

# Spotted Marsh Frog (*Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*)



Pupils: Horizontal



Toes: Toe pads absent, no webbing, fringes present.



Eggs: Floating, foamy mass.



■ Range

□ North Central Region



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**Other common names:** Spotted Grass Frog, Spotted Frog.

**Adult description:** The Spotted Marsh Frog is a light brown to olive-green coloured frog with large, irregular green or brown blotches or spots. Usually it has a pale narrow mid-dorsal stripe extending from the snout to the vent, ranging from white, pink, yellow, orange or red in colour. Has a raised pale stripe from below the eye to the base of the arm. Adult males have a dark throat. The belly is white, and the toes display slight webbing and fringing. Usually grows between 30-45 mm, but may be up to 60 mm.

**Calling:** Males call from the water, usually concealed in floating vegetation. The 'northern race' of the species (central, northern, and eastern Victoria) has a distinctive call of three or four notes repeated in a long series of 'kuk-kuk-kuk'. The southern call race (western and south-eastern Victoria) has a single sharp call - "click" or "plock".

**Breeding:** Calling occurs almost year round, while breeding occurs in all months except June and July. Females are reproductively active at less than two years of age.

**Eggs & tadpoles:** Between 80 and 1,500 pigmented eggs 50-80 mm in diameter are laid by the female in circular floating foam mass. The nest is usually close to the water's edge amongst vegetation. Tadpoles are of medium size, ovoid and usually have semi-transparent or light grey fins and an olive grey, dark grey or black body. Colouration depends largely on the clarity of the water. It takes approximately a week for tadpoles to hatch, they grow to around 60 mm and it takes a further three to 12 months for tadpoles to reach metamorphosis.

**Habitat:** Most often associated with wet areas, floodplains, and semi-permanent water in many habitats including dams, ditches, flooded grassland, woodlands, farmland, slow moving creeks and in urban areas to which it has become well adapted. Commonly found in farms dams.

**Conservation status & threats:** Non-threatened. Potential threats include a decline in water quality, loss, fragmentation and disturbance of suitable habitat, cats, foxes, herbicides and pesticides, potentially at risk from the Chytrid fungus (*Batrachochytrium*).

**Interesting facts and features:** The frog is usually found in or nearby water, and in dry periods it shelters in cracks in the ground, usually under large rocks. Most often confused with the Barking Marsh Frog (*L. fletcheri*) - the call is the most reliable method of distinction between two species.

