



For information contact:

South Australian  
Murray-Darling Basin  
Natural Resources  
Management Board  
Board

P: (08) 8532 1432



For threatened species listings:

Nationally 'vulnerable' under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Listed as 'vulnerable' in South Australia, under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*.

## Southern Bell Frog

### AN IMPORTANT WETLAND SPECIES IN THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN RIVER MURRAY

**Common name:** Southern Bell Frog

**Species name:** *Litoria raniformis*

**Size:** It is the largest (up to 10 cm) of the 12 frog species recorded within the River Murray in South Australia.

**Calls:** loud growling 'crawaark'.

**Habitat:** can be found calling from vegetation on the edges of wetlands, swamps, creeks etc.

#### Why is the Southern Bell Frog important?

The Southern Bell Frog was once one of the most common frogs in many parts of south-eastern Australia. In more recent years there has been a decline in their population, particularly since the early 1990's.

As a result it is now listed as threatened in South Australia and nationally.

#### Why has it declined?

The contributing factors that are thought to have caused the decline in this species are:

- River regulation, prolonged periods of drought and lack of flooding leading to habitat loss,

- introduced predators (eg *Gambusia holbrooki*),
- degradation of aquatic and riparian vegetation and
- environmental pollutants

#### Southern Bell Frog Project

Many of the wetland projects along the River Murray in South Australia aim to provide habitat and breeding opportunities for the Southern Bell Frog.

The South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources are currently undertaking a project to better understand the habitat and distribution of this threatened species.

For further information regarding this program please contact SA MDB NRM Board on 8532 1432.

This Project is being undertaken by the Wetland Program of the SA MDB NRM Board and is funded by the South Australian Department for Environment and Natural Resources.



Australian Government



Government of South Australia



Southern Bell Frog,  
Overland Corner



SBF Habitat,  
Pelican Lagoon