

# Inland waters: 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 inland water native flora is getting worse.**

This report card is based on expert assessments of the abundance and distribution for 501 taxa, across three groups, that are considered to be inland water native flora. Only groups in which more than 80% of the taxa have been assessed were analysed. Notable taxa include river red gum, coolibah, lignum, water ribbons, and many reed, rush and sedge species.

Population trends are stable in two regions (Alinytjara Wilurara [AW] and South Australian Arid Lands [SAAL]), getting worse in four regions (Eyre Peninsula [EP], Northern and Yorke [NY], Murraylands and Riverland [MR], and Limestone Coast [LC]) and unknown in three regions (Hills and Fleurieu [HF], Kangaroo Island [KI] and 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.

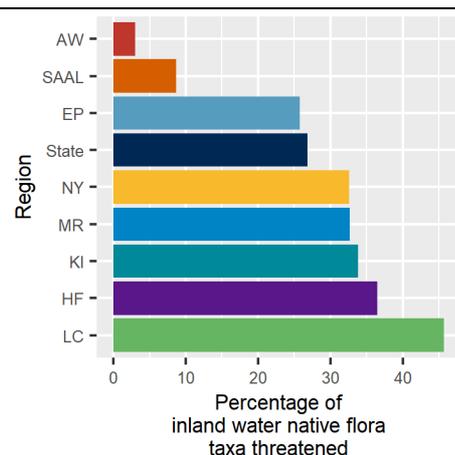
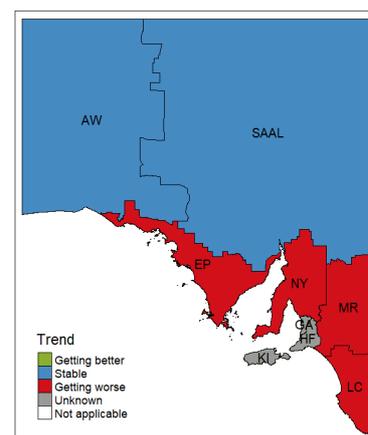
### Condition

**The percentage of inland water 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 27% of inland water native flora is threatened in South Australia. At the regional level, estimates are 36% in HF (fair), 3% in AW (good), 26% in EP (fair), 34% on KI (fair), 33% in NY (fair), 9% in SAAL (good), 33% in MR (fair), 46% in LC (fair) and unknown in GA (bottom figure).

**The statewide trend in populations of inland water native flora is getting worse.**



### Why is inland water native flora important?

Inland water native flora is an integral part of Indigenous culture and an important part of South Australia's natural heritage. It provides animals with food, shelter and protection from predators. It also improves ecosystem health by reducing the effects of floods, absorbing pollutants and improving water quality. 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?

Inland water native flora is adversely affected by changes to water flows and quality. It can also be affected by land clearance, habitat degradation and fragmentation, the introduction of weeds and pest animals, fishing and farming practices, and pollution. A changing climate adds to these pressures.

### What is being done?

Inland water native flora in South Australia is protected by national and state legislation. It is also supported by activities such as community engagement, restoring more natural patterns of flow and water level, reducing nutrient and sediment run-off, controlling feral animals and weeds, and fencing stream edges.

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

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



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