

# Mangrove vegetation



## Percentage cover

SA trend and condition report card 2020

STATEWIDE



Trend  
**Getting better**



Condition  
**Unknown**



Reliability  
**Excellent**

### Trend

**The statewide trend in percentage cover of mangrove vegetation is getting better.**

This assessment uses data on mangrove vegetation (e.g. forests in the intertidal zone of coasts) from the South Australian Land Cover 1987–2015 dataset.

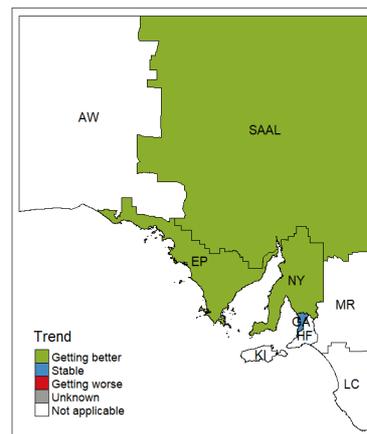
Across landscape regions, the trend in percentage cover of mangrove vegetation is getting better in three regions (Eyre Peninsula [EP], Northern and Yorke [NY], and South Australian Arid Lands [SAAL]) and stable in one region (Green Adelaide [GA]). Mangroves do not grow in the other five regions (top figure).

Loss of mangrove cover before 1990 was due to clearing for urban developments, and pollution from nutrient run-off and oil spills.

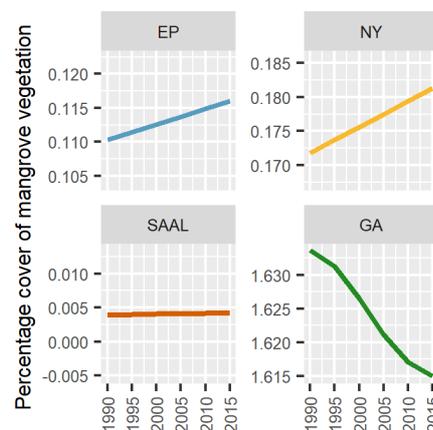
### Condition

**The condition of mangrove vegetation percentage cover is unknown because there are no agreed statewide benchmarks.**

Across South Australia, the extent of mangrove vegetation in 2015 was estimated to be 16,950 hectares. At the regional level, estimates were 5820 hectares in EP (0.12% of the region), 6870 hectares in NY (0.18% of the region), 2210 hectares in SAAL (0.0042% of the region) and 2060 hectares in GA (1.6% of the region) (bottom figure).



**Mangrove cover along South Australia's coastline has increased since 1990.**



### Why is mangrove vegetation important?

Mangroves trap sediments and prevent coastal erosion. They also maintain coastal water quality, cycle nutrients, store carbon, and provide food and shelter for a diversity of marine animals, including commercial fish in their juvenile stages.

### What are the pressures?

Mangroves are under pressure from land-based inputs such as stormwater, pollutants, nutrients and sediments.

Coastal development, construction of tidal barriers and drains, and climate change also threaten mangroves.

### What is being done?

Implementation of the Adelaide Water Quality Improvement Plan is improving water quality for mangrove vegetation by reducing nutrient and sediment inputs to Adelaide's coastal waters.

Marine parks, national parks and native vegetation legislation provides protection for mangrove vegetation from development and clearing.

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



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