

2014 Regional Snapshot

Are the extent and condition of our mangroves improving?

The marine environment provides valuable resources for regional economies, supporting tourism, commercial and recreational fishing, aquaculture, shipping and mining. Most South Australians live near the coast, and many coastal and marine systems are under pressure from human impacts.

Mangrove areas, where mangrove trees grow in dense thickets, are located in tidal estuaries, saltmarshes and on muddy coasts, and form a transition zone between land and marine ecosystems.

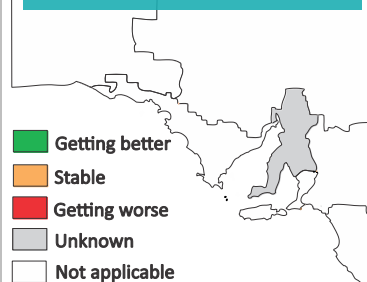
Mangroves trap sediment and prevent coastal erosion. They also maintain coastal water quality, cycle nutrients, store carbon and provide food and shelter for marine animals, including commercial fish in their juvenile stages.

Mangroves in the Northern and Yorke NRM region are threatened by clearance, coastal development, construction of tidal barriers and drains, and changes in freshwater inputs that decrease salinity and increase nutrients, pollutants and sediments.

The health of mangrove ecosystems relies on the management of coastal development and water quality within catchments.



Trend in the extent and condition of mangroves



State target

Improve condition of coastal and marine ecosystems

Trend in extent and condition

Unknown

Ongoing efforts will be needed to monitor and protect our mangroves

Changes in the extent of mangroves in the Northern and Yorke NRM region are not known (map above).

Trends in the condition of mangroves across South Australia are not known.

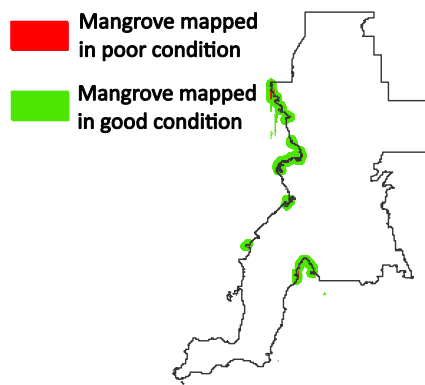
Where we are at (2007)

Good

Nearly all mangroves are in 'good' condition in the Northern and Yorke NRM region

Approximately 52 per cent of the mangroves in South Australia are in the Northern and Yorke NRM region.

Broad-scale mapping across South Australia by the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources between 1997 and 2007 classed nearly all in 'good' condition. Detailed field surveys of mangrove condition have not been undertaken in the Northern and Yorke NRM region.



Reliability of information



Good

Further information:

[Technical information for this report](#), [Coast Protection Board](#)