

2014 Regional Snapshot

Are the extent and condition of our coastal dunes improving?

The coastal and 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, dunes may be easily eroded causing the coastline to recede and sand to drift into urban areas. Coastal dunes also provide important habitat for specialised coastal plants and animals in South Australia, such as the critically endangered orange-bellied parrot.

In the SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM region, coastal dunes are eroded by human trampling, off-road vehicles and excessive stock grazing. Coastal infrastructure, such as buildings and roads located on dunes, are vulnerable to erosion and can prevent 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.



Trend 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

Approximately 4 per cent of the state's coastal dunes are in the SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM region.

Trends in the extent and condition of coastal dune habitats across South Australia are not known (map above).

Where we are at (2007)

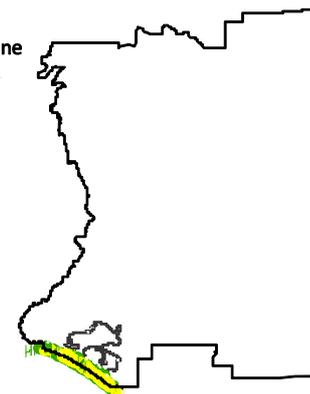
Unknown

The condition of coastal dunes in the SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM region 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.

The percentage of coastal dunes that have vegetation indicates the stability of the dunes. Approximately 74 per cent of coastal dunes habitats in the SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM region are vegetated (map on right).

Unvegetated dune
Vegetated dune



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

Reliability of information



Fair

Further information:

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