

Land: native fauna



Population trends and percentage threatened

South Australia's

Environmental trend and condition report card 2018

STATEWIDE



Trend
Getting worse



Condition
Fair



Reliability
Fair

Trend

The statewide trend in populations of land native fauna is getting worse.

This report card is based on expert assessments of the abundance and distribution for 779 taxa, across four groups, that are considered to be land native fauna. Notable taxa include waru (black-footed rock-wallaby), malleefowl, pygmy copperhead, burrowing frog and glossy black cockatoo.

Across the natural resources management regions, population trends are stable in three regions (Alinytjara Wilurara [AW], Kangaroo Island [KI] and South Australian Arid Lands [SAAL]) and getting worse in five regions (Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges [AMLR], Eyre Peninsula [EP], Northern and Yorke [NY], South Australian Murray-Darling Basin [SAMDB] and South East SE)) (top figure).

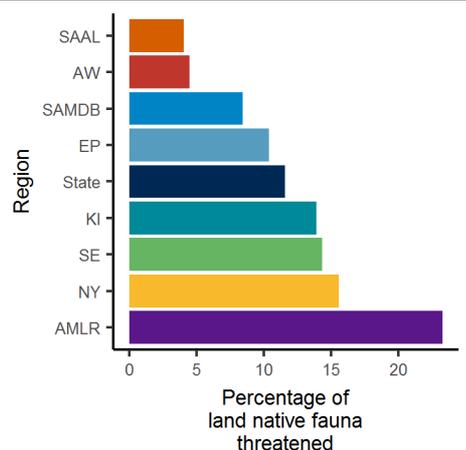
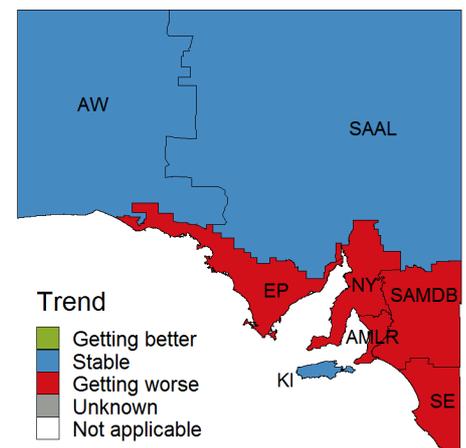
The fair reliability score for this assessment is due to the data being relatively aged, limited in scope and availability, and largely based on expert opinion.

Condition

The percentage of land native fauna considered to be threatened statewide is fair when compared with a worldwide benchmark.

Species with a conservation rating of regionally extinct, critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable are considered threatened. An estimated 12% of land native fauna is threatened in South Australia. At the regional level, estimates are 23% in AMLR (fair), 4% in AW (good), 10% in EP (fair), 14% in KI (fair), 16% in NY (fair), 4% in SAAL (good), 8% in SAMDB (fair) and 14% in SE (fair) (bottom figure).

The statewide trend in populations of land native fauna is getting worse due to a range of ongoing pressures



Why is land native fauna important?

Land native fauna is an important part of South Australia's natural heritage. Species such as Australian magpie, red kangaroo and sleepy lizard are iconic, while many species are found nowhere else on Earth. The state's land native fauna improves ecosystem and agricultural health through pollination, predation, herbivory and soil turnover. Native fauna is an integral element of how people connect with nature. Landscapes with high species diversity also provide mental and physical health benefits.

What are the pressures?

Land native fauna is threatened by land clearance that leads to habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation.

Land clearance is usually accompanied by a suite of other pressures such as changing grazing and fire regimes; changing communities of insects, diseases, pest plants and pest animals; and increasing salinity. Climate change adds a further pressure to native species, particularly native fauna that cannot disperse or adapt.

What is being done?

Land native fauna in South Australia is protected by national and state legislation. Approval to clear the habitat of land native fauna can be coupled with conditions to provide an environmental gain over and above the clearing activity. Land native fauna is also cared for by activities such as reintroduction, revegetation, fencing, managing grazing and fire regimes, and controlling pest plants and animals.

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



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