

Common Frogs of the Hills and Fleurieu

Do you love hearing the call of nature on your property? If you do, you probably realise that frogs are a big part of this chorus.

However, frog populations have been **declining worldwide** at unprecedented rates. Nearly one-third of the world's amphibian species are threatened with extinction. Up to 200 species have completely disappeared since 1980. This is NOT normal: amphibians naturally go extinct at a rate of only about one species every 500 years! Of Australia's 240 known frog species, at least four have already disappeared. On top of that, other frog species haven't been seen in decades and even more are perched on the edge of extinction.



Frogs are a **very important part of the nature**. They eat billions of insects and invertebrates, they are food for reptiles and birds, tadpole's filler drinking water plus frogs look and sound cool, especially on a warm night in early summer! They are our biological indicators of healthy waterways.

If you **want to look after** these local native critters on your property, make sure to do these things:

- Permanently fence off your wetlands and creeks to protect them from the damaging impacts from livestock. If you do need to crash graze some areas because they are close to your house or sheds, do it properly; the maximum number of livestock (preferably sheep) for the shortest period of time... no more than a week.
- Reduce or eliminate pesticides from your property.
- Fight to protect your local areas of native vegetation like roadsides, parks and other public lands.
- Do NOT release pet or other amphibians as it is illegal and can disrupt the delicate ecology of our region.
- Do NOT collect frogs; let them be and enjoy the sound of nature!

Listed are the **4 common indigenous frogs** in the Mount Lofty Ranges.

1. Common froglet (*Crinia signifera*) - most common frog, generalists, can live in any wetland environment.

- **Size & Colour** - Small, to 3cm, variable skin colour, patterns and textures, earthy colours.
- **Call** - sounds like crickets. A single or repeated high pitched 'crick'. Easily confused with the Brown Tree Frog but the repeated call has a moderate, walking-pace tempo.
- **When are they heard** - most of the year except in late summer and early autumn when their habitat dries out.
- **Click on the link to find out more and listen to their call** - [Crinia signifera \(Common Froglet\) -- species details | FrogWatch SA](#)



Martin Stokes

2. Eastern Banjo Frog / Pobblebonk (*Limnodynastes dumerilii*) - common burrowing frog, seen crossing roads on rainy nights.

- **Size & Colour** - larger in size to 9cm with darker brown colours.
- **Call** - a loud bonk.
- **When are they heard** - mostly in spring.
- **Click on the link to find out more and listen to their call** - [Limnodynastes dumerilii \(Eastern Banjo Frog, Pobblebonk, Bull Frog\) -- species details | FrogWatch SA](#)



Martin Stokes

3. Spotted Marsh/Grass Frog (*Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*) - common frog, preferring swamps, dams and ponds.

- **Size & Colour** - Grow to 5cm, green or brown spots on grey/brown body (camo), stripe may run down back.
- **Call** - a short croaky burst of a toy machine gun.
- **When are they heard** - mostly in Spring.
- **Click on the link to find out more and listen to their call** - [Limnodynastes tasmaniensis - North \(Spotted Marsh Frog, Spotted Grass Frog\) -- species details | FrogWatch SA](#)



4. Brown Tree Frog (*Litoria ewingi*) - common frog found on damp vegetation near the ground or is a visitor to bathrooms. Very good jumpers.

- **Size & Colour** - up to 4.5cm in size, varying brown colours. Dark stripe from nose through eye down to front leg
- **Call** - sound like crickets. High pitched, fast, repeated 'creeee, creee, cree, cree, cree'. Easily confused with the Common Froglet but the call has a fast tempo.
- **When are they heard** - mostly in Winter and Spring.
- **Click on this link to find out more and listen to their call** - [Litoria ewingi \(Brown Tree Frog, Ewing's Tree Frog\) -- species details | FrogWatch SA](#)

