

Land: native fauna



Population trends and percentage threatened

SA trend and condition report card 2020

STATEWIDE



Trend
Getting worse



Condition
Fair



Reliability
Good

Trend

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

This report card is based on expert assessments of the abundance and distribution for 779 taxa, across four groups, that are considered to be land native fauna. Only groups in which more than 80% of the taxa have been assessed were analysed. Notable taxa include waru (black-footed rock-wallaby), malleefowl, pygmy copperhead, burrowing frog and glossy black cockatoo.

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

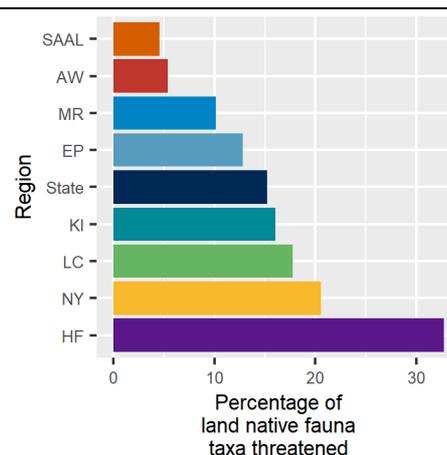
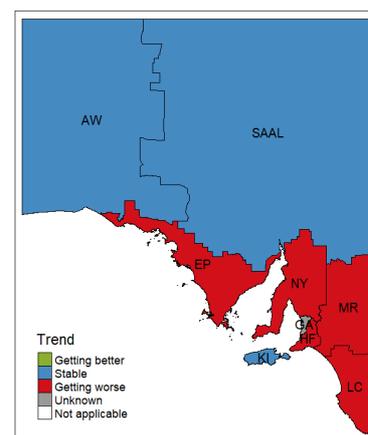
Condition

The percentage of land native fauna 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 15% of land native fauna is threatened in SA. At the regional level, estimates are 33% in HF (fair), 5% in AW (fair), 13% in EP (fair), 16% on KI (fair), 21% in NY (fair), 5% in SAAL (good), 10% in MR (fair), 18% in LC (fair) and unknown in GA (bottom figure).

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Why is land native fauna important?

Land native fauna is an integral part of Indigenous culture and an important part of South Australia's natural heritage. Species such as Australian magpie, red kangaroo and sleepy lizard are iconic, and many other species are found nowhere else on Earth. The state's land native fauna improves ecosystem and agricultural health through pollination, predation, herbivory and soil turnover. Native fauna is an integral element of how people connect with nature. Landscapes with high species diversity also provide mental and physical health benefits.

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

What are the pressures?

Land native fauna is affected 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; and increasing salinity. Climate change adds a further pressure to native fauna if species cannot disperse or adapt.

What is being done?

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

Land native fauna is also cared for by activities such as reintroduction, revegetation, fencing, managing grazing and fire regimes, and controlling pest plants and animals. Threatened fauna recovery projects can be successful at improving the conservation status of species.



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