

2014 Regional Snapshot

Is the condition of our geological features improving?

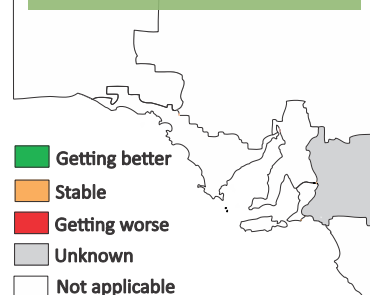
Geological features in our landscape reflect the history of our land; the geological processes that formed the Earth, and the animals and plants that have lived on it. Geological features can be rugged ranges, rocky outcrops, caves, plains, riverbanks, coastal cliffs, intertidal platforms, fossil sites, quarries and mines. Some features are described by the Geological Society of Australia because they are part of our natural heritage.

Geological features are the backdrop for our unique and beautiful South Australian landscape. Many geological heritage sites are valued as tourist and recreational attractions, and as places of scientific research and learning. Many are also cultural sites for Aboriginal communities.

The condition of geological heritage sites may be diminished by inappropriate land use and development, or unrestricted access to vulnerable landforms. It is important to note the value of some features can be enhanced by mining excavation or civil constructions as well.



Trends in the condition of geological features



State target

Increase understanding of the condition of landscapes (geologically and culturally important features)

Trend	Unknown	There are no data available to assess condition of geological features
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There are 52 geological heritage sites designated in the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin NRM region. The last time a new site was added to the state's record was in 2002.

The condition of geological heritage sites is not known. The [Geological Society of Australia, SA Geological Heritage Subcommittee](#) have not observed damage in recent years but there is no regular monitoring by the subcommittee or the Government of South Australia.

Where we are at (2014)	Unknown	There are 52 geological heritage sites in the NRM region. The condition of these sites is unknown.
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There are significant geological heritage sites in the SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM region, for example an ancient fossil megafauna discovered near Burra.

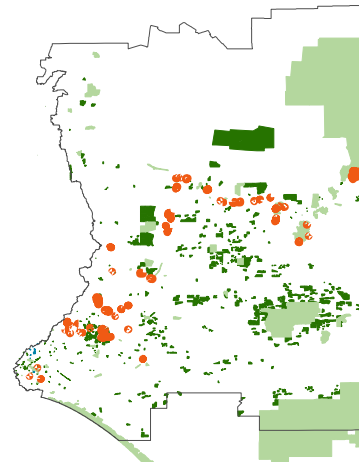
There is no specific legal protection for geological heritage sites but other legislation may provide protection in certain circumstances.

Three sites are within protected areas (national parks and conservation reserves, native forest reserves and vegetation heritage agreements) (map on right). Geological heritage sites within national parks, conservation parks and regional reserves are partly protected by the [National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972](#), which endeavours to preserve features of natural and scientific interest.

In addition, some sites protected under the provisions of the State's [Heritage Places Act 1993](#) and the [Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988](#).

For those geological heritage sites without legal protection, the SA Geological Heritage Subcommittee and the Department of State Development will inform decision makers and developers if a development is likely to negatively impact a geological heritage site to degradation of important sites.

- Geological Heritage Sites
- Public protected areas
- Native forest reserves
- Vegetation heritage agreements



Reliability of information	☆☆☆☆☆	No data are available to assess the condition of geological features
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Further information:
[Technical information for this report](#), [Department of State Development](#), [SA Geology Field Brochures](#)