

Southern Bell Frog

Litoria raniformis



Southern Bell Frogs are also called Golden Bell Frogs, Green and Golden Grass Frogs or Growling Grass Frogs because they make loud growling calls. Comparatively large, they grow up to 10cm long and have warty green skin with gold and bronze markings. They have webbed hind feet, but no webbing on their front legs.

They are most active in spring and summer and can be seen basking in the sun or in groups under reeds at the edge of wetlands.

Diet

Southern Bell Frogs feed at night on insect larvae, bugs, beetles and termites. They are opportunistic predators and hunt by being still and waiting for prey to come within their reach.

Breeding

During spring and summer, males call with a repeated 'crawark, crawaaark crok crok' to attract a mate while floating in open water or under vegetation. Females lay jelly-like masses of up to 4,000 eggs usually after a local rain or flooding. Tadpoles hatch two days later and hide in vegetation near the waters edge where it is shallower and warmer, then metamorphose into frogs in summer or autumn.

Habitat

Their habitat includes a variety of still to slow-flowing natural and artificial wetlands, including swamps, lakes, streams, riverine floodplains, farm dams, garden ponds, quarries and irrigation channels.

Threats

Southern Bell Frogs exist mostly in small and isolated populations. This makes it difficult for them to breed. Exotic fish prey on tadpoles and compete for habitat and food sources with this frog.

The drainage and salinisation of wetlands, changes to the flow of the River Murray and prolonged drought have greatly reduced their habitat areas. Disease, pollution, the removal of aquatic vegetation, and trampling by grazing stock are other threats.



Map courtesy of Mapping Unit, Customer and Commercial Services.

Map is not intended to indicate spatial distribution of the species, only the bioregions in which the species is found.



Natural Resources
Adelaide & Mt Lofty Ranges



Government of
South Australia

Cannibals! Southern Bell Frogs have been known to eat other frogs, even small ones of their own species.

Conservation

The Frog Atlas Program (part of Zoos SA) is helping to improve knowledge of their distribution and abundance in SA. A regional recovery plan is taking action to help the recovery of the species in the River Murray corridor.

You can help the Southern Bell Frog by:

- keeping stock and pollution out of waterways, preserving and replanting native aquatic vegetation and stopping the spread of introduced fish, if you are a landowner
- not polluting our waterways – pick up your litter and remember to recycle
- being careful where you step if you are walking near a waterway!

For further information

Public enquiries

For more local information on any of the species in this resource please contact your nearest Natural Resource Centre office on:

Eastwood: (08) 8273 9100

Gawler: (08) 8523 7700

Lobethal: (08) 8389 5900

Willunga: (08) 8550 3400

Education enquiries

For teachers wanting more information about environmental education resources and opportunities please contact the relevant NRM Education sub regional team on:

Northern Adelaide: (08) 8406 8289

Barossa: (08) 8563 8436

Central Adelaide: (08) 8234 7255

Southern Adelaide: (08) 8384 0176

Southern Fleurieu: (08) 8551 0524

