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# Patch Data Viewer: a tool for planning investment in vegetation extent and condition from patch to regional scales

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### **SUMMARY**

The management of native vegetation is an important aspect of natural resource management (NRM) in Australia, and a focal area for Landscape Logic. Patch Data Viewer (PDV) is a GIS-based decision support tool that was designed as part of Landscape Logic to allow NRM groups and other natural resource managers to examine and map the distribution of vegetation communities and patches of native vegetation from the level of individual properties to landscapes and whole catchments. We developed the tool initially for Tasmania. It can be easily modified for use in any region of the world and by any organisation that has access to spatial information on native vegetation and wishes to use that knowledge in decision-making. The application grew out of a need to characterise the distribution of remnant native vegetation across landscapes and to provide desktop ways to search identifiable characteristics of individual remnant vegetation patches. The use of PDV allows the characteristics of individual vegetation patches to be examined at a property, landscape and regional level in ways that support management decisions. For example, the unique location, vegetation community composition, size, perimeter length and distance to the nearest neighbouring patch can be determined and