

Native flora: percentage declining



Biodiversity | Inland waters

South Australia's environmental trend and condition report cards 2023



STATE

Trend

The percentage of inland waters native flora species declining is stable, but this trend has poor reliability.

This assessment is based on results for 282 of 591 inland waters native flora species. Notable examples include river red gum, coolibah, lignum, water ribbons, and many reed, rush and sedge species. This report card includes analyses of unstructured data to try to maximise the number of species able to be assessed. The low reliability score reflects potential biases and limitations of this approach, which was still only able to assess 47.7% of species.

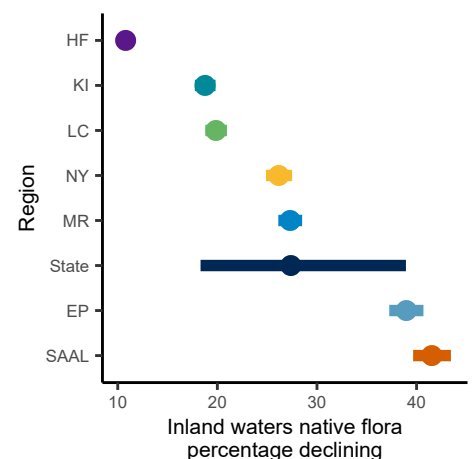
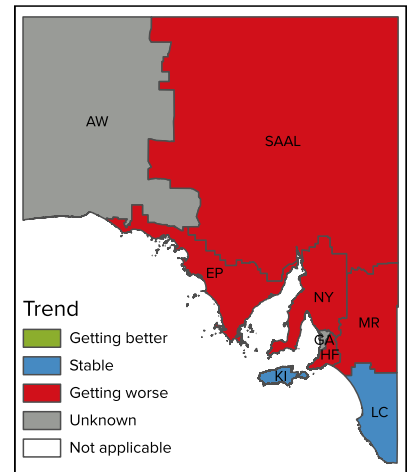
When compared to a 2002 baseline, this 2022 assessment indicates the percentage of species showing a declining trend is stable in 2 regions (Kangaroo Island (KI) and Limestone Coast (LC)), getting worse in 5 regions (Hills and Fleurieu (HF), Eyre Peninsula (EP), Northern and Yorke (NY), South Australian Arid Lands (SAAL) and Murraylands and Riverland (MR)) and unknown in 2 regions (Alinytjara Wilurara (AW) and Green Adelaide (GA)) (top figure).

Condition

The estimated percentage of inland waters native flora species declining is 27.4%, however the condition is rated as unknown as there are no agreed benchmarks.

Species were defined as 'declining' if the rate at which they were recorded showed a greater than 90% chance of a reduction, between 2002 and 2022. An estimated 27.4% of inland waters native flora are declining in South Australia. At the regional level, estimates are 10.8% for HF, 18.8% for KI, 19.9% for LC, 26.2% for NY, 27.3% for MR, 39.0% for EP and 41.5% for SAAL (bottom figure).

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Why are native flora in inland waters important?

Inland waters native flora is an integral part of First Nations cultures and an important part of South Australia's biodiversity. Native flora in inland areas improves ecosystem health by providing habitat, food resources, reducing the impacts of floods, absorbing pollutants, improving water quality, and buffering freshwater ecosystems from the impacts of climate change. Collectively, native flora helps people connect with nature, contributing to physical and mental wellbeing.

What are the pressures?

Native flora in inland waters are impacted by changes to water flows and quality. It may also be impacted by stock, land clearance, habitat degradation and fragmentation, the introduction of weeds and pest animals, fishing and farming practices, and pollution. A changed climate adds to these pressures.

What is being done?

Inland waters native flora in South Australia is protected by national and state legislation.

Activities aimed at improving native flora in inland waters include: restoring more natural patterns of flow and water level, reducing nutrient and sediment run-off, controlling invasive animals and weeds, managing access through fencing, and threatened species recovery initiatives.

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



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Government of South Australia