

2014 Regional Snapshot

Are the water levels and salinity of our prescribed groundwater resources improving?

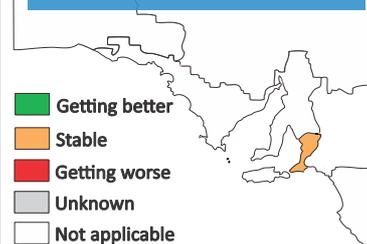
The Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM region relies on groundwater for agricultural production and domestic use. Groundwater also sustains a range of ecosystems.

Groundwater is mostly recharged when rainfall percolates down through the soil to the watertable. Groundwater levels naturally change in response to seasonal rainfall, droughts and climate change. Excessive use can cause levels to fall and salinity to increase, which can impact the communities, industries and ecosystems that are dependent on groundwater, particularly if [climate change](#) impacts rainfall patterns and reduces the rainfall needed to recharge groundwater.

This report summarises whether changes in groundwater levels and salinity of [prescribed](#) groundwater resources are within acceptable limits. This report should be read alongside reports on the sustainable use of [groundwater](#) and [surface water](#).



Trends in salinity and water levels for prescribed groundwater resources



State target

Maintain the productive capacity of our natural resources

Trend (2010–13)

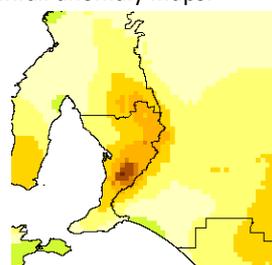
Stable

Salinity and groundwater levels are within acceptable limits in most prescribed groundwater resources

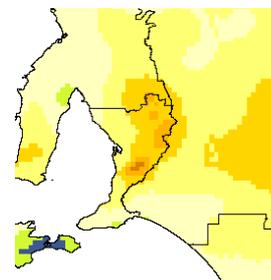
Groundwater levels and salinity are largely driven by rainfall and are therefore naturally variable. Rainfall in 2013 was less than long term averages (maps on right). Water use in 2013 was therefore expected to be higher.

Since 2010, our prescribed groundwater resources have stable or improving water levels and salinity (map above), according to [groundwater level and salinity reports](#).

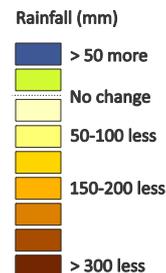
Rainfall anomaly maps:



How rainfall in the last 12 months compares to the last 113 years



How rainfall in the last 12 months compares to the last 10 years



Where we are at (2013)

Good

Twelve groundwater resources are within acceptable limits

In the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM region there are 13 groundwater resources (aquifers) within 5 prescribed areas. Based on changes in salinity and water levels between 2012 and 2013, the [status](#) of 12 groundwater resources is good. There have been gradual declines in water levels or increases in salinity in some of these resources, but values are still within acceptable limits.

The 2013 [status](#) of the Kangaroo Flat groundwater resource is considered fair and it is being monitored closely because it has elevated salinity. If this trend continues, the groundwater may not be suitable for its current purpose within 10 years.

Managing our groundwater resources relies on consistent and timely measurements of groundwater levels, salinity and water use.

Reliability of information



Very Good

Further information:

[Technical information for this report](#) and reports on the [status of South Australian water resources](#)