



Media release

13 July 2020

Another Vulnerable species found at Westbury Reserve

A most unusual frog

Westbury and surrounding districts are prime habitat for the green and gold frog, a handsome amphibian whose other common name, the growling grass frog, better describes its distinctive guttural call and habitat.

Most people think that frogs live in water. They don't! The frogs in Tasmania BREED in water, and the tadpoles stay there until they turn into frogs. Once they are adults, they live where vegetation, rocks and logs provide suitable shelter and food in the form of skinks, insects, and other frogs.

Green and gold frogs bask on rocks, logs or vegetation, often away from water. On Sunday 5 July 2020 members of the Central North Field Naturalists visited Westbury Reserve to add to our list of fauna and flora species already in our records. It was a sunny afternoon after a warm July day (17 degrees in Launceston) and as well as the 31 plant species, we observed one green and gold frog on the sunny north-facing slope of Marney's Hill, the site proposed to be levelled for the prison.

Populations of Green and Gold frogs have declined and the animal is locally extinct in areas where it was once common, such as The Midlands, Derwent Valley and the north-west coast. The frog is now legally protected (status: Vulnerable) under state and commonwealth legislation. Its 'Vulnerable' status means that populations will continue to decline if their habitat continues to be cleared.

The Threatened Species Listing Statement for the Green and Gold Frog *Litoria raniformis* states:

"Management on crown land

Protect all known habitat on Crown Land. Any newly discovered populations and their habitats should be protected. The dynamics of populations in reserves is unknown and requires study."

(Reference: Threatened Species Unit, Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment, Listing Statement *Litoria raniformis*, March 2001)

We call on the government to comply with its own departmental advice.

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