

2014 Regional Snapshot

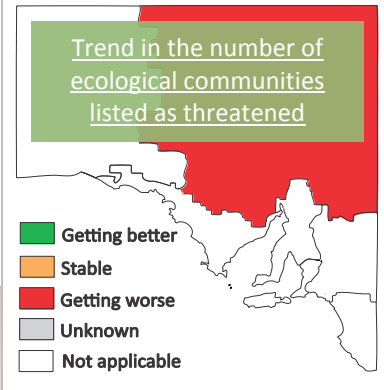
How many of our ecological communities are extinct or threatened with extinction?

Ecological communities are groups of plants and animals that interact in a unique habitat. They provide food and shelter for native species, store carbon, and filter the air, water and soil on which we all depend. They support tourism, agriculture and fisheries industries, and they have cultural significance for all Australians.

Some ecological communities are considered threatened under national legislation. The number of ecological communities listed indicates how many communities require urgent conservation.

Land-based ecological communities are threatened by land clearance, habitat degradation and fragmentation, changes to water flows, weeds and pest animals, inappropriate fire regimes, poor grazing and farming practices, and pollution.

The health of our ecological communities relies on the [management](#) of these threats.



State target

Improve the management of species and ecological communities

Trend (2009–13)

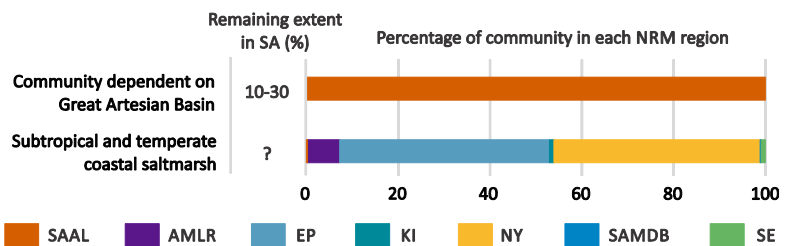
Getting worse

One ecological community has been listed as threatened in the last 5 years

Two ecological communities are nationally listed as threatened in the SA Arid Lands NRM region. One of these has been listed in the last 5 years: subtropical and temperate coastal saltmarsh (vulnerable category).

The NRM region contains less than 0.1 per cent of coastal saltmarsh, which is managed by the Northern and Yorke NRM region.

The extent of the community of native species dependent on natural discharge of water from the Great Artesian Basin has been reduced by over 70 per cent (see graph on right). About 17 per cent of what is left is in a [protected area](#).



Where we are at (2013)

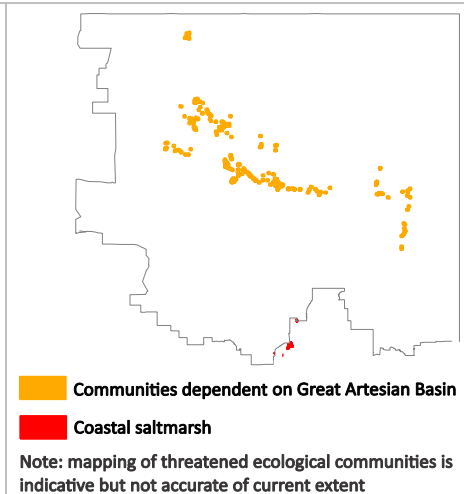
Poor

Two ecological communities are nationally threatened in the NRM region

Two ecological communities that occur in this NRM region are listed as nationally threatened (see map on right).

The springs associated with native species dependent on the Great Artesian Basin provide vital surface water to arid environments, and have great ecological, scientific, anthropological and economic significance. In the late 1800s, water extraction through pastoral bores caused a decline in the number of active springs. The remaining springs in the SA Arid Lands NRM region are isolated and small. The current condition of these springs has not been assessed but baseline data, including species composition, was collected in 2013 in partnership with the [National Water Commission](#). Threats to condition include draw down of the waters of the basin, grazing and trampling by livestock and feral animals, dam creation and the establishment of exotic pasture species.

Across the NRM region, 9 other ecological communities are being assessed to determine their conservation status.



Reliability of information



Excellent

Further information: [Technical information for this report](#), [Department of the Environment- threatened species and ecological communities](#)