

Inland waters: biosecurity

New incursions of invasive species

SA trend and condition report card 2020



STATEWIDE



Trend
Unknown



Condition
Fair



Reliability
Poor

Trend

Insufficient information is available to determine a trend in the number of new incursions of invasive species.

This assessment is of new incursions of aquatic invasive plants and animals that have been reported by landholders and natural resources management officers in 2018 and 2019.

In 2018, five non-established species were detected: salvinia, water hyacinth, Asian black-spined toad, cane toad and red-eared slider. In 2019, three non-established species were detected: salvinia, water hyacinth and cane toad.

In 2017, speckled livebearer were detected in Willunga Creek and have established a population in the waterway. Control efforts are now targeted towards stopping their spread.

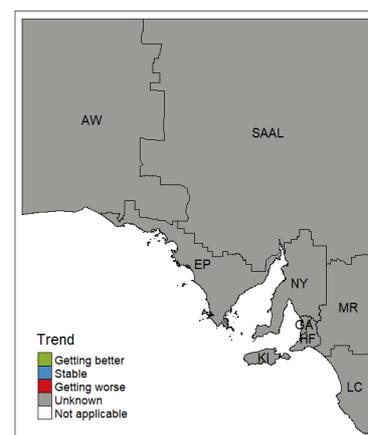
The trend is unknown (top figure), and the information reliability score is poor because the data are limited.

Condition

The condition of the biosecurity of inland waters is fair, with five new incursions of invasive species in 2019.

In 2019, five incursions of declared freshwater pest species were reported across South Australia. This included three separate occasions where stowaway cane toads were found and eradicated, as well as salvinia and water hyacinth (bottom figure) that were reported for sale or growing in garden ponds. No new incursions of aquatic plants were reported in the wild.

Five new incursions of aquatic invasive species were reported in 2019, but there is insufficient information to determine a trend.



Water hyacinth can rapidly form dense, impenetrable mats over the water surface. This invasive aquatic plant is prohibited in SA due to its threat to primary industry and the environment.

Why is inland water biosecurity important?

Aquatic biosecurity is important to prevent the introduction and spread of new pest animals, plants and diseases.

Aquatic invasive species can affect biodiversity, compete with native flora and fauna for food and habitat, modify and damage aquatic environments, foul industrial infrastructure, and pose health risks.

What are the pressures?

Pest animals, plants and diseases can disperse beyond their natural range and become established naturally or by human activity, either deliberate or accidental. With increasing development, transport and trade, the risk of new incursions is high. Some invasive species are not easily seen and may be hard to identify, meaning that they are more likely to establish and spread.

Changes in climate can also alter the distribution and abundance of pests and diseases, and the severity and frequency of incursions.

What is being done?

The primary focus of invasive species management is community education to prevent human-assisted dispersal.

Once an invasive species is established in a natural waterway, it is difficult to eradicate.

At a local scale, control options may include removal, smothering and chemical treatment.

Aquatic invasive species are managed through environment and fisheries legislation, and biosecurity policies.

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



This report is a work in progress. As resource monitoring improves, so too will our ability to describe trends in condition. Licensed under [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](#). © Crown in right of the State of South Australia.



Government of
South Australia