

Land: protected areas

Landscapes that are adequately protected

SA trend and condition report card 2020



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 the state was assessed.

Regional trends in landscapes that are adequately protected is getting better in two regions (Northern and Yorke [NY], and Murraylands and Riverland [MR]) and is stable in seven regions (Hills and Fleurieu [HF], Alinytjara Wilurara [AW], Eyre Peninsula [EP], Kangaroo Island [KI], South Australian Arid Lands [SAAL], Limestone Coast [LC] and Green Adelaide [GA]) (top figure).

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 plants and animals, 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 wellbeing benefits, disaster risk reduction, and amenity values.

Condition

The amount of landscapes that are adequately protected is considered fair.

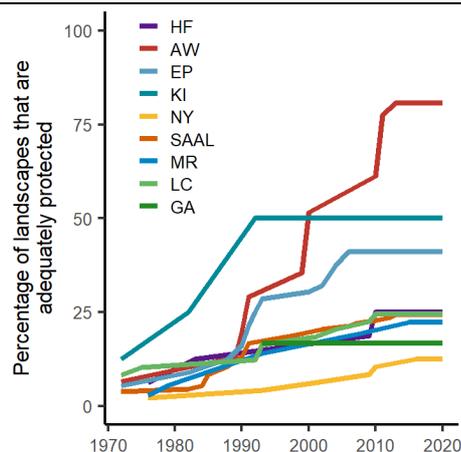
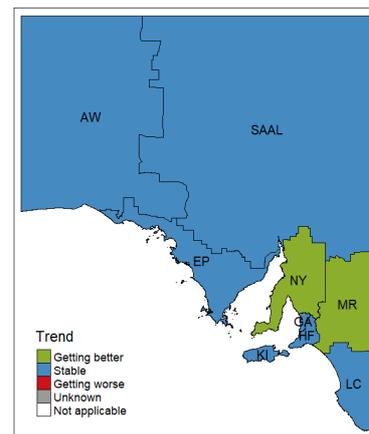
Across South Australia, 30% of landscapes are adequately protected. At the regional level, this equates to 25% in HF (fair), 81% in AW (very good), 41% in EP (fair), 50% in KI (good), 12% in NY (poor), 24% in SAAL (poor), 22% in MR (poor), 24% in LC (poor) and 17% in GA (poor) (bottom figure).

Recent additions to the protected area system include Glenithorne National Park (NP)-Ityamaitpinna Yarta, parts of Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary NP-Winaitynaityi Pangkara, Murray River NP, Kaiserstuhl Conservation Park (CP), Thidna CP, Cox Scrub CP and Lawari CP.

In 2020, 30% of landscapes in South Australia are adequately protected.

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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