

# 2014 Regional Snapshot

## Are the extent and connectivity of our native vegetation improving?

South Australia's native vegetation—from small ground covers and native grasses to large trees and water plants—is fundamental to the health of our environment and the prosperity of our primary industries.

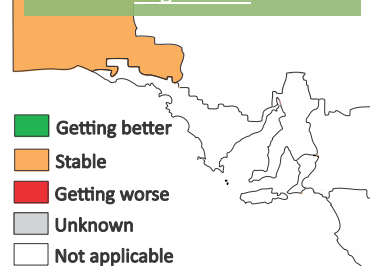
Native vegetation protects our land and water from erosion and dryland salinity, while improving our agricultural productivity and storing [carbon](#). It provides habitat for our native animals, places for recreation and is culturally important for Aboriginal people.

Human developments, such as mining and exploration, have resulted in minimal clearance of native vegetation in the Alinytjara Wilurara NRM region. Where there are disconnected patches of native vegetation, the ability of some native plants and animals to disperse is reduced, making them more susceptible to local disturbances that threaten their survival (e.g. fire and [pests](#)).

This report summarises the coverage (extent) and fragmentation (connectivity) of our native vegetation, and should be read alongside reports on vegetation [condition](#) and [protection](#).



Trend in the extent and connectivity of native vegetation



State target

Increase extent & improve condition of native vegetation

### Trend (1999–2014)

Stable

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Improved land management, natural regeneration and [pest plant and animal](#) control since that time have also helped to stabilise native vegetation cover and condition. Government legislation permits the clearance of native vegetation for some developments, but the clearance must be offset by additional investment in re-vegetation. No [illegal clearance](#) of vegetation has been recorded in the NRM region.

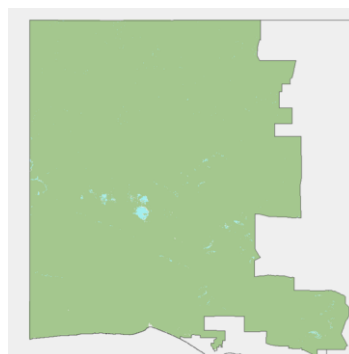
### Where we are at (2014)

Good

Native vegetation is continuous in our arid regions

Almost all of our pre-European native vegetation remains in the Alinytjara Wilurara NRM region (see map on right). The vegetation remains continuous because there is no intensive clearance for agriculture or development in the region.

While vegetation extent remains relatively intact, it is susceptible to damage by pest plants and animals, mining development and climate change. Conservation investments are required to improve [condition](#).



Remaining vegetation extent:  
100 per cent

Percentage of connected patches:  
100 per cent

Green box: Native vegetation  
White box: Agricultural and urban areas

### Reliability of information



Very good

### Further information:

[Technical information for this report](#), [DEWNR native vegetation](#), [Nature Conservation Society of South Australia](#)