

# Inland waters: biosecurity

## New incursions of invasive species

South Australia's

Environmental trend and condition report card 2018



STATEWIDE



Trend  
**Unknown**



Condition  
**Fair**



Reliability  
**Poor**

### Trend

**Insufficient information is available to determine a trend in the number of new incursions of invasive species.**

This assessment is of new incursions of aquatic invasive plants and animals that have been reported by landholders and natural resources management officers in 2016 and 2017. In these years, six different invasive plants and three different invasive animals were detected. Of these, two-thirds were detected in backyard gardens.

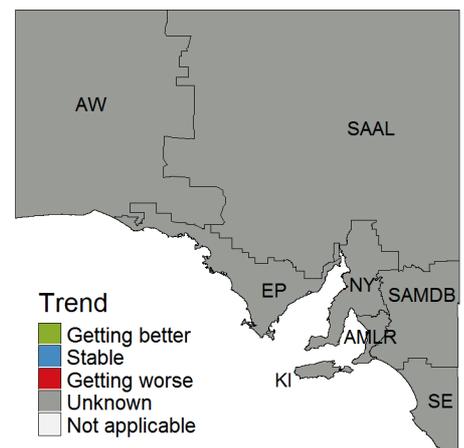
The trend is unknown (top figure) and the information reliability score is poor because the data are limited.

### Condition

**Condition is fair, with five new incursions of invasive species in 2017.**

In 2017, there were five incursions of declared freshwater pest species across South Australia. This included stowaway cane toads that were eradicated, and salvinia, water hyacinth and horsetails that were reported for sale or growing in garden ponds. No new incursions of aquatic plants were reported in the wild.

There was also a re-incursion of speckled livebearer (bottom figure) in Willunga Creek catchment; this species was thought to have been eradicated after an earlier incursion.



**There were five new incursions of aquatic invasive species in SA in 2017, but there is insufficient information to determine a trend**



Speckled livebearer – small, exotic aquarium fish with the potential to degrade water quality and displace native species

### Why is inland waters biosecurity important?

Aquatic biosecurity is important to prevent the introduction and spread of new pest animals, plants and diseases.

Aquatic invasive species can affect biodiversity, compete with native flora and fauna for food and habitat, modify and damage aquatic environments, foul industrial infrastructure, and pose health risks.

### What are the pressures?

Pest animals, plants and diseases can disperse beyond their natural range and become established naturally or by human activity, either deliberate or accidental. With increasing development, transport and trade, the risk of new incursions is high. Some invasive species are not easily seen and may be hard to identify, meaning that they are more likely to establish and spread.

Changes in climate can also alter the distribution and abundance of pests and diseases, and the severity and frequency of incursions.

### What is being done?

The primary focus of invasive species management is community education to prevent human-assisted dispersal.

Once an invasive species is established in a natural waterway, it is difficult to eradicate.

At a local scale, control options may include removal, smothering and chemical treatment.

Invasive aquatic species are managed through environment and fisheries legislation, and biosecurity policies.

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



This report is a work in progress. As resource monitoring improves, so too will our ability to describe trends in condition. Licensed under [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](#). © Crown in right of the State of South Australia.



Government of  
South Australia