

Informed communities are adaptive communities: community-led monitoring of native vegetation condition



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Need for veg condition information

- Inform management,
 - Prioritise investment,
 - Evaluate outcomes of intervention,
 - Report resource condition,
 - Build land manager/practitioner knowledge and skills.
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- Information required at multiple scales

Challenges

- Region- or state-wide resource condition (usually 'top-down' or agency driven)
- Specific project (driven at project or site level)
- Collaboration across projects and scales is rare
- Efficient use of limited resources needed

NCSSA Bushland Condition Monitoring

- Measures 10 indicators of condition (components of structure, function & diversity)
- Quadrat based (30m x 30m)
- Measurements compared against veg community specific benchmarks



10 condition indicators

1. Plant Species Diversity
2. Weed Abundance and Threat
3. Structural Diversity – Ground Cover & Plant Life Forms
4. Regeneration
5. Tree & Shrub Health
6. Tree Habitat Features
7. Feral Animals
8. Total Grazing Pressure
9. Fauna Species Diversity
10. Bushland Degradation Risk

User-oriented

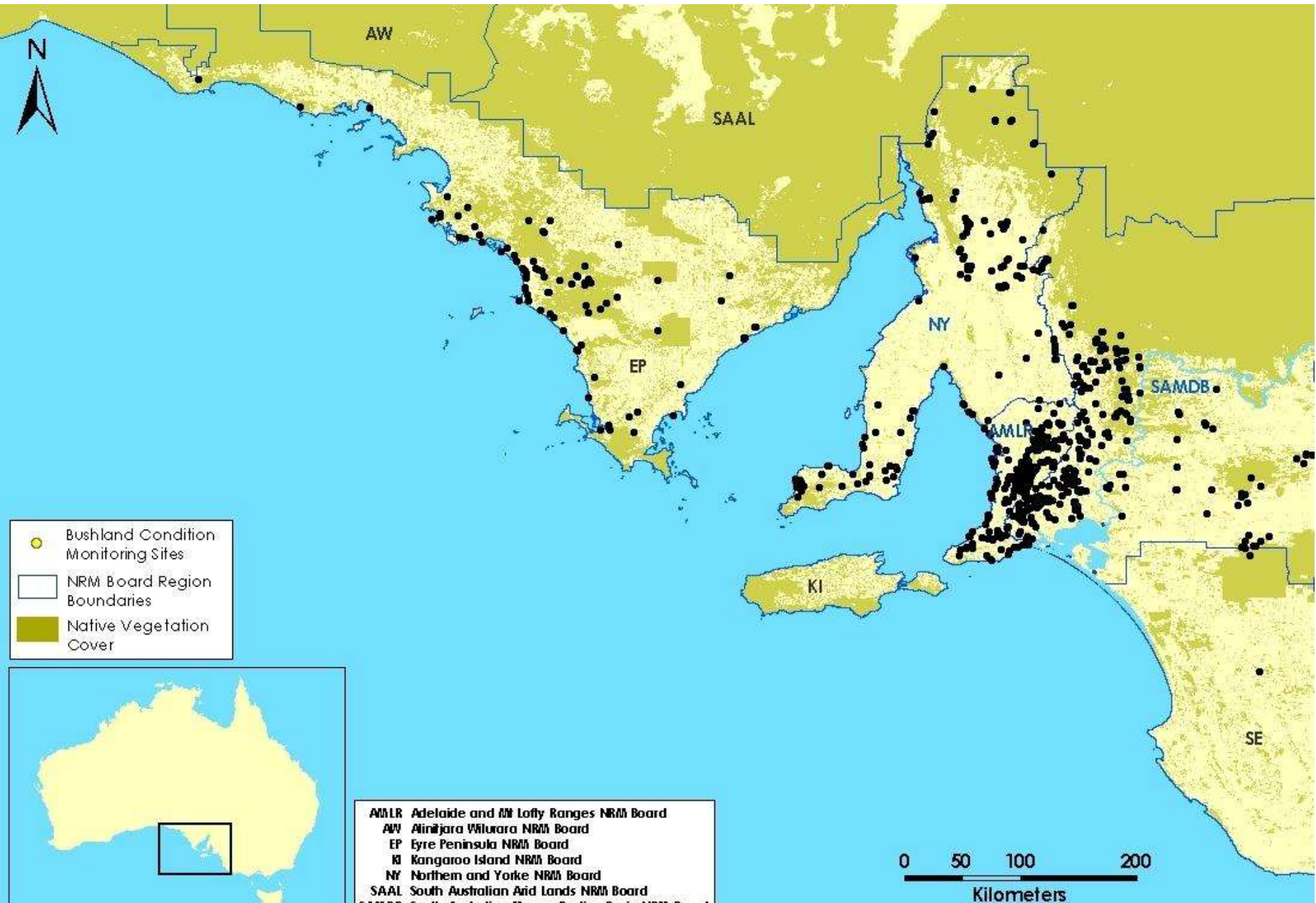
- With training, can be undertaken by non-professionals & professionals,
- Common and inexpensive equipment, and...



Immediate feedback at site scale



Network of sites established



Collaboration

- More than 400 people trained since 2006
- 21 projects - 11 community groups - 4 NRM regions - 6 District Councils

Number of projects in 3 NRM regions using the Bushland Condition Monitoring Method

Collaborating Group Type	Region		
	SAMDB	NY	AMLR
NCSSA	6	4	2
State Agency / NRM Board	3	7	1
Restoration NGO	1	2	
Natural History / Conservation Society		1	1
Private Company	2		
Australian Government Agency	1		
Conservation Trust / Limited Company		1	
Catchment Group	3		
University	1		

Critical issues for management identified

Results from SAMDB, AMLR and NY regions:

Plant Species
Richness

**generally
good**



Recruitment
of Species

**generally
poor**



Total Grazing
Pressure

generally good
(SAMDB AMLR)
generally poor
(NY)



Canopy
Health

**generally
poor**



Achievements

- wide-reaching, collaborative monitoring network
- SA communities are contributing to and can access vegetation condition information
- information provided to site managers: **informing management** and leading to adaptive management as monitoring matures
- early analysis in 3 NRM regions: strong **evidence for management change**





Thank you

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