

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 10 per cent of SA Murray-Darling Basin 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 SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM region's agricultural areas.

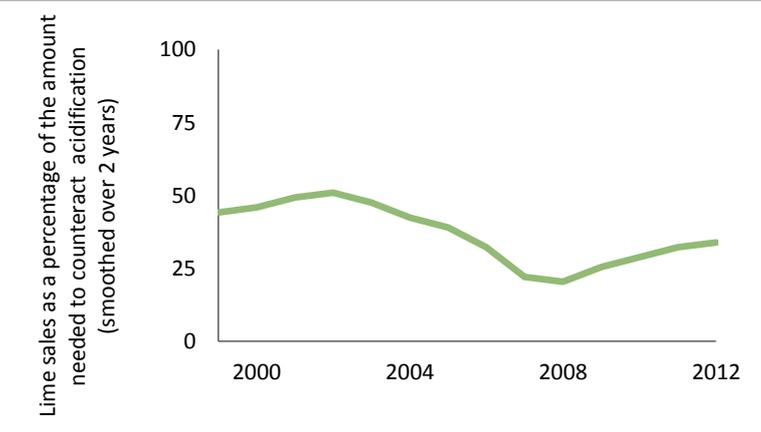


 **State target**
Improve soil and land condition

Trend (2008-12)	Getting Better	Ongoing efforts will be needed to increase the amount of lime applied to our soils
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Between 2008-12, land managers in SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM region applied about 9,000 tonnes of lime each year to counteract soil acidification.

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



Where we are at (2012)	Fair	Land managers applied about a third of the amount of lime needed to counteract soil acidification
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The amount of lime currently applied in SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM region is 34 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
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Further information:
[Technical information for this report](#)
[Soil and land condition monitoring in South Australia](#)