2014 Regional Snapshot

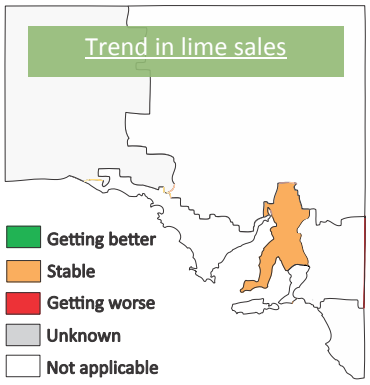
Is soil acidity decreasing in our agricultural areas?

Healthy soil provides us with food and fibre through our crops and livestock. Healthy soil provides nutrients for crops and pastures, stores and cycles water and carbon, and resists erosion.

About 13 per cent of Northern and Yorke NRM region's agricultural land has naturally occurring acidic soil. Acidic soil limits the fertility and productivity of agricultural areas.

Agricultural production accelerates soil acidification, particularly where large quantities of produce are harvested, and where fertilisers that contain or form ammonium are used.

Land managers can reduce acidity by applying lime to their soils. Lime sales are monitored to track the management of soil acidity in Northern and Yorke NRM region's agricultural areas.



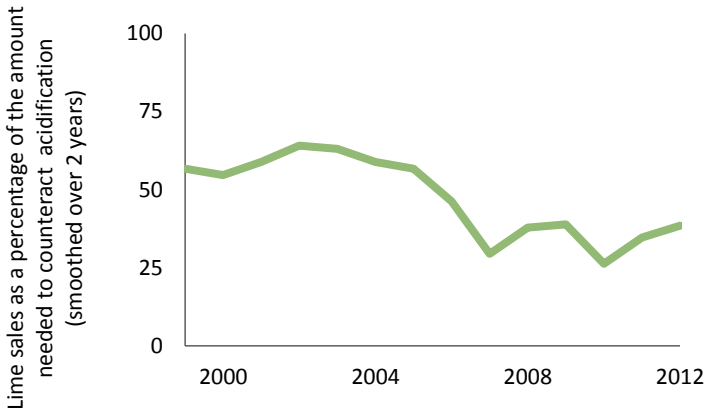
State target

Improve soil and land condition

Trend (2008-12)	Stable	Ongoing efforts will be needed to increase the amount of lime applied to our soils

Between 2008-12, land managers in Northern and Yorke NRM region applied about 17,000 tonnes of lime each year to counteract soil acidification.

The amount of lime sold relative to the estimated amount needed to counteract acidification each year has reduced over the last decade, but stabilised between 2008-12 (see graph on right).



Where we are at (2012)	Fair	Land managers applied about a 40 per cent of the amount of lime needed to counteract soil acidification

The amount of lime currently applied in Northern and Yorke NRM region is 40 per cent of the amount that is required to counteract soil acidification. Many land managers do not apply lime because they perceive it to be too costly.

Controlling soil acidification is important to maintain long term productivity of agricultural soils.

Reliability of information	★★☆☆☆	Fair

Further information:
Technical information for this report
Soil and land condition monitoring in South Australia

This report is a work in progress. As resource monitoring improves, so too will our ability to describe trends in condition.

Government of South Australia