

APPENDIX 8: NVIS growth form codes and descriptions

Growth Form Code		Description
T	Tree	Woody plants, more than 2m tall with a single stem or branches well above the base.
M	Tree Mallee	Woody perennial plant usually of the genus <i>Eucalyptus</i> . Multi-stemmed with fewer than 5 trunks of which at least 3 exceed 100mm at breast height (1.3m). Usually 8m or more.
S	Shrub	Woody plants multi-stemmed at the base (or within 200mm from ground level) or if single stemmed, less than 2m.
Y	Mallee Shrub	Commonly less than 8m tall, usually with 5 or more trunks, of which at least 3 of the largest do not exceed 100mm at breast height (1.3m).
Z	Heath Shrub	Shrub usually less than 2m, with sclerophyllous leaves having high fibre: protein ratios and with an area of nanophyll or smaller (less than 225 sq. m.). Often a member of the following families: EPACRIDACEAE, MYRTACEAE, FABACEAE and PROTEACEAE. Commonly occur in nutrient-poor substrates.
C	Chenopod Shrub	Single or multi-stemmed, semi-succulent shrub of the family CHENOPODIACEAE exhibiting drought and salt tolerance.
U	Samphire Shrub	Genera (of Tribe SALICORNIOIDEAE, viz: <i>Halosarcia</i> , <i>Pachycornia</i> , <i>Sarcocornia</i> , <i>Sclerostegia</i> , <i>Tecticornia</i> and <i>Tegicornia</i>) with articulate branches, fleshy stems and reduced flowers within the CHENOPODIACEAE family, succulent chenopods. Also genus <i>Sueda</i> .
G	Tussock Grass	Forms discrete but open tussocks usually with distinct individual shoots, or if not, then forming a hummock. These are common agricultural grasses.
H	Hummock Grass	Coarse xeromorphic grass with a mound-like form often dead in the middle; genera are <i>Triodia</i> and <i>Plectrachne</i> .
W	Other grass	Member of the family POACEAE, but having neither a distinctive tussock nor hummock appearance.
V	Sedge	Herbaceous, usually perennial erect plant generally with a tufted habit and of the families CYPERACEAE (true sedges) or RESTIONACEAE (node sedges).
R	Rush	Herbaceous, usually perennial erect monocot that is neither a grass nor sedge. For the purposes of NVIS, rushes include the monocotyledon families JUNCACEAE, TYPHACEAE, LILIACEAE, IRIDACEAE, XYRIDACEAE and the genus <i>Lomandra</i> (i.e. "graminoid" or grass-like genera).
F	Forb	Herbaceous or slightly woody, annual or sometimes perennial plant (usually a dicotyledon).
D	Tree-fern	Characterised by large and usually branched leaves (fronds), arborescent and terrestrial; spores in sporangia on the leaves.