

Land: native flora



Population trends and percentage threatened

South Australia's

Environmental trend and condition report card 2018

STATEWIDE



Trend
Getting worse



Condition
Good



Reliability
Fair

Trend

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

This report card is based on expert assessments of the abundance and distribution for 3171 taxa, across four groups, that are considered to be land native flora. Notable taxa include bluebush, mulga, Sturt pea, spiny everlasting, apple-bush and blue mallee.

Population trends are stable in two natural resources management regions (Alinytjara Wilurara [AW] and South Australian Arid Lands [SAAL]), 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]) and unknown in one region (Kangaroo Island [KI]) (top figure).

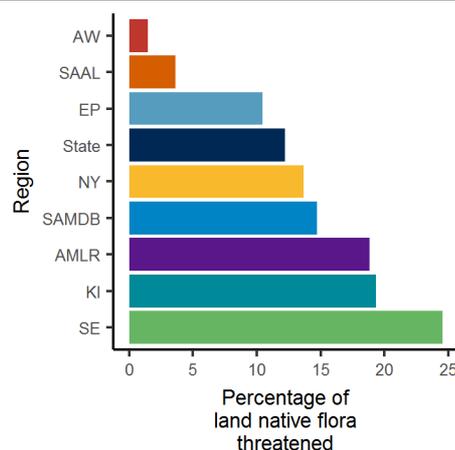
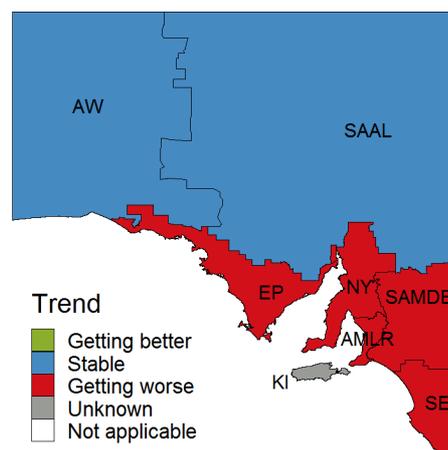
The fair reliability score for this assessment is due to the data being relatively aged, limited in scope and availability, and largely based on expert opinion.

Condition

The percentage of land native flora considered to be threatened statewide is good 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 flora is threatened in South Australia. At the regional level, estimates are 19% in AMLR (fair), 1% in AW (good), 10% in EP (good), 19% in KI (fair), 14% in NY (fair), 4% in SAAL (good), 15% in SAMDB (fair) and 25% in SE (fair) (bottom figure).

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



Why is land native flora important?

Land native flora is an important part of South Australia's natural heritage. Native flora provides animals with food, shelter and protection from predators. The state's land native flora also supports agricultural and pastoral production, protects soils, coasts and wetlands, and helps mitigate the effects of a changing climate. Native flora 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 flora 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; rising water tables; and increasing salinity. Climate change adds a further pressure to native species, particularly native flora that cannot disperse or adapt.

What is being done?

Land native flora in South Australia is protected by national and state legislation. Approval to clear land native flora can be coupled with conditions to provide an environmental gain over and above the clearing activity.

Land native flora is also cared for by activities such as revegetation, fencing, managing grazing and fire regimes, and controlling pest plants and animals.

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



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