

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 SA Arid Lands NRM region including 7 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)

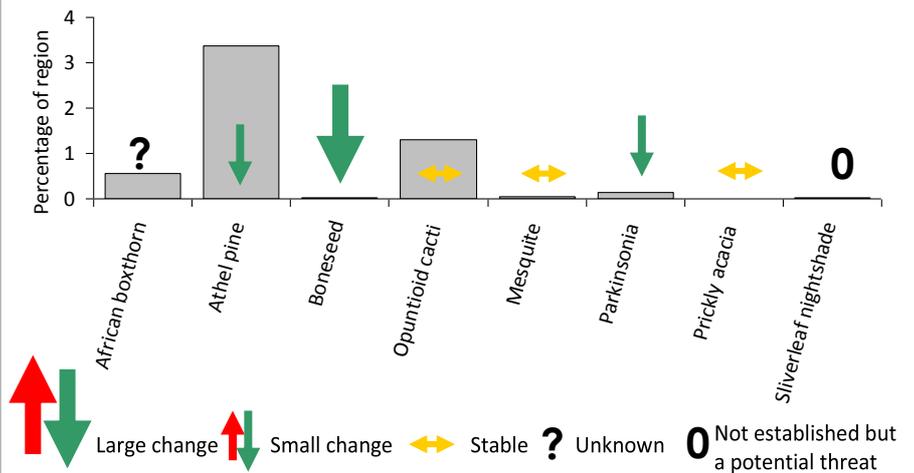
Getting Better

The trends for Weeds of National Significance vary between species: 3 are decreasing and 3 are stable

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

The distribution and abundance of athel pine, parkinsonia and boneseed have decreased. Opuntioid cacti, mesquite and prickly acacia are stable (arrows on graph).

Silverleaf nightshade has not established in the NRM region but is considered a potential threat.



Where we are at (2012)

Fair

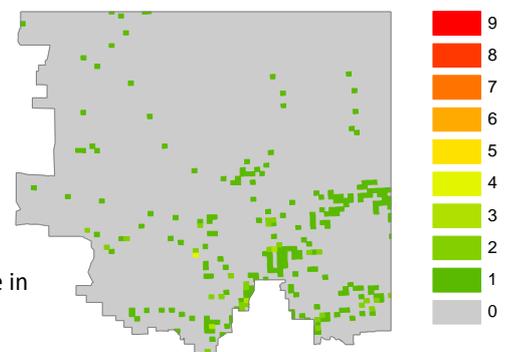
Managing weeds continues to be a complex challenge

Based on records from 2000-12, athel pine, opuntioid cacti and African boxthorn have been recorded in less than 5 per cent of the SA Arid Lands NRM region (graph above, map to right).

Many Weeds of National Significance are restricted to higher rainfall areas. Because the SA Arid Lands NRM region is an arid region it is not prone to as many 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](#)