

# 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 SA Arid Lands 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](#).



Trend in the protection of native vegetation



State target:

Increase extent and improve condition of native vegetation

### Trend (2008-13)

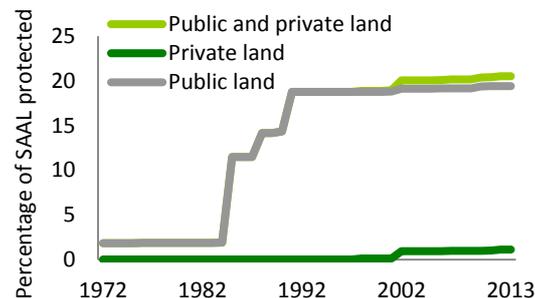
Getting better

There was an increase in the number of adequately protected ecosystems (environmental associations) in the SA Arid Lands 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 SA Arid Lands NRM region (map above).

Public protected areas now cover 19 per cent of SA Arid Lands NRM region and private areas cover 1 per cent (graph on right).

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



### Where we are at (2013)

Fair

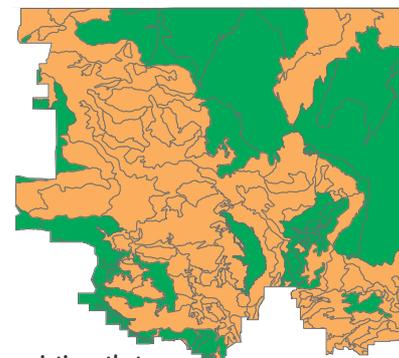
The SA Arid Lands NRM region is dominated by agricultural industries. Almost one third of its ecosystems (environmental associations) are adequately protected.

At the end of 2013, 30 per cent of the 155 environmental associations in the SA Arid Lands NRM region were classified as *adequately protected* (map on right).

Over the last 40 years, large additions to protected areas include the Simpson Desert, Innamincka, Lake Frome and Strzelecki Regional Reserves, Kati Thandara-Lake Eyre, Lake Gairdner and Lake Torrens National Parks between 1985 and 1991, and Bimbowrie Conservation Park and Arkaroola Protection Area in the last 5 years.

Across the SA Arid Lands NRM region, 35 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.



Environmental associations that are

- Adequately protected (>10 per cent)
- Inadequately protected (<10 per cent)

### 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](#)

