

Snapshot of our environment

Total land area

983,482 km²

Islands making up

4,672 km²

COASTAL WATERS

Our coastal waters cover
60,032 km²

Mainland Coast
3,816 km²

Island Coast
1,251 km²

ELEVATION

80% of SA is less than 300 metres above sea level

Highest peak (Mount Woodroffe)
1,435 metres

lowest place (Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre)
15 metres below sea level

Arid Biome

- » covering **87% of SA**
- » warm-to-hot dry climate
- » low and erratic rainfall
- » conservation protection 28%

Most rivers, creeks and streams are **intermittent and slow flowing**

SA's largest river, the **River Murray**, weaves through **650 km** ending a 2,530 km journey from near Mount Kosciuszko in the Australian Alps to its mouth near Goolwa

60% Grazing

10% Other agriculture (cropping, horticulture, viticulture)

30% Conservation (includes some grazing and exploration)

Mediterranean Biome

- » covering **13% of SA**
- » cool-to-warm climate
- » tendency for winter rains
- » conservation protection 14%

Marine Biome

- » equivalent of **6% of land area**
- » variable and diverse currents
- » low-nutrient, sheltered and salty gulf waters
- » nutrient-rich waters in the southeast
- » conservation protection 5%

SA covers **12.7%** of Australia



Shared borders with all **Australia's mainland states** and with the Northern Territory. To the south our border is the Great Australian Bight and Southern Ocean

average population density

1.7 people/km²

highest urban land use is centered on Adelaide

400 people/km²

most other urban areas are located on the coast

population size

1.7 million

SA's **rainfall and temperature** are highly variable, both in range and location.

Clear decline in SA rainfall since 1970

Annual rainfall 300 mm – 575 mm in cropping areas

17 terrestrial bioregions

8 marine bioregions