

2014 State Report Card

Are practices that lead to improved management of natural resources being adopted?

The success and productivity of our agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries depend upon the health and sustainable management of our natural resources. In South Australia, farmers manage 60 million hectares of land for livestock, 8.4 million hectares for agriculture and 2.2 million hectares of land with remnant vegetation.

For more details on regional programs to improve the adoption of land management practices, please refer to our NRM Board [websites](#).

Farming practices that have improved the management of natural resources in our agricultural regions include improved grazing management, no-till sowing techniques, stubble retention, claying of sandy soils, use of deep rooted perennials, use of pastures to protect soils and waterways, incorporation of native plants into farming systems, native vegetation maintenance and fencing, and management of pest plants and animals.

Land managers have improved water quality and [efficiency of water use](#) by improving cropping practices and irrigation methods, which reduce nutrients and chemicals entering our waterways.



State target

Maintain the productive capacity of our natural resources

Trends

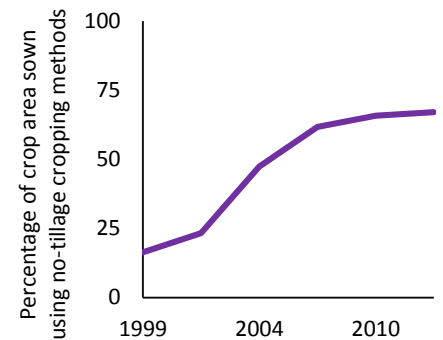
Variable

Trends vary depending on the industry and land management practice

Trends in the adoption of different practices that lead to improved management of natural resources vary. These data are not available at NRM regional scales.

No-till cropping is an example of a cropping practice that leads to improved management of soil moisture. The percentage of cropping land that is sown using [no-till](#) methods has increased from 16 per cent in 1999 to 67 per cent in 2013 (graph on right).

According to [surveys](#) by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the number of farmers who protected wetlands, rivers and creeks for conservation purposes increased between 2008-10. These farmers managed native vegetation by controlling or excluding livestock, managing [weeds](#) or [pest animals](#), retaining existing vegetation or planting new vegetation.



Where we are at (2013)

Unknown

The adoption of management practices ranged from 85 per cent for no-till methods, to 14 per cent for planting or encouraging native pastures

A [national farm survey](#) by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences found that the adoption of different management practices ranged from 85 to 14 per cent of farmers (table on right). There was a greater rate of adoption of improved cropping and grazing practices, compared with management of [native vegetation](#) and control of [weeds](#) of national significance.

Land management practices are influenced by each farmer's motivation and finances, profitability and income, market drivers, government incentives, participation in landcare groups and networks, and the availability of information.

Percentage of farmers who adopted improved land management practices		
Crop management	No-till	85
	Stubble retention	71
Grazing management	Cell or rotational grazing	56
	Minimum groundcover targets set	47
	Deep rooted perennials	24
Native vegetation management	Native pastures encouraged/planted	14
	Native vegetation maintenance and management	52
Weed management	Fencing native vegetation	55
	Weeds of national significance management	30

Reliability of information



Very Good for some management practices

Further information: [Technical information for this report card](#), [soil management survey](#), [agricultural resource management survey](#)

