

2014 Regional Snapshot

Are surface water resources being used within their allocated limits?

Water is fundamental for our industries, our health and way of life, and our environment. Pressure on surface water resources is likely to increase due to projections of reduced rainfall and increased [temperature](#) associated with climate change, increased irrigation needs and population growth.

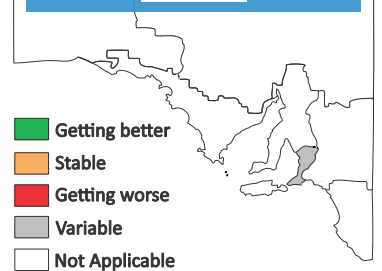
The surface water resources we rely on the most and those at the greatest risk of over use and ecosystem degradation have been [prescribed](#) with water allocation limits, which are defined in [water allocation plans](#). There are 2 prescribed surface water resources in the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM region, the [Western Mount Lofty Ranges](#) and the [Barossa](#) (shown on the map at the bottom).

This report card is based on [surface water status reports](#) and assesses whether the use of prescribed surface water resources is within the limits defined in water allocation plans.

This report does not assess the water requirements of aquatic ecosystems. A separate report summarises the ecological condition of [rivers, streams and drains](#).



Trends in the use of prescribed surface water resources



State target

Maintain the productive capacity of our natural resources

Trend (2009–13)

Variable

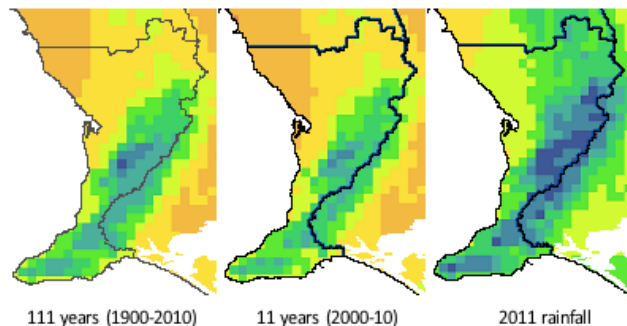
Water use varies each year depending on the climate, but has been within limits in the Barossa resource

Managing water use at sustainable levels is important to maintain the productive capacity of surface water resources.

Water use varies in line with climate. For example, when we received above average rainfall, such as when the drought broke in 2010-11 (see maps on right) surface water use was lower.

In contrast, surface water use was higher when rainfall was below average. In the dry year of 2012-13 about 68 per cent of the allocation limit was used from the Barossa resource (see map below).

Average annual rainfall (mm)



Where we are at (2013)

Good

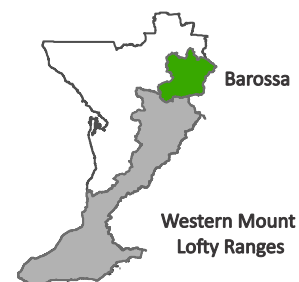
The Barossa prescribed surface water resource was used within the allocated limit. Water use information is not available for the Western Mount Lofty Ranges resource.

The Barossa prescribed water resource area was used within the water allocation limit in 2012-13 (map on right). Surface water use was about 68 per cent of the water allocation limit for the Barossa resource.

No surface water use information (estimated or metered) is available for the Western Mount Lofty Ranges prescribed resource.

Status of prescribed water use in 2012-13:

- No adverse trends, indicating a stable or improving situation
- Not able to be determined



Reliability of information



Good. Surface water use data are not available for 1 prescribed resource.

Further information: [Technical information for this report](#), [the status of South Australian water resources](#)

