

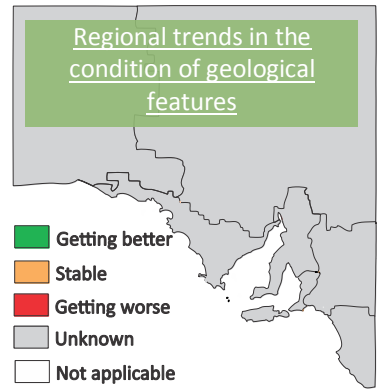
# 2014 State Report Card

## Is the condition of our geological features improving?

Geological features in our landscape reflect the history of our land; the geological processes that formed the Earth, and the animals and plants that have lived on it. Geological features can be rugged ranges, rocky outcrops, caves, plains, riverbanks, coastal cliffs, intertidal platforms, fossil sites, quarries and mines. Some features are described by the Geological Society of Australia because they are part of our natural heritage.

Geological features are the backdrop for our unique and beautiful South Australian landscape. Many geological heritage sites are valued as tourist and recreational attractions, and as places of scientific research and learning. Many are also cultural sites for Aboriginal communities.

The condition of geological heritage sites may be diminished by inappropriate land use and development, or unrestricted access to vulnerable landforms. It is important to note the value of some features can be enhanced by mining excavation or civil constructions as well.



**State target**

Increase understanding of the condition of landscapes (geologically and culturally important features)

**Trend**

Unknown

There are no data available to assess condition of geological features

There are 433 registered geological heritage sites in South Australia (see numbers on the map below). The last time a new site was added was in 2002, but 2 new sites, Cobble Creek flood control dam and Dreadnoughts, are currently in the process of being added. The condition of geological heritage sites is not known. The [Geological Society of Australia, SA Geological Heritage Subcommittee](#) have not observed damage in recent years but there is no regular monitoring by the subcommittee or the Government of South Australia.

**Where we are at (2014)**

Unknown

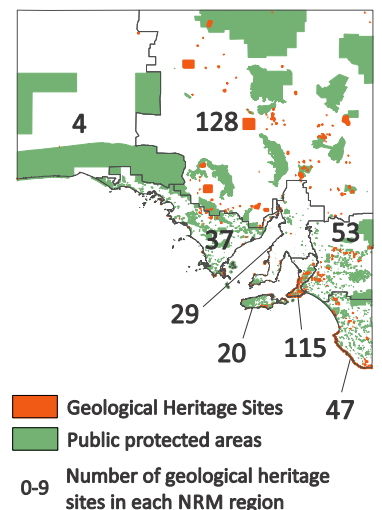
There are 433 geological heritage sites in South Australia. The condition of these sites is unknown.

Significant geological heritage sites in our state include Ediacaran and Cambrian fossil sites in the Flinders Ranges and mammal fossil sites in Naracoorte. These sites are listed on the [National Heritage List](#) and are protected by the [Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999](#). Other significant geological features include megafauna fossils and glacial erratics.

There is no specific legal protection for geological heritage sites, but other legislation may provide protection in certain circumstances. 77 sites are within protected areas (national parks and conservation reserves, native forestry reserves, vegetation heritage agreements and indigenous protected area) (map on right). Geological heritage sites within national parks, conservation parks and regional reserves are partly protected by the [National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972](#), which endeavours to preserve features of natural and scientific interest.

In addition, 54 sites are listed as State Heritage Places and are protected by the State's [Heritage Places Act 1993](#). A number of other sites are protected under the [Coast Protection Act 1972](#) and the [Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988](#).

For those geological heritage sites without legal protection, the SA Geological Heritage Subcommittee and the Department of State Development will inform decision makers and developers if a development is likely to negatively impact a geological heritage site to degradation of important sites.



**Reliability of information**



No data are available to assess the condition of geological features

**Further information:** [Technical information for this report card](#), [Department of State Development](#), [SA Geology Field Brochures](#)

