

Woody native vegetation

Percentage cover

South Australia's

Environmental trend and condition report card 2018



STATEWIDE



Trend
Stable



Condition
Unknown



Reliability
Excellent

Trend

The statewide trend in the percentage cover of woody native vegetation is stable; however, an increase in cover was seen in some natural resources management (NRM) regions.

This assessment uses data on woody native vegetation (e.g. woodlands and shrublands) from the South Australian land cover layers 1990-2015.

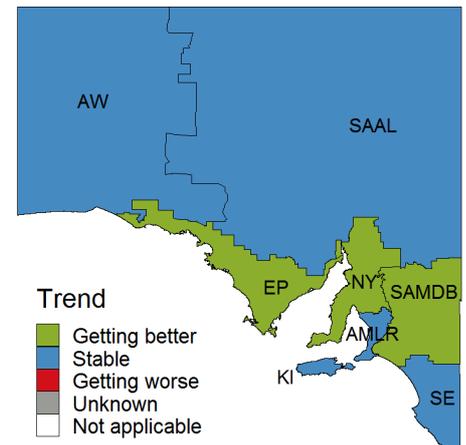
The trend in percentage cover of woody native vegetation is getting better in three NRM regions (Eyre Peninsula [EP], Northern and Yorke [NY] and South Australian Murray–Darling Basin [SAMDB]) and is stable in five regions (Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges [AMLR], Alinytjara Wilurara [AW], Kangaroo Island [KI], South Australian Arid Lands [SAAL] and South East [SE]) (top figure). The increase is estimated at 520,000 hectares of woody native vegetation. Most of this increase is due to gradual replacement of low native vegetation with woody native shrubs.

Prior to 1990 the reduction in extent of woody native vegetation was extensive. For example, more than 60% of all native vegetation in the Mount Lofty Ranges has been removed.

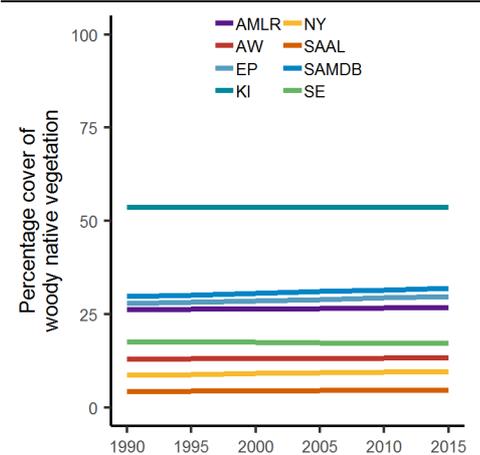
Condition

The condition of woody native vegetation percentage cover is rated as unknown because there are no agreed statewide benchmarks.

Statewide, woody native vegetation was estimated to be 10,675,990 hectares. At the regional level, estimates are 177,750 ha in AMLR, 3,706,130 ha in AW, 1,537,830 ha in EP, 235,630 ha in KI, 333,710 ha in NY, 2,430,740 ha in SAAL, 1,796,270 ha in SAMDB and 457,930 ha in SE (bottom figure).



Woody native shrubs are replacing low native vegetation in some areas across South Australia



Why is woody native vegetation important?

Woody native vegetation provides habitat for South Australia's plants and animals, including those that are threatened.

Woody native vegetation protects soils, coastlines and waterways from erosion and salinity. It supports agricultural production through windbreaks, shelter for stock, and habitat for pollinators and predators of agricultural pests. Woody native vegetation helps connect people with nature.

What are the pressures?

Woody native vegetation is being lost to clearances for urban and agricultural development, old age and lack of regeneration.

What is being done?

Native vegetation in South Australia is protected under native vegetation, protected areas and pastoral legislation. Approval to clear native vegetation can be coupled with conditions to provide an environmental gain over and above the clearing activity.

Native vegetation is also maintained by activities such as revegetation, fencing, managing grazing and fire regimes, and controlling pest plants and animals.

For further information see: [technical information](#)



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