

# Inland waters: native flora



## Population trends and percentage threatened

South Australia's

Environmental trend and condition report card 2018

STATEWIDE



Trend  
**Getting worse**



Condition  
**Fair**



Reliability  
**Fair**

### Trend

**The statewide trend in populations of inland water native flora is getting worse.**

This report card is based on expert assessments of abundance and distribution of 501 taxa, across three groups, that are considered to be inland water native flora. Notable taxa include river red gum, coolibah, lignum, water ribbons, and many reed, rush and sedge species.

Population trends are stable in two natural resources management regions (Alinytjara Wilurara [AW] and South Australian Arid Lands [SAAL]), getting worse in four regions (Eyre Peninsula [EP], Northern and Yorke [NY], South Australian Murray–Darling Basin [SAMDB] and South East [SE]) and unknown in two regions (Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges [AMLR] and Kangaroo Island [KI]) (top figure).

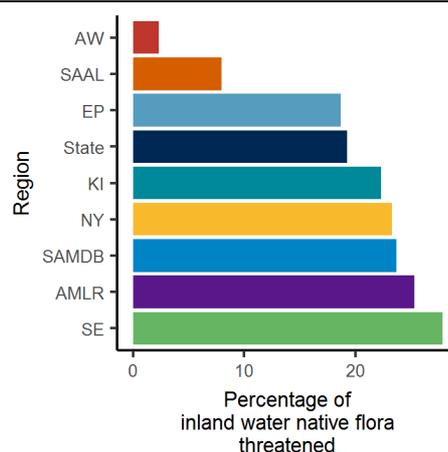
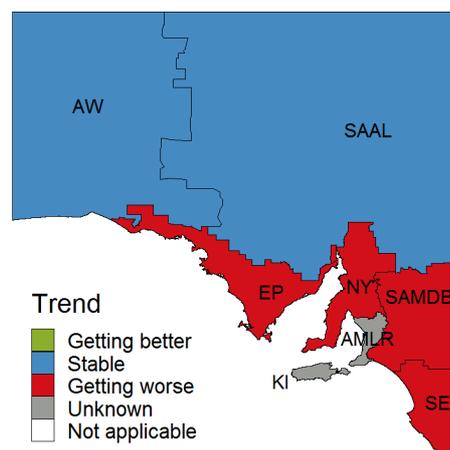
The fair reliability score for this assessment is due to the data being relatively aged, limited in scope and availability and largely based on expert opinion.

### Condition

**The percentage of inland water native flora considered to be threatened statewide is fair when compared with a worldwide benchmark.**

Species with a conservation rating of regionally extinct, critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable are considered threatened. An estimated 19% of inland water native flora is threatened in South Australia. At the regional level, estimates are 25% in AMLR (fair), 2% in AW (good), 19% in EP (fair), 22% in KI (fair), 23% in NY (fair), 8% in SAAL (good), 24% in SAMDB (fair) and 28% in SE (fair) (bottom figure).

**The statewide trend in populations of inland water native flora is getting worse because of a range of ongoing pressures**



### Why is inland water native flora important?

Inland water native flora is an important part of South Australia's natural heritage. Native flora provides animals with food, shelter and protection from predators. The inland water native flora also improves ecosystem health by reducing the impacts of floods, absorbing pollutants and improving water quality. Native flora is an integral element of how people connect with nature. Landscapes with high species diversity also provide mental and physical health benefits.

### What are the pressures?

Inland water native flora is particularly threatened by changes to water flows and quality. Land clearance, habitat degradation and fragmentation, the introduction of weeds and pest animals, inappropriate fishing and farming practices, and pollution are also threats. A changing climate adds to these pressures.

### What is being done?

Inland water native flora in South Australia is protected by national and state legislation. It is also supported by activities such as community engagement, restoring more natural patterns of flow and water level, reducing nutrient and sediment run-off, controlling feral animals and weeds, and fencing stream edges.

For further information see: [technical information](#)



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