

# Coastal and marine: native flora



## Population trends and percentage threatened

SA trend and condition report card 2020

STATEWIDE



Trend  
**Getting worse**



Condition  
**Fair**



Reliability  
**Fair**

### Trend

**The statewide trend in populations of coastal and marine native flora is getting worse.**

This report card is based on expert assessments of the abundance and distribution for 138 taxa, across three groups, that are considered to be coastal and marine native flora. Only groups in which more than 80% of the taxa have been assessed were analysed. Notable taxa include seagrasses, mangroves, coastal samphire and coastal dune vegetation.

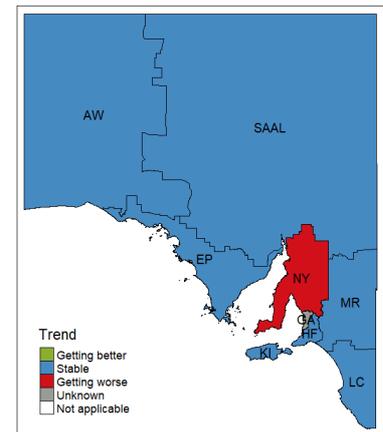
Population trends are stable in seven regions (Hills and Fleurieu [HF], Alinytjara Wilurara [AW], Eyre Peninsula [EP], Kangaroo Island [KI], South Australian Arid Lands [SAAL], Murraylands and Riverland [MR], and Limestone Coast [LC]), getting worse in one region (Northern and Yorke [NY]) and unknown in one region (Green Adelaide [GA]) (top figure).

The reliability score reflects that this assessment is based largely on expert opinion, as well as the relative age, limited scope and availability of the data.

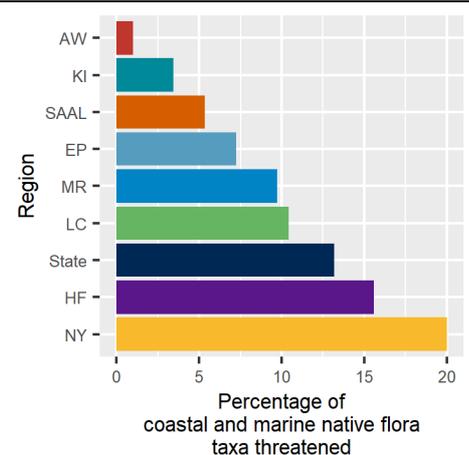
### Condition

**The percentage of coastal and marine native flora considered to be threatened is fair when compared with a worldwide benchmark.**

Threatened species are those with a conservation rating of regionally extinct, critically endangered, endangered, or vulnerable, as defined by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. An estimated 13% of coastal and marine native flora is threatened in South Australia. At the regional level, estimates are 16% in HF (fair), 1% in AW (good), 7% in EP (good), 3% on KI (good), 20% in NY (fair), 5% in SAAL (good), 10% in MR (good), 10% in LC (fair) and unknown in GA (bottom figure).



**The trend in populations of coastal and marine native flora is getting worse in the more developed parts of the state.**



### Why are coastal and marine native flora important?

The state's coastal and marine native flora is an integral part of Indigenous culture, and an important part of South Australia's natural heritage. Plants such as mangroves and seagrasses are iconic, and 85% of southern Australia's marine species occur nowhere else in the world. The state's marine native flora is important to the ecosystems that support marine industries such as commercial fishing. The coastal and marine native flora helps people connect with nature, providing mental and physical health benefits.

For further information, see [Technical information](#)

### What are the pressures?

Coastal and marine native flora can be adversely affected by development, pollution, invasive species, habitat loss and fragmentation, overharvesting of species, interaction with commercial fisheries and climate change.

### What is being done?

State and national legislation provides protection for coastal and marine floras and their habitats from development and clearing. Implementation of the Adelaide Water Quality Improvement Plan is improving water quality for coastal and marine native flora by reducing nutrient and sediment inputs to Adelaide's coastal waters. Other activities that help protect coastal and marine native flora include fencing (including beach access), weed control, signage and revegetation.

Threatened flora recovery projects can be successful at improving the conservation status of species.



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