

2016 State Report Card

How many people visit state managed parks in South Australia?

There are more than 400 public protected areas in South Australia, including national parks, conservation areas, marine parks and native forest reserves.

South Australia's parks [protect](#) and showcase our natural and cultural heritage, including ancient landscapes and fossils, Aboriginal sites, historic sites, rugged coastlines and mountain ranges, pristine wilderness and unique [plants](#) and [animals](#).

Our parks are also important for [regional tourism](#). They are places where we can enjoy natural surroundings and the physical, [social and psychological health benefits](#) they provide. There is increasing community awareness of these benefits. For example, children develop physically and mentally when they are able to explore and play in natural surroundings.

This report card summarises information on the percentage of South Australians who visited at least one land based park each year. A report card on our marine parks is available [here](#).

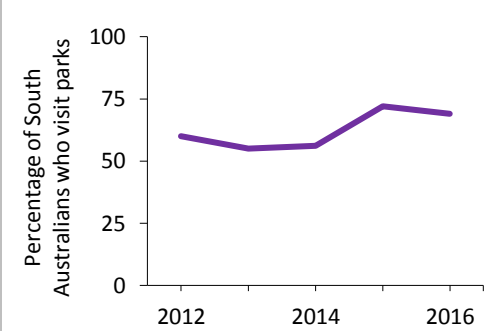


State target
 Maintain the productive capacity of our natural resources

Trend (2013–16) Getting better The number of South Australians who visited parks has increased

Since 2013, the percentage of South Australians who visited at least one park each year has increased. Annual visits to parks has ranged between 55 and 72 per cent (graph on right). Four NRM regions have shown increasing trends and three have remained stable (map above).

National visitor surveys by Tourism Research Australia indicate that domestic overnight trips to national parks have increased by 12 per cent across Australia and by 10 per cent in South Australia between 2014–16. The number of international visitors to Australia who visited national parks or went bushwalking increased by about 18 per cent between 2014–16.

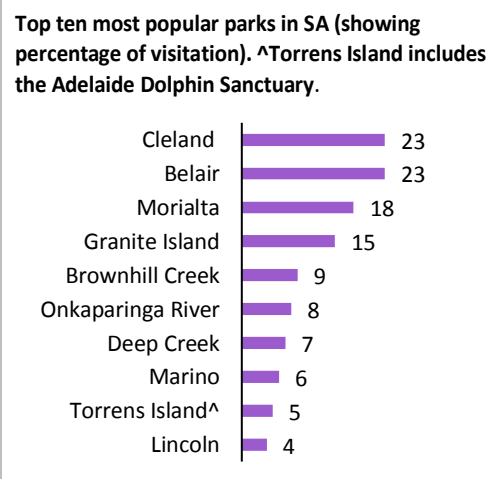


Where we are at (2016) Good In 2016, 69 per cent of South Australians visited at least one park

The People and Parks Visitor Strategy (2012–20) target is to have 50 per cent of South Australians visit parks annually by 2020. This target has been [exceeded](#). In 2016, the percentage of residents who visited a park was highest in the Eyre Peninsula (83 per cent) and Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges (72 per cent) NRM regions. In the other NRM regions, between 46–69 per cent of residents visited a park.

Enhancing visitor experiences and conserving natural and cultural heritage requires careful management. Some of our parks are maintained to protect biodiversity and these parks have few facilities for visitors, but in many cases the Government of South Australia partners with the tourism industry to enhance opportunities for visitors.

To encourage more people to visit our parks, the government promotes the physical, social and psychological health benefits of visiting parks and participating in [nature conservation activities](#). For example, [Nature Play SA](#) encourages parents and communities to promote outdoor learning environments.



Reliability of information ★★★★★ Very good

Further information: [Technical information for this report card](#), and [SA Parks](#)