2014 Regional Snapshot

What are the distribution and abundance of weeds?

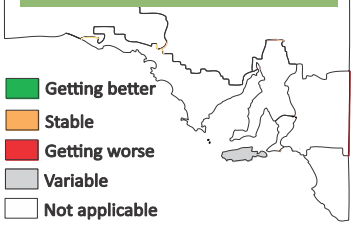
Weeds compete with our native and agricultural plants. They contribute to land degradation, reduce farm and forest productivity, contaminate crops and grains, increase bushfire fuel and can be toxic to people, livestock or native animals. In 2004, weeds were estimated to cost Australian farmers about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

In 2007, about half of agriculture businesses in the Kangaroo Island NRM region implemented weed control.

There are a number of locally important weeds established in the Kangaroo Island NRM region, including 7 Weeds of National Significance. Weeds or 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

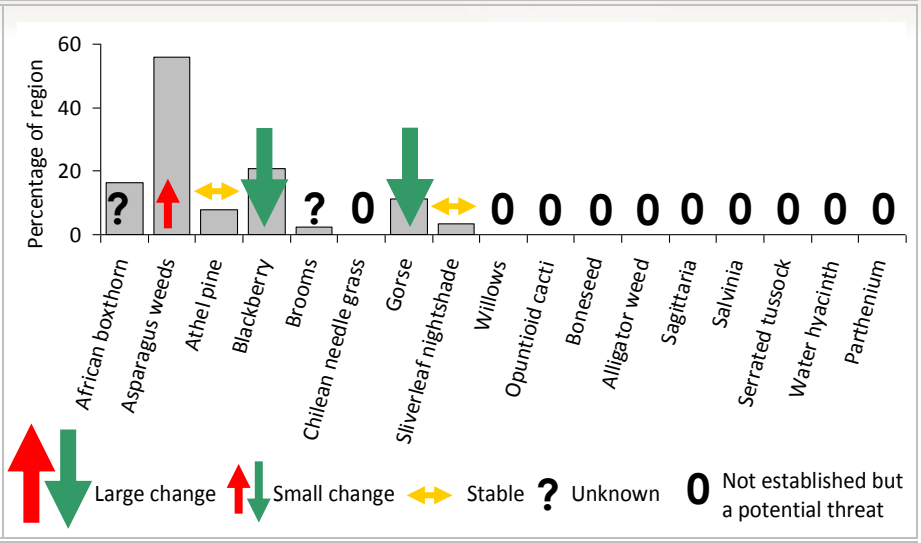
Limit the establishment of pests and diseases and reduce the impact of existing pests

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

Trends in the distribution and abundance of Weeds of National Significance in the Kangaroo Island NRM region vary between species (map above).

The distribution and abundance of blackberry and gorse have been heavily reduced by control efforts. The distribution and abundance of a number of asparagus weeds have increased, and African boxthorn and brooms are not known (arrows on graph).

There are 10 Weeds of National Significance that are not established in the NRM region but are considered a potential threat.

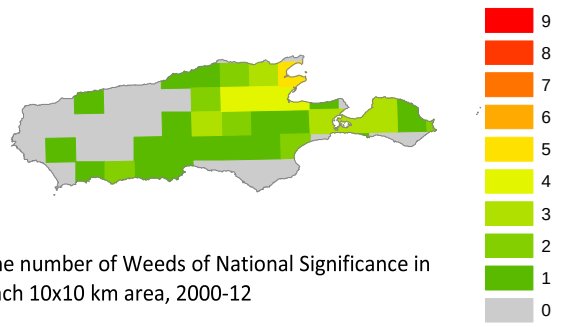


Where we are at (2012)	Poor	Managing weeds continues to be a complex challenge

Based on records from 2000-12, asparagus weeds have been recorded in more than half of the Kangaroo Island NRM region. Blackberry and African boxthorn have been recorded in 21 and 16 per cent of the region, respectively (graph above, map on right).

Weeds of National Significance are generally most common in the areas with higher rainfall and greater disturbance, such as around Kingscote township (map to right). Some weeds have only been recorded in small areas because they are restricted by climatic and soil conditions.

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