

Terrestrial protected areas: landscapes adequately protected



Biodiversity | Terrestrial

South Australia's environmental trend and condition report cards 2023



Trend
Getting better



Condition
Fair



Reliability
Good

RESPONSE

Trend

The statewide trend in landscapes adequately protected is getting better.

The protected area system in Australia aims to include more than 10% of all landscapes and ecosystems. A 'landscape' is an area of thousands of square kilometres comprising groups of interacting ecosystems, such as scrublands, farmlands and creeks. 'Protected areas' includes all areas safeguarded by legislation, such as national parks, conservation reserves, wilderness protection areas, and Indigenous Protected Areas. For a landscape to be considered adequately protected, more than 10% of its total area must be under protection.

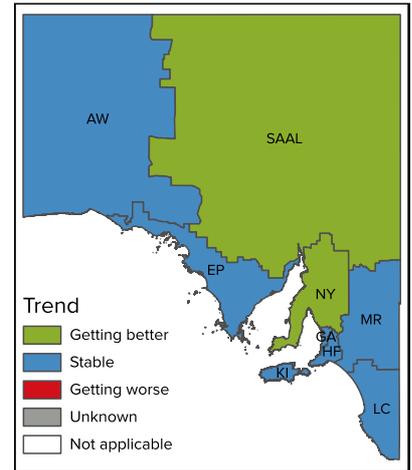
The level of protection for 382 landscapes across South Australia were assessed. Regional trends in landscapes adequately protected are getting better in 2 regions (Northern and Yorke (NY) and South Australian Arid Lands (SAAL)) and are stable in 7 regions (Hills and Fleurieu (HF), Alinytjara Wilurara (AW), Eyre Peninsula (EP), Kangaroo Island (KI), Murraylands and Riverland (MR), Limestone Coast (LC) and Green Adelaide (GA)) (top figure).

Condition

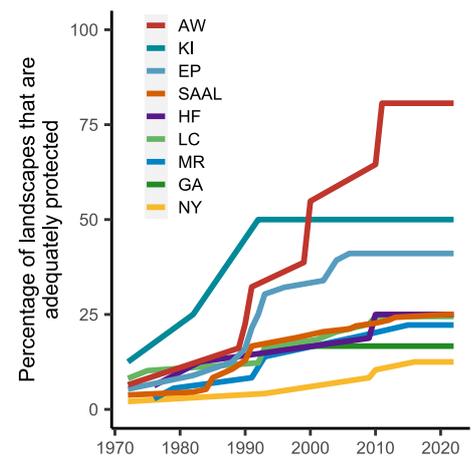
The percentage of landscapes adequately protected is considered fair.

In South Australia, 30% of landscapes have achieved adequate protection. At the regional level, percentage of protection varies across different areas: 81% in AW (Very good), 50% on KI (Good), 41% in EP (Fair), 25% in HF (Fair), 25% in SAAL (Fair), 24% in LC (Poor), 22% in MR (Poor), 17% in GA (Poor), and 12% in NY (Poor), see bottom figure.

Recent additions to the protected area system include: Aldinga Washpool addition to Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park, Hindmarsh Valley National Park, Nilpena Ediacara National Park, and a new section added to Scott Creek Conservation Park.



South Australia's landscape protection is getting better, with 30% adequately protected, and positive trends in some regions.



Why are terrestrial protected areas important?

South Australia's protected areas support the conservation of the state's biodiversity, including native plants and animals, as well as Indigenous cultural landscapes. Terrestrial protected areas also provide broader social, economic and environmental outcomes beyond their boundaries, such as tourism opportunities, food and water security, health and wellbeing benefits, and amenity values.

What are the pressures?

The protected areas network protects landscapes and wildlife habitats from a range of pressures, e.g. urban and agricultural development.

Management of protected areas requires a balance of social, economic and environmental outcomes and consideration of how competing uses may impact biodiversity conservation goals.

Pressures on protected areas will increase under a changing climate.

What is being done?

New land has been added to South Australia's protected areas network, and new parks have been proclaimed.

Recent investment in terrestrial protected areas has focused on: protecting sites with important cultural and environmental values; nature-based recreation and tourism; additional ranger employment opportunities; and improved capacity to prepare for bushfires.

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



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Government of South Australia