

Brisbane 1946 Remnant Vegetation Mapping

Brisbane City Council required an assessment of the historic extent of remnant vegetation within the City area, as part of their State of the Environment 2000 reporting. BMT WBM undertook an extensive assessment of the remnant vegetation present in the City area in 1946, based on interpretation of a set of historical (1946) air photos.

This involved the development of a classification system, which would allow the separate identification of “bushland”, “mangroves” and “saltmarsh” vegetation using air photo interpretation alone, without the use of ground-truthing. Once this system was developed and approved by Council, all remnant vegetation within the City area was traced off the air photos onto overlay sheets, and digitised to produce a geo-referenced map layer compatible with Council’s existing GIS layers.

All information was provided in GIS format (MapInfo) such that data could be directly imported to Council’s database. A new layer was also created and provided, containing the digitized locations of the centrepoin ts of each of the air photos, which facilitated in relating the photos to the areas of the map layers to which they corresponded.

The results of this study have provided Council with very useful statistics relating to historical vegetation cover, including area figures (in hectares) and proportions for the total extents of bushland, mangroves and saltmarsh within Brisbane City.

Client

Brisbane City Council

Date

2000

Services & Expertise Provided

Air photo interpretation of historical aerial photographs;

Development of classification scheme;

Digitising remnant vegetation boundaries in MapInfo; and

All vegetation mapping in GIS format (MapInfo).

