

Land: 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 land native flora is getting worse.

This report card is based on expert assessments of the abundance and distribution for 3171 taxa, across four groups, that are considered to be land native flora. Only groups in which more than 80% of the taxa have been assessed were analysed. Notable taxa include bluebush, mulga, Sturt pea, spiny everlasting, apple-bush and blue mallee.

Population trends are stable in two regions (Alinytjara Wilurara [AW] 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 two regions (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.

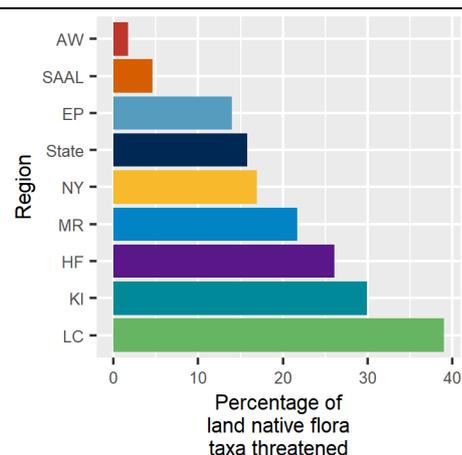
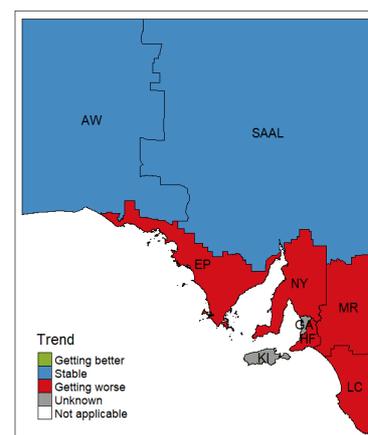
Condition

The percentage of land 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 16% of land native flora is threatened in South Australia. At the regional level, estimates are 26% in HF (fair), 2% in AW (good), 14% in EP (fair), 30% on KI (fair), 17% in NY (fair), 5% in SAAL (good), 22% in MR (fair), 39% in LC (fair) and unknown in GA (bottom figure).

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



Why is land native flora important?

Land native flora is an integral part of Indigenous culture and an important part of South Australia's natural heritage. Native flora provides animals with food, shelter and protection from predators. The state's land native flora also supports agricultural and pastoral production; protects soils, coasts and wetlands; and helps mitigate the effects of a changing climate. It is also 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 flora is affected by land-use change that leads to the further loss, degradation and fragmentation of habitat.

Land-use change 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; rising water tables; and increasing salinity. Climate change adds a further pressure to native flora if species cannot disperse or adapt.

What is being done?

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

Land native flora is also cared for by activities such as revegetation, fencing, managing grazing and fire regimes, and controlling pest plants and animals.

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



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