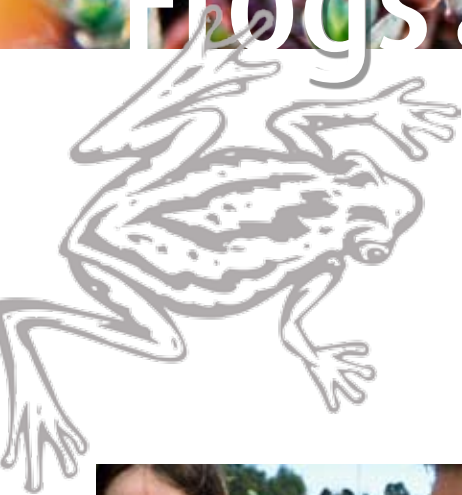




Frogs and Froglets



The City of Salisbury’s wetlands are home to various amphibian species, including the Common Froglet, the Eastern Banjo Frog and the Spotted Grass and Brown Tree Frogs. In constructed wetlands there are many different habitats for frogs at various stages of their life cycle.



Top The ground-dwelling Spotted Grass Frog (*Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*) will excrete large amounts of mucous when startled.
Photo: Luke Simon

Above A lot can be learned from frogs, especially for those who participate in the annual frog census.
Photo: Waterwatch SA

Many frog species lay clusters of eggs in sheltered locations near reeds and other riparian vegetation (plants found near water). Once eggs develop into tadpoles, they require plenty of safe havens from the many birds and other predators that also inhabit the wetlands.

Frogs are very sensitive to pollution and habitat degradation. Their presence in a wetland can indicate a healthy environment that allows them to develop from egg to tadpole to adult frog.

When fully grown from their tadpole form, frogs can be found almost anywhere in a wetland - in the water, under logs or groundcovers, or clinging to the underside of boardwalks and other artificial structures.

The Common Froglet is the most commonly found frog in streams and water bodies of the Mount Lofty Ranges and south-east South Australia. Its skin colour and texture is highly variable.



The Brown Tree Frog is a slender, medium-sized frog with a broad head and rounded snout.

You might also be lucky enough to see or hear the Eastern Banjo Frog with its 'plonking' musical sound.

An annual frog census shows where frogs are present and where they are absent from South Australian waterways. By comparing the results from year to year, changes in the range and numbers of each species can be determined.

Frogs are easy to monitor because each species has its own distinct call. From the tapes recorded by the frog census participants, scientists can accurately identify which frog species are present at each location.

Learn more

For more information on related topics, see the other fact sheets in the Wetlands series. You may also like to visit the following websites for more information:

Australian frogs
www.frogsaustralia.net.au
www.frogs.org.au

Frog Census
www.frogatlas.com.au



Top The female Southern Brown Tree Frog (*Litoria ewingi*) lays up to 600 eggs at a time, in clumps of about 10 to 15 eggs.
Photo: KESAB

Above Southern Brown Tree Frog tadpoles are pale yellow to dark grey in colour, with clear fins.
Photo: Amphibian Research Centre

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