

# Mangrove vegetation: percentage cover



Biodiversity | Coastal and marine

South Australia's environmental trend and condition report cards 2023



Trend  
**Unknown**



Condition  
**Unknown**



Reliability  
**Good**

STATE

## Trend

The statewide trend in percentage cover of mangrove vegetation is unknown.

This assessment uses data from the South Australian Land Cover Layers 1987–2020 for 4 South Australian landscape regions with mangrove vegetation (i.e. forests in the intertidal zone of coasts). Due to recent changes in the sensors and accuracy of satellite data, it is currently not possible to assign a trend to percentage cover of mangrove vegetation. Methods to deal with changing satellite technology are evolving and it is likely that future reporting will be able to retrospectively apply trends to percentage cover of mangrove vegetation for the current reporting period.

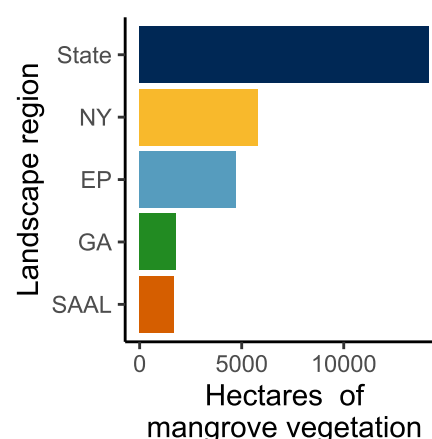
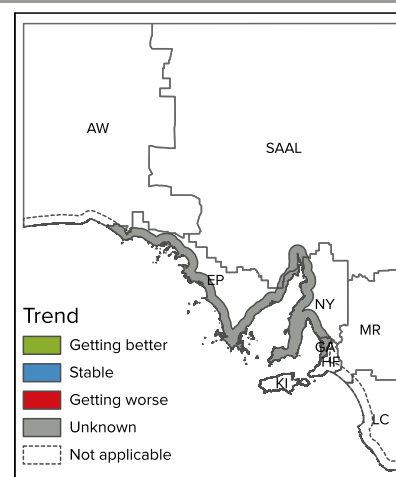
Mangrove vegetation experienced loss in cover prior to satellite observations, due to clearing for urban developments, and pollution from nutrient run-off and oil spills.

## Condition

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

In 2020, the percentage cover of mangrove vegetation was 0.014% statewide. This is based on an estimated extent of 14,200 hectares (ha). Regional estimates were: 0.153% cover in Northern and Yorke (NY, 5,800 ha), 0.094% in Eyre Peninsula (EP, 4,700 ha), 1.398% in Green Adelaide (GA, 1,800 ha), and 0.003% in South Australian Arid Lands (SAAL, 1,700 ha) (bottom figure).

**In 2020, mangrove percentage cover was 0.014% statewide, but there is insufficient information to determine a trend.**



## 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?

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

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

For further information see: [technical information](#)



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