

# 2014 Regional Snapshot

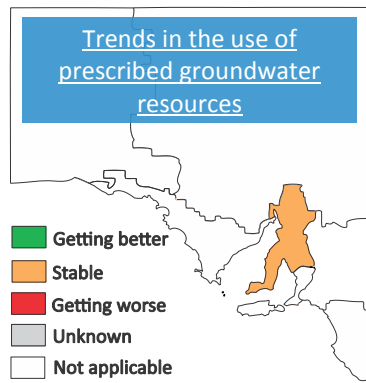
## Are our groundwater resources being sustainably used?


The Northern and Yorke NRM region relies on groundwater for its town water supplies and agriculture industry. Groundwater also sustains a range of ecosystems.

Excessive use of groundwater can cause water levels to drop and salinity to increase, which can impact industries and degrade water-dependent ecosystems, particularly if [climate change](#) impacts on rainfall patterns and reduces the rainfall needed to refresh groundwater aquifers in the future.

The groundwater resources we rely on the most and those that were at the greatest risk of degradation are now [prescribed](#) and have [water allocation plans](#). These plans ensure water resources will be able to provide for us in the future. There are 2 prescribed groundwater management areas in the Northern and Yorke NRM region (map below). Sustainable limits for water use have not been established in these areas; assessments on sustainable use have been made based on extraction data, rainfall and water levels in the [groundwater status reports](#).

The water levels and salinity of our groundwater resources are reported [here](#).



 **State target**  
Maintain the productive capacity of our natural resources

<b>Trend (2009-13)</b>	Stable	Groundwater resources have been used within sustainable limits since 2009
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In the Northern and Yorke NRM region, there are 2 prescribed water resource areas: the [Baroota](#) and the [Clare Valley](#) Prescribed Water Resource Areas (see map below). Trends in the sustainable use of groundwater resources are stable.

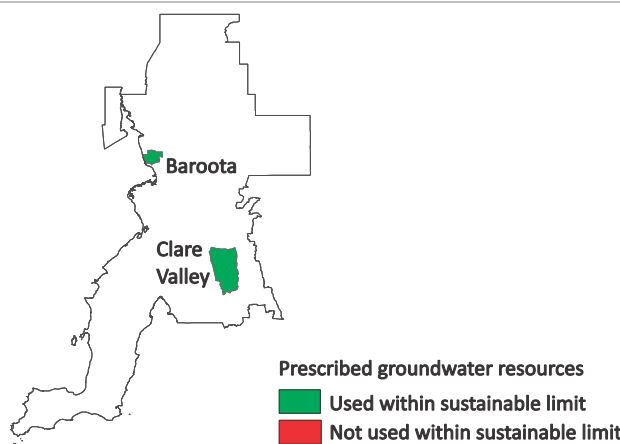
The Baroota Water Allocation Plan is currently being developed and sustainable limits are being established, but use from 2009-13 was considered sustainable.

The Clare Valley Water Allocation Plan does not have sustainable limit sets, but use from 2009 to 2013 is considered sustainable.

<b>Where we are at (2013)</b>	Good	Prescribed groundwater resources were all used within sustainable limits
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Groundwater use for the Baroota and Clare Valley Prescribed Water Resources Areas is considered to be sustainable in 2013, although there are water use data, sustainable limits have not been established for these areas.

Managing our prescribed groundwater resources within their sustainable limits relies on consistent and timely measurements of rainfall, water levels, salinity and water use.



<b>Reliability of information</b>	★★★★☆	Very Good
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**Further information:**  
[Technical information for this report](#)  
 Reports on the [status of South Australian water resources](#)