

2014 Regional Snapshot

How many Aboriginal people are involved in NRM?

The protection and management of natural resources have been traditional responsibilities of Aboriginal people for tens of thousands of years. Despite widespread changes to Australia over the last 200 years, healthy natural resources remain critical to the spiritual, social, cultural and economic wellbeing of Aboriginal people.

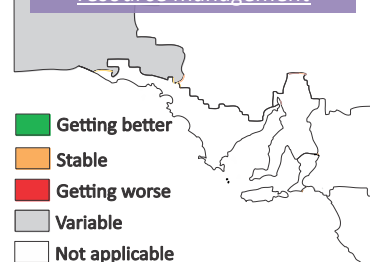
This report tracks Aboriginal involvement in natural resource management through participation in projects, boards, committees, workshops and employment with the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR).

The 2011 Australian Bureau of Statistics census indicates that over 2,200 Aboriginal people live in the Alinytjara Wilurara NRM region – about 77 per cent of the population.

In South Australia the unemployment rate of Aboriginal people was about three times higher than for non-Aboriginal people, between 2005-11. The Government of South Australia aims to increase Aboriginal employment in all public sector agencies to at least 2 per cent across all levels. DEWNR has an additional target to increase Aboriginal employment by 20 per cent by 2018 in the Alinytjara Wilurara NRM region, including contractors and casual staff.



Trend in involvement of
Aboriginal people in natural
resource management



State target

Involve more people in the sustainable management of natural resources

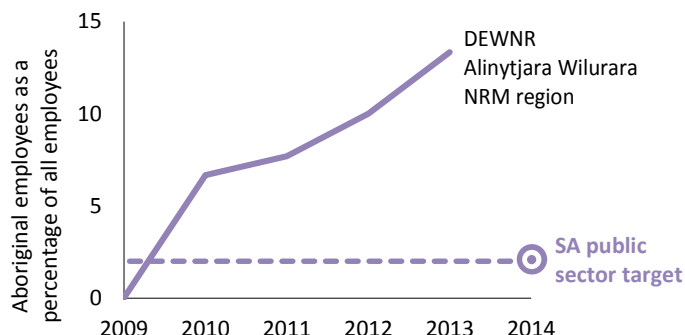
Trend (2009-13)

Variable

In this NRM region, Aboriginal employment is increasing within DEWNR. More information is needed to report trends in Aboriginal participation in NRM.

From 2010-13, DEWNR exceeded the Aboriginal employment target of 2 per cent (public sector target, graph on right) in the Alinytjara Wilurara NRM region.

In 2013, there were 2 Aboriginal staff employed by DEWNR (13 per cent of all staff) in partnership with the Alinytjara Wilurara NRM Board. The regional Board also funded 84 Aboriginal people as external contractors with full-time (3 people) and part-time (81) employment.



Where we are at (2013)

On track

Aboriginal people represent 13 per cent of DEWNR employees in this NRM region. More information is needed to report Aboriginal participation rates in NRM.

The knowledge of Aboriginal people guides natural resource management through their participation in boards, committees and workshops. The Alinytjara Wilurara NRM Board has 7 members who are Aboriginal people. Six Aboriginal people also participate in co-management boards and committees that manage natural resources.

In 2013, 154 Aboriginal people volunteered in field activities, supported by the NRM Board, DEWNR and the Australian Government. However, it is thought that the available information underestimates Aboriginal participation rates across the region. About two thirds of these volunteers and contract staff were women.

The [Australian Government's 2009 Invest Action Plan](#) highlights that increasing Aboriginal employment and broader participation in the natural resource management sector requires long-term funding and support, particularly for career-path opportunities.

Reliability of information



Excellent for Aboriginal employment but participation data are underestimates

Further information: [Technical information for this report](#), The [National agreement to close the gap in Aboriginal disadvantage](#), and a report on [the benefits of Aboriginal engagement in the natural resource management sector](#)