

Land cover change in the South West Queensland region 2012–14

Introduction

This fact sheet is 1 of 13 in a series detailing land cover change in Queensland's Natural Resource Management regions. These fact sheets are addenda to the report: Queensland Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation. 2015. *Land cover change in Queensland 2012–13 and 2013–14: a Statewide Landcover and Trees Study (SLATS) report*. DSITI, Brisbane. Please refer to this report for further background, terminology, methods and explanatory notes.

Figure 1 and Table 1 provide an historical overview of the remnant and non-remnant woody vegetation clearing trends within the region. The spatial distribution of the 2012–13, 2013–14 and historical woody vegetation clearing is shown in Figure 2. An overview of woody vegetation clearing rates categorised by tenure is provided in Table 2 and Figure 3. Woody vegetation clearing rates and remaining woody vegetation in each catchment within the region are provided in Tables 3 and 4, respectively, while replacement land cover information is provided in Table 5 and Figure 4.

Summary

In 2012–13, the woody vegetation clearing rate for the South West Queensland region was 63 171 hectares per year (ha/year), an increase of 117% from the 2011–12 woody vegetation clearing rate of 29 051 ha/year (Table 2 and Figure 1).

In 2013–14, the woody vegetation clearing rate was 116 997 ha/year, an increase of 85% from the 2012–13 woody vegetation clearing rate (63 171 ha/year). This is the region's highest woody vegetation clearing rate recorded since 2006 (Table 2 and Figure 1). This region had the highest woody vegetation clearing rates in the state for both periods, accounting for 24% and 39% of the state's total woody vegetation clearing for the 2012–13 and 2013–14 periods, respectively.

In 2012–13, the clearing rate of remnant woody vegetation in the region was 18 075 ha/year, an increase of 158% from the 6 997 ha/year reported in the 2011–12 period. In 2013–14, the remnant woody vegetation clearing rate was 57 769 ha/year, an increase of 220% from the 2012–13 period (18 075 ha/year). The clearing of remnant woody vegetation accounted for 29% and 49% of the total woody vegetation clearing in the region for the 2012–13 and 2013–14 periods, respectively (Table 1 and Figure 1).

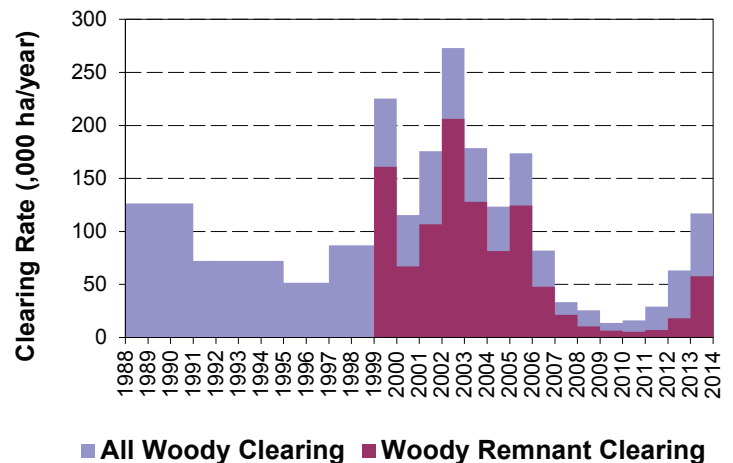
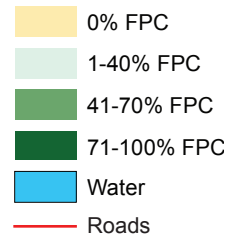
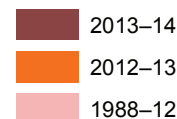


Figure 1. Woody vegetation clearing rates (,000 ha/year) in the South West Queensland region.

Foliage Projective Cover (FPC) 2012 V2.3



Clearing



50 25 0 50 100
Kilometres

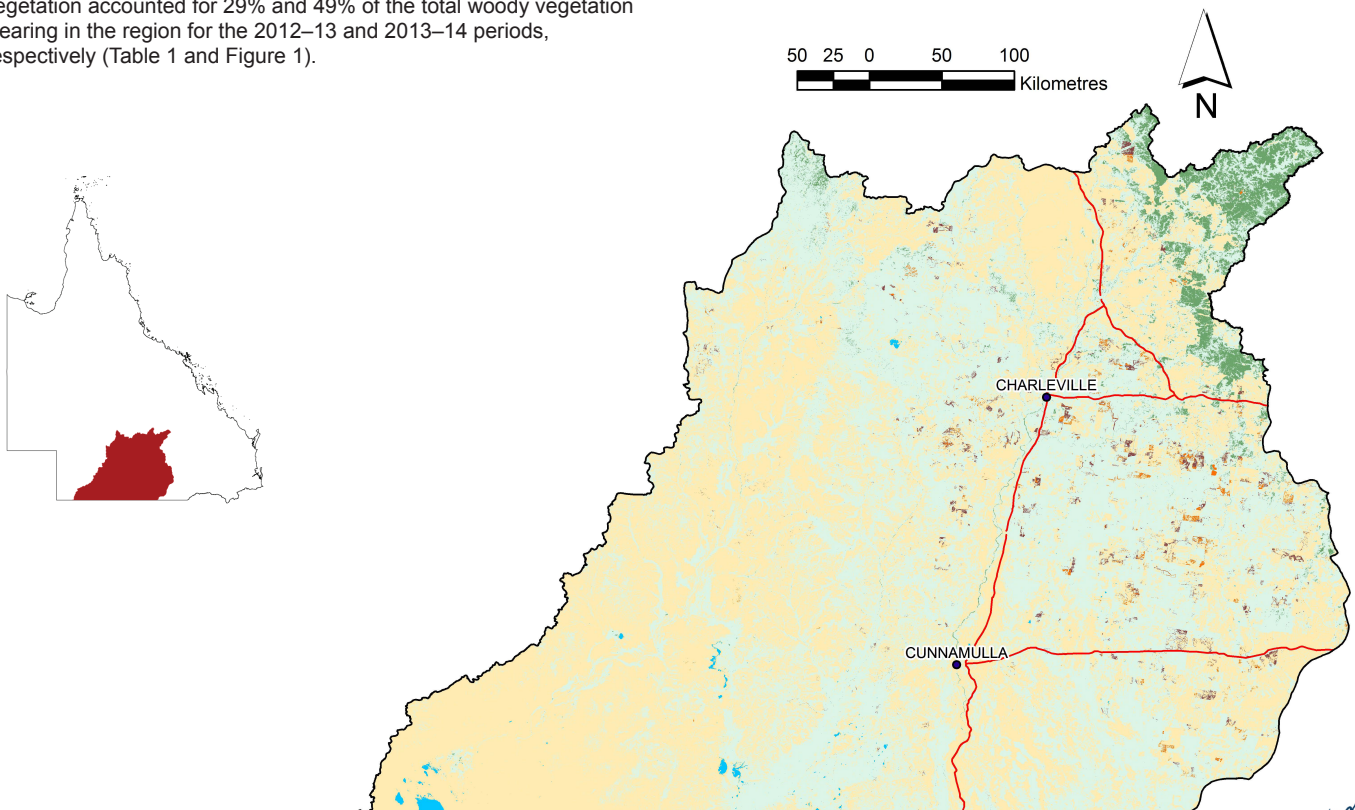


Figure 2. Spatial distribution of current (2012–13 and 2013–14) and historical (1988–12) woody vegetation clearing in the South West Queensland region.

Woody vegetation clearing by remnant status

Table 1. Remnant and non-remnant woody vegetation clearing rates (,000 ha/year) in the South West Queensland region.

Period	Non-remnant woody	Remnant woody	Total woody clearing
1999–00	64.370	160.985	225.355
2000–01	48.437	67.029	115.466
2001–02	68.954	106.747	175.702
2002–03	66.775	206.207	272.982
2003–04	50.715	127.893	178.608
2004–05	41.882	81.498	123.380
2005–06	49.266	124.452	173.718
2006–07	34.120	47.827	81.948
2007–08	11.921	21.364	33.286
2008–09	15.127	10.469	25.596
2009–10	7.259	6.432	13.691
2010–11	10.758	5.350	16.108
2011–12	22.054	6.997	29.051
2012–13	45.096	18.075	63.171
2013–14	59.227	57.769	116.996

Woody vegetation clearing by tenure

Table 2. Woody vegetation clearing rates (,000 ha/year) in the South West Queensland region by tenure.

Period	Freehold	Leasehold	Other tenures	Other reserves	Total
1988–91	50.519	73.691	1.888	0.276	126.374
1991–95	27.428	43.821	0.790	0.128	72.166
1995–97	26.101	23.985	1.425	0.068	51.578
1997–99	41.337	43.989	1.296	0.281	86.902
1999–00	142.170	83.024	0.000	0.161	225.355
2000–01	60.054	55.399	0.000	0.012	115.465
2001–02	79.841	95.501	0.000	0.359	175.702
2002–03	146.555	126.391	0.000	0.018	272.963
2003–04	95.407	83.057	0.000	0.145	178.609
2004–05	58.102	65.192	0.000	0.086	123.380
2005–06	83.653	89.925	0.000	0.139	173.718
2006–07	37.013	44.884	0.000	0.051	81.948
2007–08	14.783	18.478	0.001	0.024	33.286
2008–09	11.480	14.097	0.000	0.019	25.596
2009–10	7.068	6.619	0.000	0.004	13.691
2010–11	7.246	8.861	0.000	0.001	16.108
2011–12	17.940	11.039	0.000	0.071	29.051
2012–13	35.689	27.442	0.000	0.041	63.171
2013–14	66.372	50.588	0.000	0.036	116.996



Figure 3. Woody vegetation clearing rates (,000 ha/year) in the South West Queensland region by tenure.

Woody vegetation clearing by catchment

Table 3. Woody vegetation clearing rates (,000 ha/year) in the South West Queensland region by catchment.

Catchments	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14
Bulloo River	0.812	0.552	0.670	1.261	3.529
Paroo River	0.291	0.944	1.486	1.305	3.472
Wallam Creeks	5.928	8.297	9.067	34.097	61.266
Warrego River	6.660	6.315	17.828	26.506	48.730
Total	13.691	16.108	29.051	63.171	116.996

Remaining woody vegetation

Table 4. Remaining woody vegetation in the South West Queensland region by catchment.

Catchments	Area (,000 ha)	2012 wooded vegetation cover (,000 ha)	% wooded vegetation cover
Bulloo River	5183	1506	29
Paroo River	3515	1731	49
Wallam Creeks	4704	2715	58
Warrego River	5306	3008	57
Total	18709	8960	48

Woody vegetation clearing by replacement land cover

Table 5. Woody vegetation clearing rates (,000 ha/year) in the South West Queensland region by replacement land cover.

Period	Pasture	Crop	Forestry	Mining	Infrastructure	Settlement	Total
1988–91	123.635	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.749	0.001	126.385
1991–95	71.740	0.000	0.015	0.001	0.432	0.000	72.188
1995–97	50.252	0.000	0.015	0.000	1.323	0.000	51.590
1997–99	85.278	0.095	0.165	0.000	1.362	0.003	86.904
1999–00	223.540	0.000	0.004	0.000	1.810	0.002	225.355
2000–01	114.103	0.011	0.000	0.000	1.352	0.000	115.466
2001–02	175.467	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.235	0.000	175.702
2002–03	272.735	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.247	0.000	272.982
2003–04	178.354	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.254	0.000	178.608
2004–05	122.309	0.000	0.074	0.000	0.997	0.001	123.380
2005–06	173.497	0.000	0.212	0.000	0.009	0.000	173.718
2006–07	81.891	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.034	0.022	81.948
2007–08	33.119	0.000	0.023	0.000	0.144	0.000	33.286
2008–09	25.510	0.000	0.000	0.009	0.064	0.012	25.596
2009–10	13.651	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.039	0.000	13.691
2010–11	15.719	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.380	0.009	16.108
2011–12	28.483	0.000	0.024	0.000	0.541	0.003	29.051
2012–13	62.925	0.003	0.042	0.001	0.199	0.001	63.171
2013–14	116.848	0.004	0.037	0.001	0.105	0.001	116.997

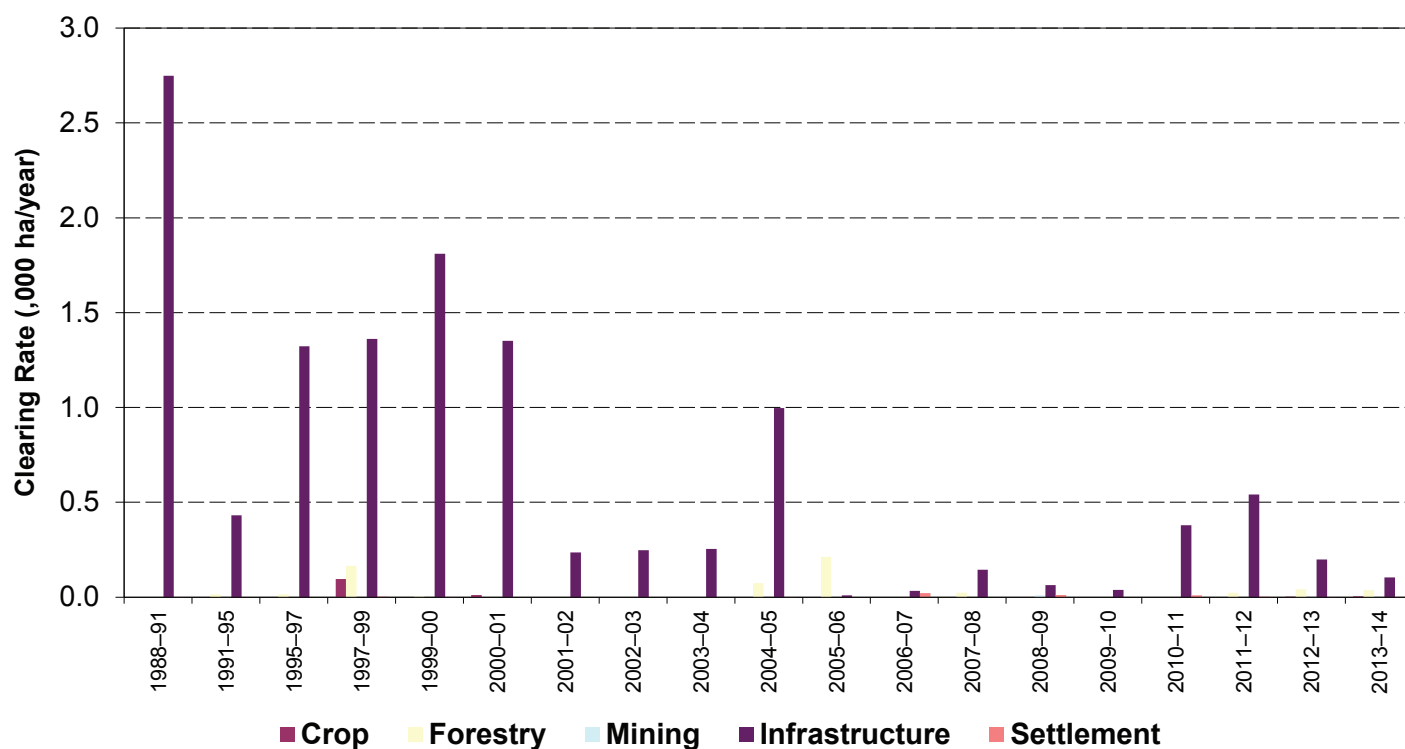
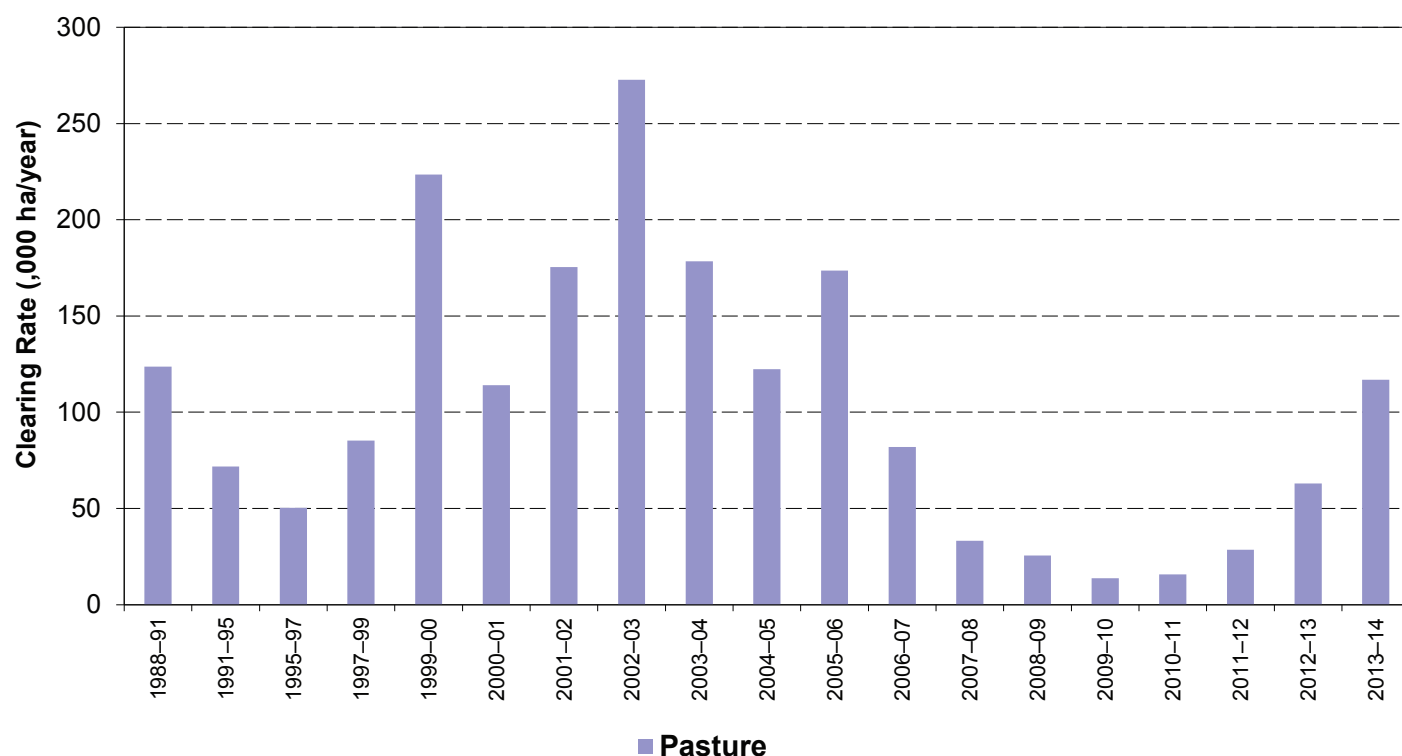


Figure 4. Woody vegetation clearing rates (,000 ha/year) in the South West Queensland region by replacement land cover.

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