



MEDIA RELEASE

Date: 17 September 2020

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

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

The Mallee Catchment Management Authority (CMA) 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 recordings are sent to a team of frog experts who analyse the recording, and accurately identify the species. An email with information about the species found is sent to participants, in addition Mallee CMA also receives the important data which is used to inform natural resource management and planning for the region.

To assist our citizen scientists with the frog monitoring the Mallee CMA has headlamps to giveaway to use for evening walks at local wetlands, and a useful Mallee frog booklet, both are available for pick up from the Mildura City Heart office in the Langtree Mall during the first week of the school holidays, (Monday 21 – Friday 25 September).

Jonathan Belej, Manager of Environmental Water for Mallee CMA says "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."

"When you hear frogs calling in spring it is a male, crooning to attract a mate."

"The male frog wants to ensure he attracts a female of the same species, so each frog has a distinct and different call. "

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



The Mallee CMA is encouraging the community to collect information about our local wetlands. The frog monitoring is a 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/> and follow us on our social media channels.

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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.vic.gov.au