

# 2014 Regional Snapshot

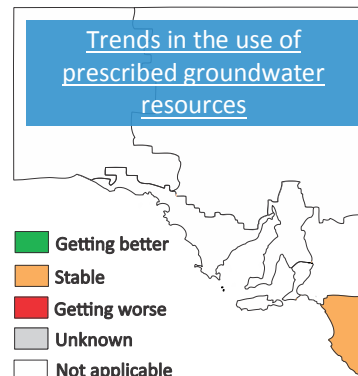
## Are our groundwater resources being sustainably used?

The South East NRM region relies on groundwater for its town water supplies, agricultural and industrial use. 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](#) with sustainable use limits defined in [water allocation plans](#). These plans ensure water resources will be able to provide for us in the future. There are 4 prescribed groundwater management areas in the South East NRM region (map below), which are made up of 5 separate groundwater resources (aquifers) that have sustainable limits determined for water use.

This report card summarises [groundwater status reports](#) to assess if groundwater resources are used within their sustainable limits. The water levels and salinity of our groundwater resources are reported [here](#).



State target

Maintain the productive capacity of our natural resources

### Trend (2009–13)

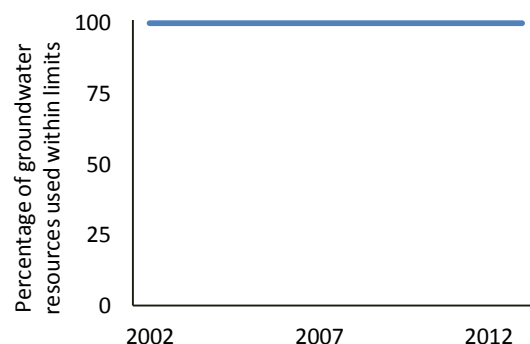
Stable

Groundwater resources have been used within sustainable limits since 2002

In the South East NRM region there are 4 prescribed groundwater resource areas: the [Lower Limestone Coast](#), [Padthaway](#), [Tintinara-Coonalpyn](#), and the [Tatiara](#) Prescribed Wells Areas, each of which includes 2 aquifers (see map below). The sustainable limit for each resource is determined every year by the amount of rainfall received.

Trends in the sustainable use of groundwater resources are stable.

Since 2002, all of our prescribed groundwater resources in the South East NRM region have been used within sustainable limits.



### Where we are at (2013)

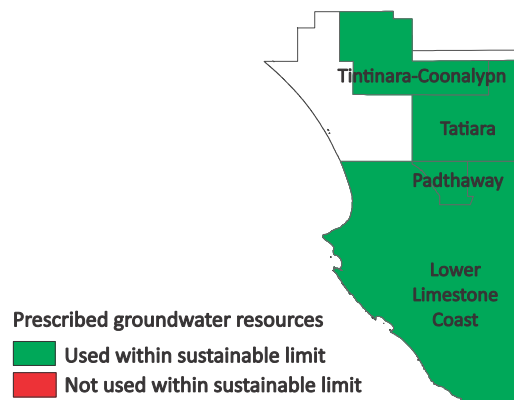
Good

Prescribed groundwater resources were all used within sustainable limits

In 2013, all of our groundwater resources in the South East NRM region were used within their sustainable limit (map on right). Licensed use of water in these areas ranged from zero in the Pathaway confined aquifer to about 83 per cent of the limit in the Tatiara unconfined aquifer in the prescribed areas.

The Lower Limestone Coast prescribed area adopted a new Water Allocation Plan in November 2013 to further ensure that the groundwater in this area is used sustainably and that all uses are accounted for.

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



### Reliability of information



Very Good

Further information: [Technical information for this report](#) and reports on the [status of South Australian water resources](#)