# Land cover change in the Desert Channels 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 Desert Channels region was 17 667 hectares per year (ha/year), an increase of 100% from the 2011–12 woody vegetation clearing rate of 8 814 ha/year (Table 2 and Figure 1).

In 2013–14, the woody vegetation clearing rate was 19 896 ha/year, an increase of 13% from the 2012–13 woody vegetation clearing rate (17 667 ha/year) (Table 2 and Figure 1).

In 2012–13, the clearing rate of remnant woody vegetation in the region was 7 206 ha/year, an increase of 20% from the 6 005 ha/year reported in the 2011–12 period. In 2013–14, the remnant woody vegetation clearing rate was 11 408 ha/year, an increase of 58% from the 2012–13 period (7 206 ha/year). The clearing of remnant woody vegetation accounted for 41% and 57% of the total woody vegetation clearing in the region for the 2012–13 and 2013–14 periods, respectively (Table 1 and Figure 1).

The replacement land cover class of pasture represented almost 100% of the region's woody vegetation clearing reported during both periods (Table 5 and Figure 4).



#### Foliage Projective Cover (FPC) 2012 V2.3





All Woody Clearing Woody Remnant Clearing

Figure 1. Woody vegetation clearing rates (,000 ha/year) in the Desert Channels region.



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

# Woody vegetation clearing by remnant status Woody vegetation clearing by tenure

Table 1. Remnant and non-remnant woodyvegetation clearing rates (,000 ha/year) in theDesert Channels region.

Table 2. Woody vegetation clearing rates (,000 ha/year) inthe Desert Channels region by tenure.

Period	Non-remnant woody	Remnant woody	Total woody clearing
1999–00	16.623	82.450	99.073
2000–01	13.717	32.868	46.585
2001–02	10.552	30.758	41.310
2002–03	6.507	43.161	49.668
2003–04	11.137	33.903	45.040
2004–05	10.469	20.790	31.258
2005–06	7.233	31.851	39.084
2006–07	2.938	21.137	24.076
2007–08	4.720	2.662	7.382
2008–09	6.489	7.367	13.856
2009–10	5.266	4.929	10.195
2010–11	4.991	4.070	9.061
2011–12	6.005	2.809	8.814
2012–13	10.461	7.206	17.667
2013–14	8.489	11.408	19.896

Period	Freehold Leasehold		Other tenures	Other reserves	Total
1988–91	24.281	48.312	0.018	0.046	72.658
1991–95	15.143	28.249	0.002	0.014	43.407
1995–97	15.999	21.170	0.004	0.068	37.240
1997–99	19.752	23.765	0.112	0.002	43.631
1999–00	69.674	29.372	0.023	0.004	99.073
2000–01	14.824	31.750	0.003	0.008	46.585
2001–02	20.923	20.351	0.000	0.036	41.310
2002–03	17.221	32.447	0.000	0.000	49.668
2003–04	20.096	24.920	0.000	0.015	45.030
2004–05	6.906	24.332	0.000	0.020	31.258
2005–06	10.555	28.512	0.000	0.017	39.084
2006–07	3.654	20.388	0.000	0.033	24.076
2007–08	1.569	5.813	0.000	0.000	7.382
2008–09	2.647	11.206	0.000	0.004	13.857
2009–10	4.897	5.283	0.000	0.014	10.195
2010–11	5.042	4.018	0.000	0.001	9.061
2011–12	4.092	4.721	0.001	0.000	8.814
2012–13	8.376	9.262	0.000	0.029	17.667
2013–14	5.665	14.231	0.000	0.000	19.896



Figure 3. Woody vegetation clearing rates (,000 ha/year) in the Desert Channels region by tenure.

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## Woody vegetation clearing by catchment

#### Remaining woody vegetation

in the Desert Channels region by catchment.

Table 3. Woody vegetation clearing rates (,000 ha/year) Table 4. Remaining woody vegetation in the Desert Channels region by catchment.

Catchments	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14
Barcoo River	7.163	5.803	6.111	11.679	8.940
Cooper Creek	0.099	0.869	0.404	0.102	0.421
Diamantina River	0.034	0.065	0.025	0.052	0.013
Eyre Creek	0.013	0.003	0.008	0.024	0.000
Georgina River	0.034	0.011	0.026	0.015	0.015
Нау	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Thomson River	2.853	2.309	2.240	5.790	10.507
Total	10.195	9.060	8.814	17.667	19.896

Catchments	Area (,000 ha)	2012 wooded vegetation cover (,000 ha)	% wooded vegetation cover
Barcoo River	5322	2374	45
Cooper Creek	9575	1089	11
Diamantina River	11917	1523	13
Eyre Creek	7178	466	6
Georgina River	7208	1647	23
Нау	277	8	3
Thomson River	9493	3082	32
Total	50970	10190	20

## Woody vegetation clearing by replacement land cover

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

Period	Pasture	Сгор	Forestry	Mining	Infrastructure	Settlement	Total
1988–91	71.644	0.000	0.000	0.004	1.011	0.000	72.658
1991–95	43.085	0.000	0.000	0.032	0.304	0.000	43.421
1995–97	36.578	0.000	0.000	0.006	0.650	0.007	37.241
1997–99	42.854	0.000	0.000	0.013	0.770	0.000	43.637
1999–00	98.048	0.000	0.000	0.002	1.023	0.000	99.073
2000–01	45.694	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.889	0.002	46.585
2001–02	41.259	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.051	0.000	41.310
2002–03	49.607	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.062	0.000	49.668
2003–04	44.571	0.000	0.000	0.040	0.429	0.000	45.040
2004–05	30.907	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.350	0.001	31.258
2005–06	38.988	0.000	0.000	0.001	0.095	0.000	39.084
2006–07	23.969	0.000	0.000	0.066	0.040	0.000	24.076
2007–08	7.243	0.000	0.000	0.009	0.130	0.000	7.382
2008–09	13.814	0.000	0.000	0.002	0.040	0.000	13.856
2009–10	10.148	0.000	0.000	0.009	0.038	0.000	10.195
2010–11	8.855	0.000	0.000	0.001	0.204	0.001	9.061
2011–12	8.631	0.000	0.000	0.010	0.172	0.001	8.814
2012–13	17.605	0.000	0.000	0.018	0.043	0.000	17.667
2013–14	19.857	0.000	0.000	0.002	0.037	0.000	19.896





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



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