

# 2016 State Report Card

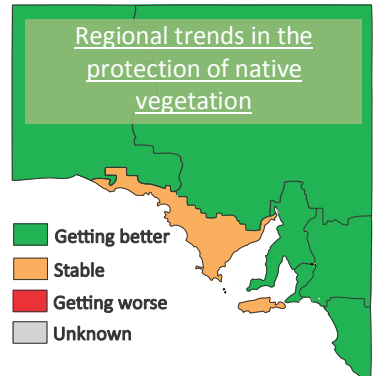
## How much of our native vegetation is in protected areas?

South Australia's native vegetation—from aquatic plants and native grasses to large trees—is fundamental to the health of our environment and prosperity of our primary industries.

Development has necessarily impacted our native vegetation. It has been cleared from nine per cent of South Australia, with extensive clearance in the six agricultural NRM regions (48 per cent cleared) and less in the arid NRM regions (SA Arid Lands, Alinytjara Wilurara; <1 per cent cleared).

By permanently protecting some areas through legislation, we build the capacity of our native plants and animals to adapt to climate change and other pressures, as well as protecting soil from erosion and providing clean water in reservoir catchments. South Australian and Australian governments [aim](#) to protect at least 10 per cent of the total area of all ecosystems at several scales, including broad ([bio-regional](#)), medium ([sub-regional](#)) and landscape (environmental associations).

This report card summarises the coverage of our protected areas and the percentage of environmental associations that are *adequately protected* (10 per cent of our state). This report card should be read alongside others on vegetation [condition](#), [extent and connectivity](#).



State target

Increase extent and improve condition of native vegetation

Trend (2010–16)

Getting better

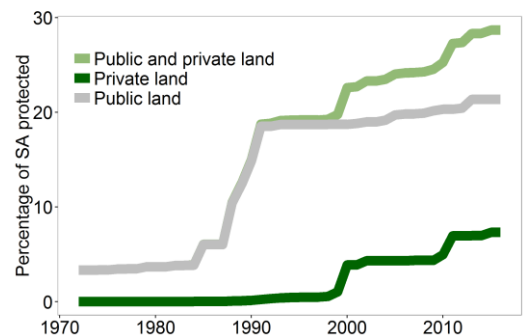
In six of our eight NRM regions there was an increase in the number of adequately protected environmental associations

Over the last six years the number of *adequately protected* (10 per cent of the area) environmental associations increased in 6 of our 8 NRM regions (map above).

Public protected areas now cover 21 per cent of South Australia and private areas cover seven per cent (graph on right).

Public protected areas are National, Conservation and Recreation Parks, Game, Regional and Conservation Reserves, Wilderness Protection Areas, Native Forest Reserves and Conservation Areas.

Private areas comprise Heritage Agreements, Indigenous Protected Areas and the Arkaroola Protection Area.



Where we are at (2016)

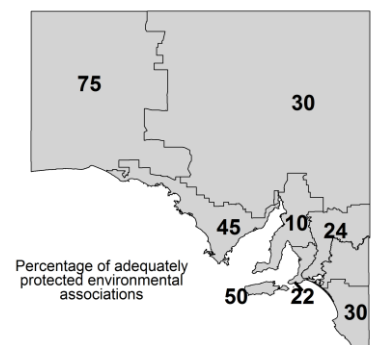
Fair

Almost one third of our ecosystems (environmental associations) are adequately protected

At the end of 2016, 31 per cent (120) of the 382 environmental associations in South Australia were classified as *adequately protected*, while 21 per cent (80) did not have any areas that were protected.

The Alinytjara Wilurara, Kangaroo Island and Eyre Peninsula NRM regions had the highest percentages of *adequately protected* environmental associations (map on right). Within the Northern and Yorke NR region, which has large areas developed for agriculture, just 10 per cent of environmental associations were *adequately protected*.

This information is used by the South Australian and Australian governments to prioritise investments in ecosystems that require protection.



Reliability of information



Very good

Further information: [Technical information for this report card](#), [DEWNR native vegetation](#), Strategies for establishing protected areas in [South Australia](#) and [Australia](#)

