

# 2016 State Report Card

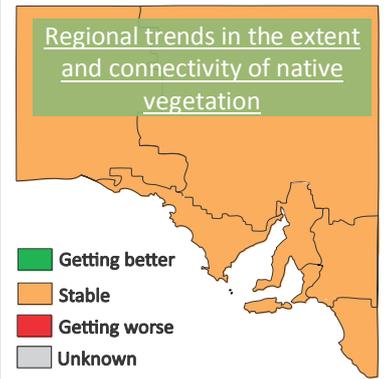
## Are the extent and connectivity of our native vegetation improving?

South Australia's native vegetation—from small ground covers and native grasses to large trees and aquatic plants—is fundamental to the health of our environment and the prosperity of our primary industries.

Native vegetation protects our land and water from erosion and dryland salinity, while improving our agricultural productivity and storing [carbon](#). It provides habitat for our native animals, places for recreation, and is culturally important for Aboriginal people.

Human development has degraded the condition of our native vegetation through clearance and fragmentation. Native plants and animals that cannot move between patches of native vegetation become more susceptible to local disturbances that threaten their survival (e.g. fires and [pests](#)).

This report card summarises the coverage (extent) and fragmentation (connectivity) of our native vegetation, and should be read with reports on vegetation [condition](#) and [protection](#).



State target

Increase extent and improve condition of native vegetation

Trend (1999–2014)

Stable

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Our remaining native vegetation has been protected by [legislation](#) since 1991, so both the extent and connectivity have stabilised. Improved land management, revegetation, natural regeneration and [pest plant and animal](#) control since that time have helped to stabilise native vegetation cover. Government legislation permits the clearance of native vegetation for some developments, but the clearance must be offset by additional investment in revegetation. Some [illegal clearance](#) also occurs.

Natural resource managers prioritise revegetation efforts to expand intact areas of native vegetation and to create corridors to connect isolated patches. Together with our network of [protected areas](#), this improves the survival of native plants and animals.

Where we are at (2014)

Fair

Good

Historic agricultural and urban developments cleared or isolated much of the native vegetation in the southern NRM regions.

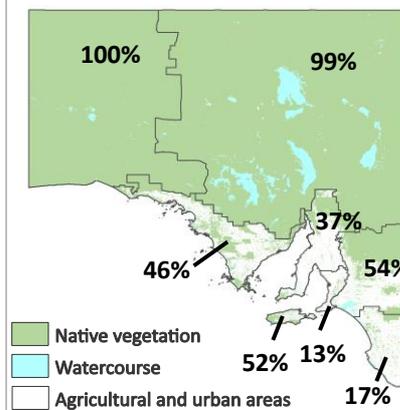
Minimal clearance has occurred in our arid NRM regions.

Extensive clearance has occurred in the Adelaide and Mount Lofty, Kangaroo Island, Eyre Peninsula, Northern and Yorke and the South East NRM regions. About 25 per cent of native vegetation remains in these regions, and less than half of the patches are connected (see maps on right).

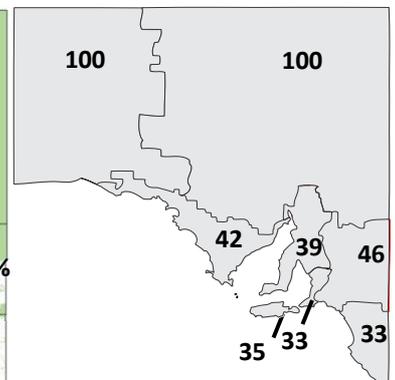
In the SA Arid Lands and Alinytjara Wilurara NRM regions, 99 per cent of the native vegetation remains. There is a naturally low density of plants in arid landscapes and connectivity can be degraded through poor land management, particularly during droughts.

We have severely degraded much of our native vegetation. Substantial conservation investments are required to improve its [condition](#) and to connect patches of native vegetation.

Remaining vegetation extent



Percentage of connected patches



Reliability of information



Very good

Further information:

[Technical information for this report card](#), [DEWNR native vegetation](#), [Nature Conservation Society of South Australia](#)

