

2014 Regional Snapshot

Are our groundwater resources being sustainably used?

The Eyre Peninsula NRM region relies on groundwater for its town water supplies and agriculture industry. Groundwater also sustains a range of ecosystems.

Excessive use of groundwater can cause water levels to drop and salinity to increase, which can impact industries and degrade water-dependent ecosystems, particularly if [climate change](#) impacts on rainfall patterns and reduces the rainfall needed to refresh groundwater aquifers in the future.

The groundwater resources we rely on the most and those that were at the greatest risk of degradation are now [prescribed](#) with sustainable use limits defined in [water allocation plans](#). These plans ensure water resources will be able to provide for us in the future. There are 2 prescribed groundwater management areas in the Eyre Peninsula NRM region (map below), which are made up of 6 separate groundwater resources (aquifers), which have sustainable limits determined for water use.

This report card assesses if groundwater resources are used within their sustainable limits, based on [groundwater status reports](#) and water allocation plans. The water levels and salinity of groundwater are reported [here](#).



Trends in the use of prescribed groundwater resources



State target

Maintain the productive capacity of our natural resources

Trend (2009-13)

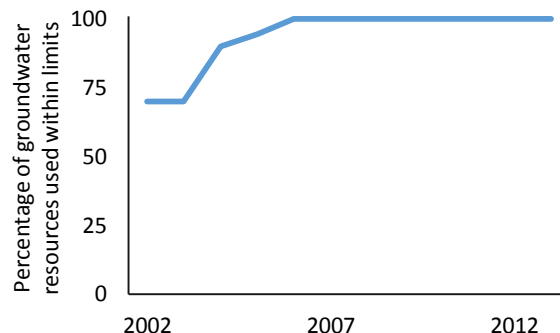
Stable

Groundwater resources have been used within sustainable limits since 2009

In the Eyre Peninsula NRM region, there are 2 prescribed groundwater resource areas: the [Southern Basins](#) Prescribed Wells Area, which includes 13 aquifers around Coffin Bay and Port Lincoln, and the [Musgrave](#) Prescribed Wells Area, which includes 11 aquifers around the central west coast (see map below). The sustainable limit for each resource is determined every year by the amount of rainfall received.

Trends in the sustainable use of groundwater resources are stable.

Since 2006, all of our prescribed groundwater resources in the Eyre Peninsula NRM region have been used within sustainable limits.



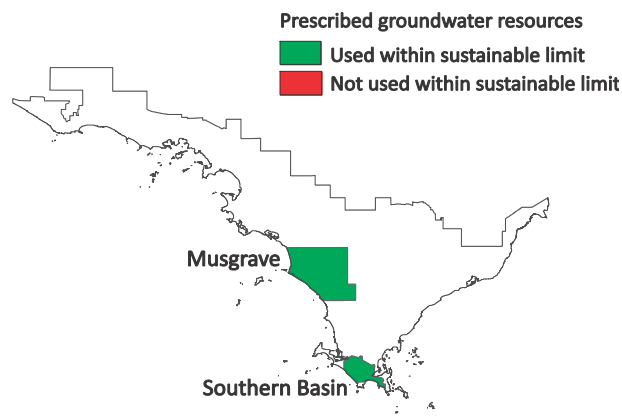
Where we are at (2013)

Good

Prescribed groundwater resources were all used within sustainable limits

In 2013, all of the groundwater resources in the Eyre Peninsula NRM region were used within their sustainable limit (map on right). Licensed use of water in these areas ranged from about 1 per cent of the limit in the Lincoln Basin, to nearly 100 per cent in the Vanilla aquifer in the Southern Basins Prescribed Wells Area.

Managing our prescribed groundwater resources within their sustainable limits relies on consistent and timely measurements of rainfall, water levels, salinity and water use.



Reliability of information



Very Good

Further information:

[Technical information for this report](#) and reports on the [status of South Australian water resources](#)