save your updated file.

More information

- BioNet Plant Community Types Benchmarks data Power Query
- BioNet resources
- BioNet Vegetation Classification application
- BioNet Vegetation Classification user manual
- How to access the BioNet Web Service using Excel and Power Query: A BioNet Quick Guide

You can also contact the BioNet team at bionet@environment.nsw.gov.au.