2014 Regional Snapshot

What are the distribution and abundance of weeds?

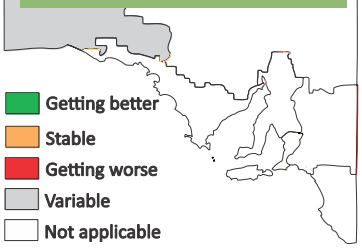
Weeds compete with our native and agricultural plants. They contribute to land degradation, reduce farm productivity, contaminate crops and grains, increase bushfire fuel and can be toxic to people, livestock or native animals. In 2004, weeds were estimated to cost Australian farmers about $4 billion every year.

In 2007, 70 per cent of pastoral businesses in the arid lands (SA Arid Lands and Alinytjara Wilurara NRM regions combined) reported weed problems.

There are a number of locally important weeds established in the Alinytjara Wilurara NRM region, including 4 Weeds of National Significance. Weeds of National Significance are nationally recognised as the most serious threats to biodiversity and/or the economy.

This information should be read alongside reports on the management of weeds and pest animals.

Trend in the distribution and abundance of Weeds of National Significance



State target

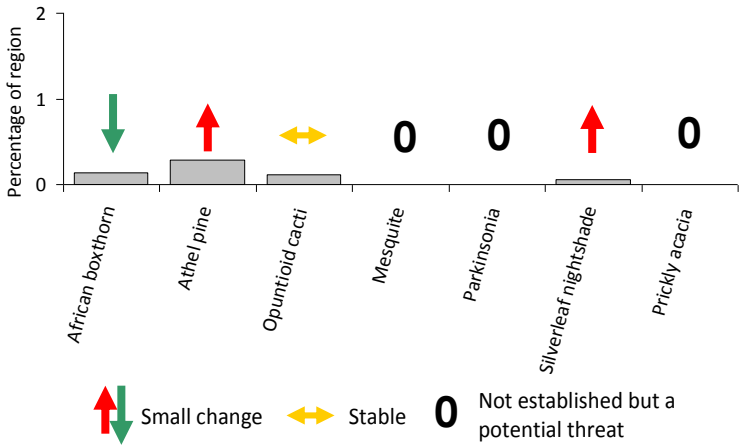
Limit the establishment of pests and diseases and reduce the impact of existing pests

Trend (2008-12)	Variable	The trends for Weeds of National Significance vary between species: 2 species are increasing, 1 is decreasing and 1 is stable

Trends in the distribution and abundance of Weeds of National Significance in the Alinytjara Wilurara NRM region vary depending on species (map above).

The distribution and abundance of African boxthorn has decreased between 2008-12. Athel pine and silverleaf nightshade have increased, while opuntioid cacti are stable (arrows on graph).

There are 3 Weeds of National Significance that are not established in the NRM region but are considered a potential threat.

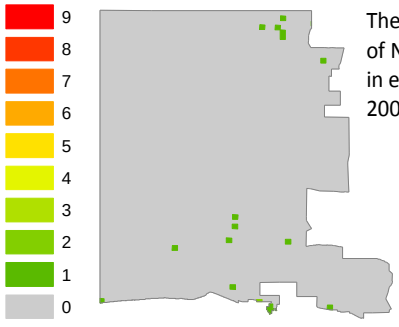


Where we are at (2012)	Fair	Managing weeds continues to be a complex challenge

Based on records from 2000-12 African boxthorn, athel pine, opuntioid cacti and silverleaf nightshade have each been recorded in less than one per cent of the Alinytjara Wilurara NRM region (graph above and map on right).

Many Weeds of National Significance are restricted to higher rainfall areas. Because the Alinytjara Wilurara NRM region is an arid region it is not prone to as many of these weeds.

The areas where Weeds of National Significance have been recorded (map to right) do not reflect the impacts of recent control efforts.



The number of Weeds of National Significance in each 10x10 km area, 2000-12

Reliability of information	★☆☆☆☆	Poor, there are insufficient data on the abundance and trends of weeds

Further information:
Technical information for this report, Weeds in South Australia