

MEDIA RELEASE

Date: 16 September 2021

CALLING ALL CITIZEN SCIENTISTS - IT'S FROG MONITORING SEASON!

Even though we can't safely gather in large numbers right now, frogs can, with the arrival of spring, these vocal amphibians are out and about, calling to attract a mate and breed.

The Mallee Catchment Management Authority is calling for budding citizen scientists to help monitor frogs in our local wetlands. Getting involved is easy, simply download the free Australian Museums FrogID app on your smart phone, head out to the closest wetland, listen for frog calls, record the sound with the app and press 'submit'.

The frog recordings are sent to a team of frog experts who listen to the recording, and accurately identify the species. An email identifying the species is sent to participants and the Mallee CMA as this important data is used to inform natural resource management and planning.

To assist our citizen scientists with frog monitoring, the Mallee CMA is giving away headlamps to use for evening walks at local wetlands and a useful Mallee frog identification booklet. Visit our new pop up store at 62 Langtree Mall to pick up a free headlamp and booklet. Headlamps will be available for collection between 10am – 2pm from Monday to Friday, commencing on Monday 20 September and running through the school holidays, just in time to head out for some school holiday fun. So be quick as stocks are limited!

Frog calls also double as a way to identify different species, this means monitoring frogs usually occurs via audio rather than visual monitoring. The Mallee has nine different species of frogs, all with their own unique call.

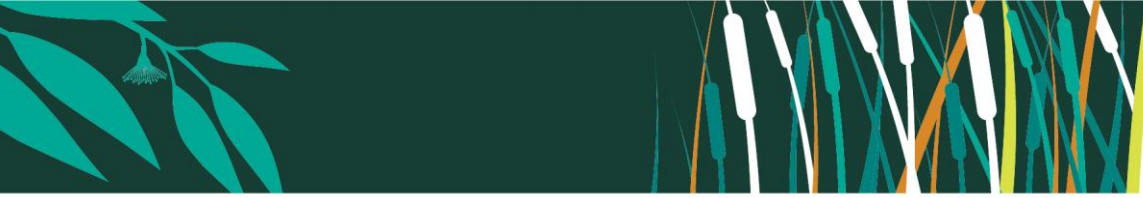
The Mallee Catchment Management Authority is encouraging the community to collect information about our local wetlands. The frog monitoring is vital tool for understanding the health of our local wetlands.

For more information about the frog monitoring program and how to get involved visit the Mallee CMA website <https://www.malleecma.com.au/get-involved/frog-monitoring/>

Keep up to date with the latest information about the citizen science and other important programs follow our social media.

Quotes attributable to Mallee CMA CEO Jenny Collins:

Frogs are an important indicator of wetland health, and decline in frog populations in Australia is cause for concern amongst Natural Resource Managers. Monitoring the evening chorus of "croaks" and "ribbits" at wetlands is an effective way for scientists to assess what may be occurring with frog populations.



“The male frog wants to ensure he attracts a female of his own species, so each frog has a distinct and different sounding call.”

Ends

MEDIA INQUIRIES

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Background information:

The Mallee Catchment Management Authority (CMA) is a statutory authority established to ensure that natural resources in the region are managed in an integrated and ecologically sustainable way. Its work is based on science and delivered through meaningful partnerships with local organisations such as Landcare, community groups, and government agencies in the Victorian Mallee.

For more information visit www.malleecma.com.au

