



Green and Golden Bell Frog



The Green and Golden Bell Frog was once one of the most common frog species on Australia's south-eastern coast. The Green and Golden Bell Frog has a distinctive three-part call that sounds a bit like a motor bike changing gears.

Standard Common Name

Green and Golden Bell Frog

Identification

A large species of frog, it has a bright green back with gold patches, although it can become nearly completely dark brown when the frog is cold or inactive. The belly is white. The pupil is horizontal and the iris is gold. Fingers are unwebbed and toes nearly completely webbed, both with small discs.

Size range

Up to 8.5 cm

Distribution

Formerly common from northeastern Victoria to northeastern New South Wales, it is now only known from small populations in north coastal New South Wales, the Sydney Basin, Broughton Island and select locations in the southeast highlands and coast and northeastern Victoria. There is also a well-known population at Sydney Olympic Park.

Habitat

The Green and Golden Bell Frog occurs in large, permanent, open-water swamps or ponds that have a variable water level and dense vegetation.

Life Cycle

Eggs are laid as small clusters in water, sometimes sinking and attaching to vegetation at the shallow edges of permanent lagoons, dams and ponds. Tadpoles can reach a total length of up to 8cm and are dark in colour when in the early stages of development, but later on show green and gold patches on their bodies. They often swim in the mid-depths and surface areas of water bodies and take three to eleven months to develop into frogs. Breeds during spring and summer.

Conservation Status

Green and Golden Bell Frog populations have declined, probably as a result of habitat loss, introduced predators and other factors. It was listed as endangered under the New South Wales Threatened Species Act and is classified as vulnerable nationally.

In Sydney, despite this population decline, it is still present in a number of sites. One of these was the 2000 Olympic Games site at Homebush Bay, right where the tennis courts were meant to be built. The presence of the frog meant the building plans were halted and the courts eventually built elsewhere. Because of other work on the site, more frog habitat had to be created nearby. The Homebush Bay population has been monitored by the Australian Museum ever since and seems to be stable despite the surrounding site development.

Conservation Status (NSW): Endangered species

Classification

Species:	<i>aurea</i>
Genus:	<i>Litoria</i>
Family:	Hylidae
Order:	Anura
Subclass:	Lissamphibia
Subphylum:	Vertebrata
Phylum:	Chordata
Kingdom:	Animalia

