

2014 Regional Snapshot

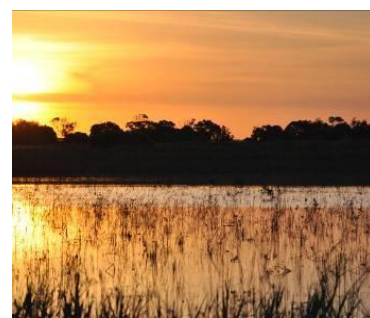
How many of our ecological communities are extinct or threatened with extinction?

Ecological communities are groups of plants and animals that interact in a unique habitat. They provide food and shelter for native species, store carbon, and filter the air, water and soil on which we all depend. They support tourism, agriculture and fisheries industries, and they have cultural significance for all Australians.

Some ecological communities are considered threatened under national legislation. The number of ecological communities listed indicates how many communities require urgent conservation.

Land-based ecological communities are threatened by land clearance, habitat degradation and fragmentation, changes to water flows, weeds and pest animals, inappropriate fire regimes, poor grazing and farming practices, and pollution. Marine communities can be threatened by coastal development, pollution and nutrients in freshwater runoff, fishing impacts, and climate change.

The health of our ecological communities relies on the [management](#) of these threats.



Trend in the number of ecological communities listed as threatened



State target

Improve the management of species and ecological communities

Trend (2009–13)

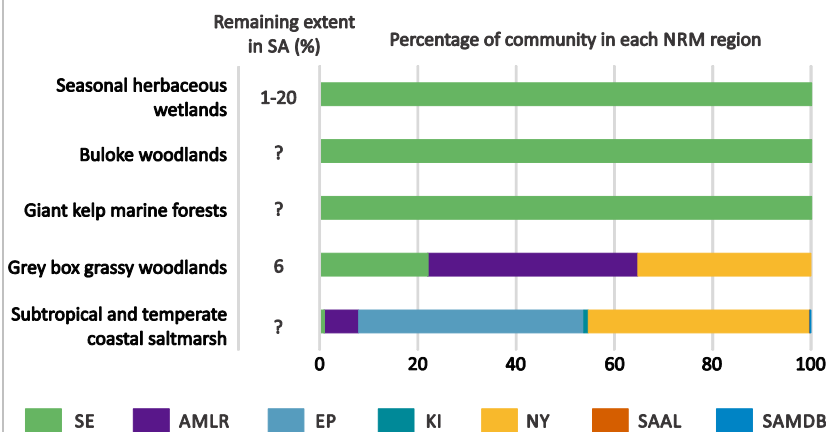
Getting worse

Four ecological communities have been listed as threatened in the last 5 years

Five ecological communities are nationally listed as threatened in the South East NRM region. Four of these have been listed in the last 5 years: seasonal herbaceous wetlands (critically endangered category), grey box grassy woodlands (endangered), giant kelp marine forests (endangered) and subtropical and temperate coastal saltmarsh (vulnerable).

The threatened ecological communities that occur in the NRM region now cover between 1 and 20 per cent of their former extent (see graph on right). About 30 per cent of what is left is in a [protected area](#).

This NRM region contains all of the seasonal herbaceous wetlands, buloke woodlands and giant kelp marine forests (graph on right).



Where we are at (2013)

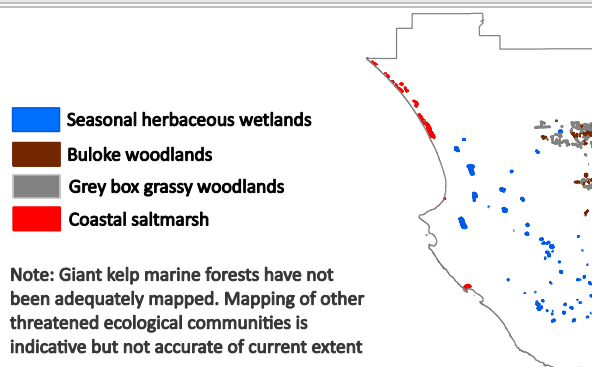
Poor

Five ecological communities are nationally threatened in the NRM region

Five ecological communities that occur in this NRM region are listed as nationally threatened (see map on right).

Posidonia seagrass meadows are being assessed as a threatened ecological community under national legislation. A further 17 other ecological communities in the NRM region are being assessed to determine their conservation status.

More information about the conservation activities and monitoring occurring for threatened ecological communities in each NRM region can be found [here](#).



Reliability of information



Excellent

Further information: [Technical information for this report](#), [Department of the Environment- threatened species and ecological communities](#)