

2016 State Report Card

Are the extent and condition of our coastal dunes improving?

The marine environment provides valuable resources for regional economies, supporting tourism, commercial and recreational fishing, aquaculture, shipping and mining. Most South Australians live near the coast, and many coastal and marine systems are under pressure from human impacts. Coastal dunes prevent erosion and store sand, which naturally replenishes wave-washed beaches. Vegetation stabilises dunes by trapping sand and acting as a barrier against waves, tides and wind. Without vegetation, coastal dunes are easily eroded. This causes the coastline to recede and sand to drift into urban areas.

Coastal dunes play an important role in Aboriginal laws, customs, beliefs and traditions. Dunes often contain heritage sites protected under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988*. Coastal dunes also provide important habitat for specialised coastal plants and animals in South Australia, such as the critically endangered orange-bellied parrot.

Coastal dunes are eroded by human trampling, off-road vehicles and excessive stock grazing. Coastal infrastructure, such as building and roads, can prevent the natural processes of sand deposition and erosion within dune systems.

The health of our coastal dunes relies on the management of recreational activities, stock grazing and coastal development.



Regional trends in coastal dune extent and condition



State target

Improve condition of coastal and marine ecosystems

Trend in extent and condition

Unknown

Ongoing efforts will be needed to monitor and protect our coastal dunes

Coastal dunes are present in the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges, Alinytjara Wilurara, Eyre Peninsula, Kangaroo Island, Northern and Yorke, SA Murray-Darling Basin and South East NRM regions. The majority of the state's coastal dunes are in the Eyre Peninsula NRM region (approximately 43 per cent) and the South East NRM region (approximately 24 per cent).

Trends in the extent and condition of coastal dune habitats across South Australia are unknown (map above).

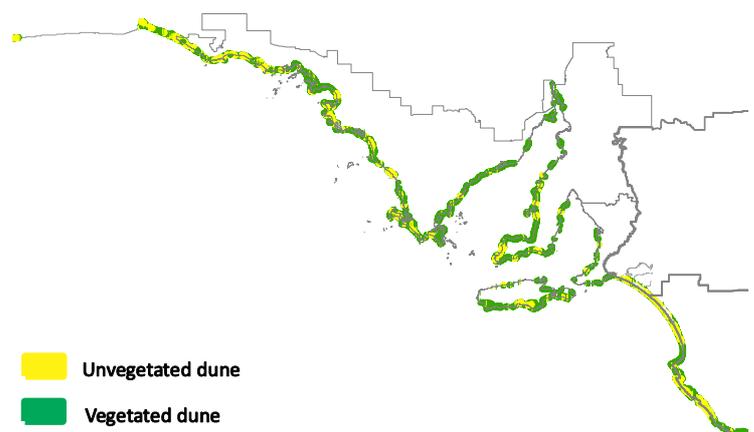
Where we are at (2007)

Unknown

The condition of coastal dunes in South Australia is largely unknown

The condition of coastal dunes throughout the state is largely unknown. Studies of dune condition have not been undertaken in any NRM region.

Large areas of coastal dunes have been modified or removed since pre-European times. The percentage of remaining coastal dunes that have vegetation indicates the stability of the dunes. Remaining coastal dunes in the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges and Kangaroo Island NRM regions are the most stable, with approximately 97 per cent having vegetation (map on right). In contrast, only 63 per cent of coastal dunes in the Alinytjara Wilurara NRM region have vegetation.



Source: broad-scale mapping, DEWNR 1997-2007.

Reliability of information



Fair

Further information:

[Technical information for this report card](#), [Coast Protection Board](#)

