

2014 Regional Snapshot

How much of our native vegetation is protected?

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

Development has necessarily impacted our native vegetation. It has been cleared from 14 per cent of South Australia, with extensive clearance in the 6 agricultural NRM regions (75 per cent cleared) and less in the arid NRM regions (SA Arid Lands, Alinytjara Wilurara; 1 per cent cleared).

By permanently protecting some areas we build the capacity of our native plants and animals to adapt to climate change and other pressures. South Australian and Australian governments [aim](#) to protect at least 10 per cent of the area of all ecosystems, across all ecosystem scales, including broad ([bio-regional](#)), medium ([sub-regional](#)) and fine ([environmental associations](#)).

This report summarises the coverage of our protected areas in the Alinytjara Wilurara NRM region, and the percentage of environmental associations that are *adequately protected* (10 per cent of the area). This report should be read alongside others on vegetation [condition](#), [extent and connectivity](#).

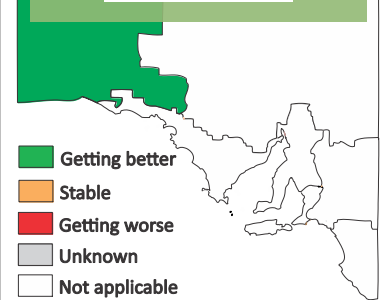


State target

Increase extent and improve condition of native vegetation



Trend in the protection of native vegetation



Trend (2008–13)

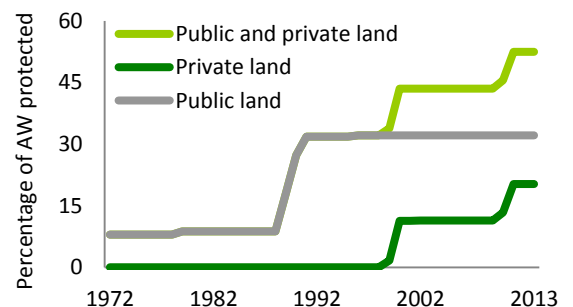
Getting Better

There was an increase in the number of adequately protected ecosystems (environmental associations) in the Alinytjara Wilurara NRM region

Over the last 6 years there was an increase in the number of *adequately protected* (10 per cent of the area) environmental associations in Alinytjara Wilurara NRM region (map above).

Public protected areas now cover 32 per cent of the Alinytjara Wilurara NRM region and private areas cover 20 per cent (graph on right).

Public protected areas are National and Conservation Parks, Regional Reserves and Wilderness Protection Areas. Private areas comprise Heritage Agreements and Indigenous Protected Areas.



Where we are at (2013)

Good

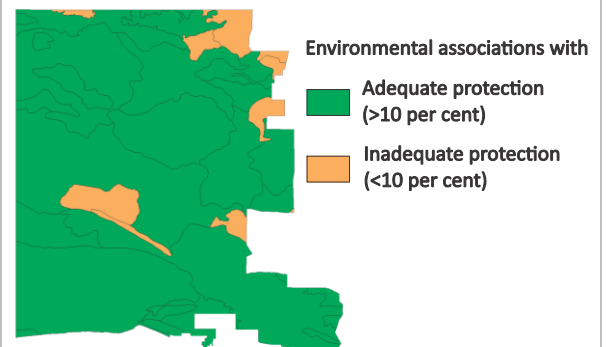
The Alinytjara Wilurara NRM region is mostly Aboriginal lands, with over two thirds of its ecosystems (environmental associations) adequately protected

At the end of 2013, 75 per cent of the 40 environmental associations in the Alinytjara Wilurara NRM region were classified as *adequately protected* (map on right). The highest percentage among NRM regions in South Australia.

Large additions to protected areas over the past 40 years include the Nullarbor National Park, Yellabinna Regional Reserve and Tallaringa Conservation Park in the 1980s, and Watarru, Walalkara, Antara-Sandy Bore and Aparra-Makiri-Punti Indigenous Protected Areas since 2000.

Across the Alinytjara Wilurara NRM region, 13 per cent of environmental associations did not have any areas that were protected.

This information is used by the South Australian and Australian governments to prioritise investments in ecosystems that require protection.



Reliability of information



Very Good

Further information: [Technical information for this report](#), [DEWNR native vegetation](#), Strategies for establishing protected areas in [South Australia](#) and [Australia](#)