

# Land: protected areas

## Landscapes that are adequately protected

South Australia's

Environmental trend and condition report card 2018



STATEWIDE



Trend  
**Getting better**



Condition  
**Fair**



Reliability  
**Very good**

### Trend

**The statewide trend in landscapes that are adequately protected is getting better.**

The protected area system in Australia aims to include more than 10% of all landscapes and ecosystems. In this assessment, the following definitions are used: 'landscapes' are areas of thousands of square kilometres containing groups of interacting ecosystems (e.g. scrub, farmland, houses, creeks), 'protected areas' are all areas protected by legislation and Indigenous Protected Areas, and 'adequate' means that more than 10% of a landscape is protected.

The level of protection for 382 landscapes across South Australia was assessed.

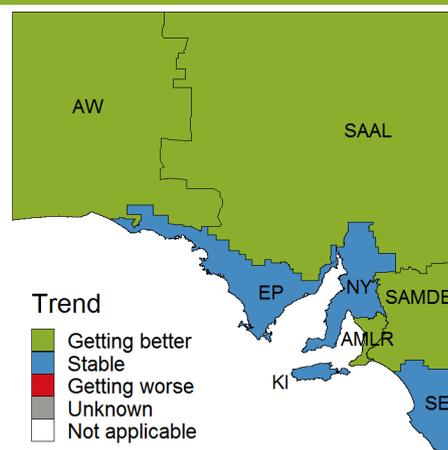
Regional trends in landscapes that are adequately protected is getting better in four natural resources management regions (Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges [AMLR], Alinytjara Wilurara [AW], South Australian Arid Lands [SAAL] and South Australian Murray–Darling Basin [SAMDB]) and stable in four regions (Eyre Peninsula [EP], Kangaroo Island [KI], Northern and Yorke [NY] and South East [SE]) (top figure).

### Condition

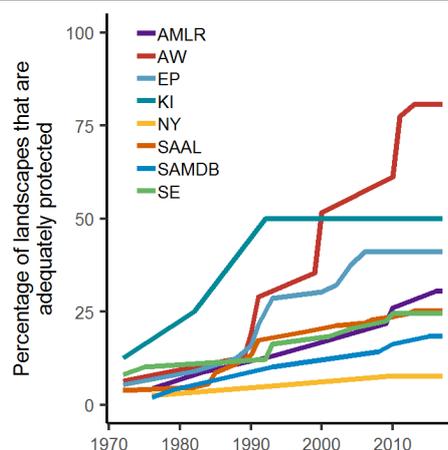
**The number of landscapes that are adequately protected is considered fair.**

Across South Australia, 30% of landscapes are adequately protected. At the regional level, results are 30% in AMLR (fair), 81% in AW (very good), 41% in EP (fair), 50% in KI (good), 8% in NY (poor), 25% in SAAL (fair), 18% in SAMDB (poor) and 24% in SE (poor) (bottom figure).

Recent additions to the protected area system include parts of Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park – Winaityinaityi Pangkara; Flinders Chase and Malkumba-Coongie Lakes national parks; Kanku-Breakaways, Nicolas Baudin Island, Ediacara and Lawari conservation parks; Nullarbor Wilderness Protection Area; and Sturt Gorge Recreation Park.



**In 2017, 30% of landscapes in South Australia were adequately protected**



### Why are land protected areas important?

South Australia's land protected areas are highly valued by the community. They support the conservation of the state's natural heritage, including native flora and fauna, and indigenous cultural landscapes. Land protected areas also provide broader social, economic and environmental outcomes beyond their boundaries, such as tourism opportunities, food and water security, health and well-being benefits, disaster risk reduction and amenity values.

### What are the pressures?

The expectations placed on protected areas are increasing. While expectations were originally to conserve landscapes and provide habitat for wildlife, protected areas are now also expected to contribute to local economies, supply ecosystem services (such as clean water and opportunities for tourism and recreation) and contribute to the alleviation of global concerns such as climate change. Although increased expectations have played a role in the expansion of protected areas, meeting all expectations requires adequate planning and investment.

### What is being done?

Legislation requires most government-owned land protected areas to be managed as specified in park management plans. The addition of new land protected areas is guided by the Conserving Nature 2012–2020 strategy. In South Australia, recent investment in land protected areas has focused on nature-based tourism (e.g. expanded mountain biking and walking opportunities), additional ranger positions and improved capacity to prepare for bushfires.

For further information see: [technical information](#)



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