

2014 Regional Snapshot

How many of our species are extinct or threatened with extinction?

The goods and services that support state and regional economies are dependent on the maintenance of our biodiversity and ecosystems.

Threatened plants and animals are considered matters of national environmental significance. The number of Australian species that are threatened with extinction (critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable) or extinct under national legislation shows that our biodiversity is declining. Plants and animals that are critically endangered or endangered are most likely to become extinct in the near future.

Our native plants and animals are threatened by land clearance, habitat degradation and fragmentation, changes to water flows and water quality, the introduction of weeds and pest animals, inappropriate fire regimes, poor fishing and farming practices, and pollution.

The survival of our plants and animals relies on the [management](#) of these threats.



Trend in the number of plants and animals listed as threatened



State target

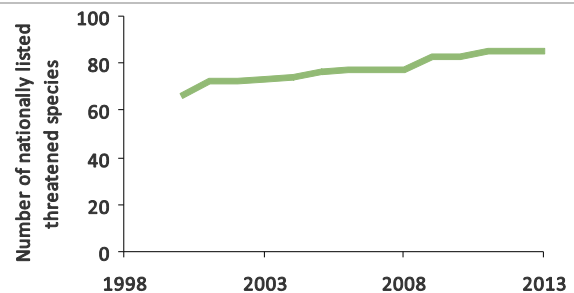
Improve the management of species and ecological communities

Trend (2009–13)

Getting worse

In the last 5 years, 8 plant and animal species in the South East NRM region have been nationally listed as threatened

The total number of plants and animals in the South East NRM region that are nationally extinct or listed as threatened has increased from 67 in 2000 to 86 in 2013 – a net increase of more than 1 each year (see graph on right). These rates of increase match global patterns for birds, mammals, amphibians and plants.



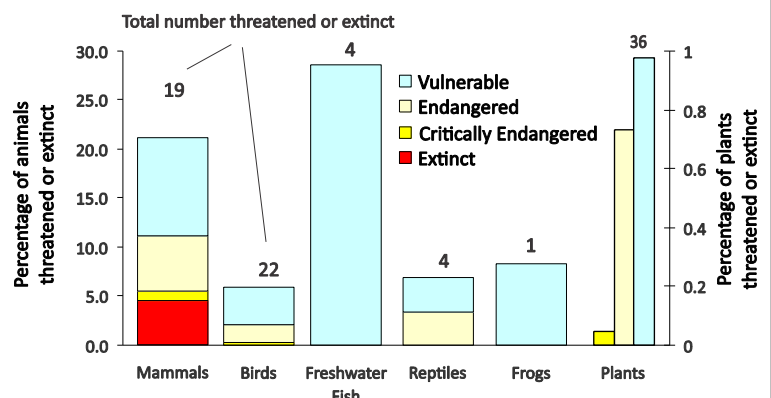
Where we are at (2013)

Poor

More and more native plants and animals continue to be under threat. Ongoing efforts must be made to ensure their protection.

A total of 2052 plant and 544 animal species have been recorded in the NRM region. Of these, 36 plants (around 2 per cent) and 46 animals (around 8 per cent) are nationally listed as threatened with extinction. Freshwater fish and mammals have the highest percentage of threatened species of all animal groups (see graph on right).

A total of 4 animal species are extinct, all of which are mammals. No plants are nationally listed as extinct.



Reliability of information



Excellent

Further information:

[Technical information for this report](#)

[Department of the Environment- threatened species and ecological communities](#)