

# Native Frogs of the Limestone Coast

## Identification Chart

Twelve species of native frogs have been recorded in the Limestone Coast of South Australia. While their specific habitat requirements vary, most require quality native vegetation and all need good quality water to breed. In the Limestone Coast of South Australia, it is estimated that only 2% of the original wetland areas remain and of this, only 10% are in good condition. This makes our remaining wetland areas a very important asset for the frogs of the region.

### FROGS OF OPEN WATER WETLANDS AND SWAMPS

**Southern Bell Frog**  
*Litoria raniformis*



One of the largest frogs in Australia. Also known as the "Growling Grass Frog". Loud barking call and colourful skin patterns. The fingers are not webbed, but the toes are almost fully webbed. Tadpoles are pinkish-grey in colour and the tail has a yellowish tinge. Lays a raft of eggs that later sinks.

**Size:** Males 55-65 mm; Females 60-104 mm.

**Habitat:** Large permanent waterbodies with abundant growth of vegetation near the bank.

**Mating call:** A long, medium pitched, modulated growl, followed by a series of short grunts.

**Striped Marsh Frog**  
*Limnodynastes peronii*



A voracious hunter, this frog will eat almost anything smaller than itself, including other frogs. Light brown to grey frog with brown stripes, often with a pale stripe running down the middle of the back. The iris of the eye is golden at the top and dark brown at the bottom. Lays eggs in floating foam nests.

**Size:** Males 48-69 mm; Females 46-73 mm.

**Habitat:** Commonly found in wetlands and swamps. Shelters among reeds and other debris.

**Mating call:** A single loud 'pok' or 'tock', similar in inflection to a hen's 'cluck'.

**Eastern Banjo Frog**  
*Limnodynastes dumerilii*



Also known as the "Pobblebonk". Burrows underground during dry times. Common and widespread. Coloured grey, olive-green, dark brown to black. A pale stripe runs from under the arm to under the eye. Tadpoles are dark brown with dull gold clusters. Lays eggs in floating foam nests.

**Size:** Males 52-70 mm; Females 52-83 mm.

**Habitat:** Burrows in loamy soils and emerges to feed and breed after rains.

**Mating call:** Musical 'bonk'. Often call together.

**Smooth Frog**  
*Geocrinia laevis*



A secretive terrestrial frog. Grey or brown frog with red flecks. Pale pink patches are present underneath the legs and in the groin. The belly tends to be mottled or densely covered with grey, tan or dark brown flecks. Lays eggs in clumps on the ground.

**Size:** Males 23-27 mm; Females 22-35 mm.

**Habitat:** Found amongst leaf litter in dry Eucalyptus and pine forests subject to temporary flooding.

**Mating call:** Call consists of a variable number of pulses, the first often being longer than the rest. 'cra-a-a-a-a-a-ck.... cra-a-a-ck....cra-a-ck'.

### FROGS OF EUCALYPT FORESTS

**Southern Toadlet**  
*Pseudophryne semimarmorata*



A ground dwelling species which tends to walk rather than hop. Dark olive-green to chocolate brown frog with numerous warts. Brilliant yellow, red or orange areas are present under the limbs and body. The belly is marbled black and white or black and blue. Lays eggs in clumps on the ground.

**Size:** Males 25-28 mm; Females 25-33 mm.

**Habitat:** Found in Eucalyptus forests subject to flooding. It shelters under logs and leaf litter in small tunnels.

**Mating call:** A harsh, short and slowly repeated grating 'cre-e-ek'.

**Bibron's Toadlet**  
*Pseudophryne bibronii*



A small brown to almost black frog which has a scattering of darker flecks and reddish spots. The belly is marbled black and white. A ground dwelling species which tends to walk rather than hop. Lays eggs in clumps on the ground.

**Size:** Males 22-30 mm; Females 25-32 mm.

**Habitat:** Found in damp forest areas, heathlands and grasslands which have some cover such as logs and stones.

**Mating call:** A short, grating, upwardly inflected 'ark'.

### FROGS OF OPEN WATER WETLANDS AND SWAMPS

**Spotted Marsh Frog**  
*Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*



Olive, green or brown spots on a pale background, often with a pinkish, yellow or white stripe running down the middle of the back. Lays eggs in floating foam nests.

**Size:** Males 31-42 mm; Females 32-47 mm.

**Habitat:** Widespread in marshy country, creek edges and wetlands. Usually the first frog to colonise new dams. In dry periods, shelters in cracks and under rocks.

**Mating call:** A short, single 'tuk'.

**Common Froglet**  
*Crinia signifera*



Very common ground dwelling frog. The colourings and texture of this frog are highly variable. The skin may be plain, striped or spotted, smooth, warty or rigid. Lays eggs in clumps attached to vegetation.

**Size:** Males 18-25 mm; Females 19-28 mm.

**Habitat:** Highly adaptable and can be found beneath rocks, vegetation and debris at the edge of creeks, ponds, wetlands and areas of seepage.

**Mating call:** Rapidly repeated 'crick...crick...crick'. Can be heard all year round.

**Brown Tree Frog**  
*Litoria ewingii*



Medium sized frog with a broad head and rounded snout. An agile climber and jumper! Generally pale brown however in the South East they are often green in colour. A dark brown stripe runs from the snout through the eye, fading down the front leg. Lays eggs in clumps attached to vegetation.

**Size:** Males 22-40 mm; Females 32-46 mm.

**Habitat:** On the ground, in vegetation, or under rocks near permanent streams or pools.

**Mating call:** A loud, distinctive, high pitched 'weep-weep-weep' of 10 to 20 notes.

### FROGS OF OPEN WOODLAND AND GRASSLAND

**Painted Frog**  
*Neobatrachus pictus*



Also known as the 'Mallee Spade Foot'. Large, stocky built burrowing frogs with short limbs. Emerges only after heavy rains to breed. Colour patterns range from grey through to yellow with dark green or brown blotches. The eye is prominent and has a vertical pupil. Neobatrachus species lay eggs in long chains.

**Size:** Males 46-58 mm; Females 48-55 mm.

**Habitat:** Mostly open grassland and woodland, mallee and open and disturbed areas.

**Mating call:** A long, rapidly pulsed, musical trill lasting 2-3 seconds.

**Sudell's Frog**  
*Neobatrachus sudelli*



Also known as the 'Common Spade Foot'. Remains buried for much of the time, becoming active after rain. A burrowing frog that is very similar to the Painted frog. Neobatrachus species lay eggs in long chains.

**Size:** Males 38-44 mm; Females 46-49 mm

**Habitat:** Open grassy woodland or shrubland.

**Mating call:** A short 'musical trill' very similar to the Painted Frog.

### FROGS OF RED GUM SWAMPS

**Peron's Tree Frog**  
*Litoria peronii*



A large frog with the ability to quickly change colour from a pale pinkish-grey to a dark chocolate brown. The back of the thighs are heavily marked with black on yellow. Distinctive pupil in the form of a cross. Lays eggs in clumps attached to vegetation.

**Size:** Males 44-53 mm; Females 46-65 mm.

**Habitat:** Red Gum swamps, but will forage in open grassland.

**Mating call:** A long series of 29-50 explosive notes, like a 'maniacal cackle', 'cra-ah-ah-ah-ahhk' which increases in volume.

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