

# Wildlife of the Hills Region

## Frogs

The Hills district – incorporating the Hawkesbury, Hills and Hornsby Shires - is a nature lovers dream. The Hills Shire alone is home to more wildlife species than the entire Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. In this unrecognised natural jewel on Sydney's outskirts you can visit grassy woodlands, heaths, majestic Blue Gum forests and wide floodplain wetlands – each with their unique suite of native wildlife.

This guide introduces the local frogs of the Hills and where possible the public lands where they can be seen.

**A DISAPPEARING RESOURCE:** Although ringed by National Parks, little of the richer wildlife of the Hills is protected. Without change the Hills unique wildlife may be lost before future generations can enjoy it. This makes it all the more important to get out and experience our natural heritage.

**TIPS FOR WILDLIFE WATCHING:** Most of our frogs are nocturnal, so your best chances are to look in the morning or evening, or to go spotlighting at night. A filter of red cellophane over your torch will help avoid damage to animals' sensitive eyes. Make sure you have permission, keep safe, and record what you see!

**ORGANISED ACTIVITIES:** Boronia Tours run regular bushwalking and spotlighting tours in local reserves of The Hills Shire. Visit [www.sydneymountainsaustralia.com.au](http://www.sydneymountainsaustralia.com.au) for details. Hornsby Shire Council run regular bushwalking & spotlighting tours – visit the Hornsby Council website for details.

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** The legal status (if any) under NSW law is listed for each species.

**REPORTING RARE WILDLIFE:** If you think you have seen any of the species indicated in **RED** you should report your findings. Knowing where these species are helps the local community and government protect them. If possible, take a photo and record the nearest street address. You can report your sightings to the Western Sydney Wildlife Record [westernsydneywildlife@hotmail.com](mailto:westernsydneywildlife@hotmail.com). Injured wildlife should be reported to WIRES on 1300 094 737.

**FOR SMART PHONE USERS:** The Australian Museum has a new Frog App which includes photos and frog call audio. Visit the Australian Museum website for details.

**PHOTOGRAPHY:** Photographs donated by: Alan Kwok: **AK** / Ákos Lumnitz: **AL** / Bidgee: **BJ** / Dean Lewis (<http://dli.id.au>): **DL** / David Pike: **DP** / 'Eyeweed': **EW** / George Cruiser: **GC** / Greg Miles: **GM** / 'Greg the Busker': **GB** / Great Ocean Rd Committee: **GOR** / Gus McNab: **GMc** / Gordon Smith: **GS** / Justin Ratcliffe: **JR** / Jean-Marc Hero: **JMH** / Jonathan Ayres: **JA** / Ken Stepnell/OEH: **KS** / 'LiquidGhoul': **LG** / Lindy Lumsden: **LL** / Michael Jarman/OEH: **MJ** / Narawan Williams: **NW** / NSW Office of Environment & Heritage: **OEH** / Peter Ridgeway: **PR** / Peter Street: **PS** / Rosie Nicolai/OEH: **RN** / Retama: **RT** / Ray Williams: **RW** / 'TeeJayBee': **TJB** /

**Cover photo:** Leaf-green Tree Frog *Litoria phyllochroa*, © Jean-Marc Hero  
**Text:** Peter Ridgeway

*The Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority (HNCMA) was formed to help protect the natural values of the Hawkesbury-Nepean and ensure it continues to be a healthy and productive catchment. This brochure is one of a series of brochures on the fauna in western Sydney to raise awareness, promote landcare / bushcare, and protect biodiversity.*

# Wildlife of the Hills Region

## Frogs



Wildlife of the Hills Region: Frogs



Catchment Management Authority  
Hawkesbury-Nepean

### Tree Frogs



**Blue Mountains Tree Frog** *Litoria citropa*  
A stream-dwelling frog of larger sandstone areas.  
Call: a two-part call - warrrkkk... cruk, cruk, cruk



**Green Tree Frog** *Litoria caerulea*  
Formerly common, now rare. Large – will take snakes and mice. Government study recommended listing as an endangered population in western Sydney. Prefers open habitat with regularly wet pools: shale areas (e.g. Dural).  
Call: Low 'crawk' (summer)



**Bleating Tree Frog** *Litoria dentata*  
Widespread and becoming abundant in some suburbs; very high pitched, loud call.  
Call: like a bleating lamb (summer)

### Tree Frogs



**Eastern Dwarf Tree Frog** *Litoria fallax*  
A common frog - mostly reedy areas near creeks or reedy dams; can change colour for camouflage; Maroota, Glossodia.  
Call: High pitched 'ree eek eek' (spring & summer)



**Jervis Bay Tree Frog** *Litoria jervisiensis*  
A medium-sized frog of dams and swamps with tall reeds.  
Call: series of high-pitched squeals



**Broad-palmed Frog** *Litoria latopalmata*  
A terrestrial species preferring grassland surrounding dams; uncommon in reserves. E.g. Roberts Creek.  
Call: Sharp repetitive 'yap' (spring & summer)

### Tree Frogs



**Lesueur's Frog** *Litoria lesueuri*  
A large species of farm dams and rocky creeks – excellent jumpers.  
Call: crew crewk crewwwwwk...



**Rocket Frog** *Litoria nasuta*  
An elongated frog, typically found in Melaleuca swamps and wet grassy areas.  
Call: wik wik wik



**Peron's Tree Frog** *Litoria peronii*  
A common & widespread species with distinctive emerald spots, especially on golf courses.  
Call: Loud descending chuckle (spring & summer)

### Tree Frogs



**Leaf-green Tree Frog** *Litoria phyllochroa*  
Reedy areas beside creeks & streams, or moist gardens; in strong decline due to stream pollution.  
Call: Squelch-like repeating 'eek' (spring, summer, autumn)



**Tyler's Tree Frog** *Litoria tyleri*  
Uncommon but widespread tree-dwelling frog in grassland/pasture near permanent pools. Readily distinguished from similar *Litoria peronii* by call.  
Call: Fast repetitive 'rark rark rark rark' (spring & summer)



**Verreaux Tree Frog** *Litoria verreauxii*  
Declining but widespread terrestrial frog – mostly Cumberland Woodland and shale areas.  
Call: Repeating series 'ree ree ree...'

Have you seen these animals?... please report sightings of **RED** species to [westernsydneywildlife@hotmail.com](mailto:westernsydneywildlife@hotmail.com) to help us protect our wildlife.



## Ground Frogs



**Pobblebonk** *Limnodynastes dumerilii grayi*  
Once common, now rare.  
Call: 'Pobblebonk', like a banjo being struck, after rain any time of year



**Ornate Burrowing Frog** *Limnodynastes ornatus*  
Uncommon. A burrowing, water-holding species - often far from water.  
Call: "unk...unk...unk" during summer



**Striped Grass Frog** *Limnodynastes peronii*  
Common & widespread near permanent water.  
Call: 'tok...tok' like tennis ball being hit

## Ground Frogs / Borrowing Frogs



**Spotted Grass Frog** *Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*  
Common & widespread near permanent water.  
Call: Fast series 'brrrt... brrrt... brrrt'



**Giant Burrowing Frog** *Heleioporus australiacus*  
Vulnerable (NSW). A large species of intact bushland; e.g. O'Haras Ck, Maroota Forest, Berowra Valley Regional Park.  
Call: Owl like 'hoo...hoo...'



**Smooth Toadlet** *Uperoleia laevis*  
Widespread & common although poorly known.  
Call: A deep 'eeek' sound

## Toadlets



**Bibrons Toadlet (lowland form)** *Pseudophryne bibronii*  
Formerly common, approaching regional extinction. Lays in damp areas out of water, eggs wash into temporary pools after rain. Fertile areas, frequently non-bushland habitats. Chain o' Ponds, Canoelands, Forest Glen.  
Call: Low 'creaking' like a heavy door opening

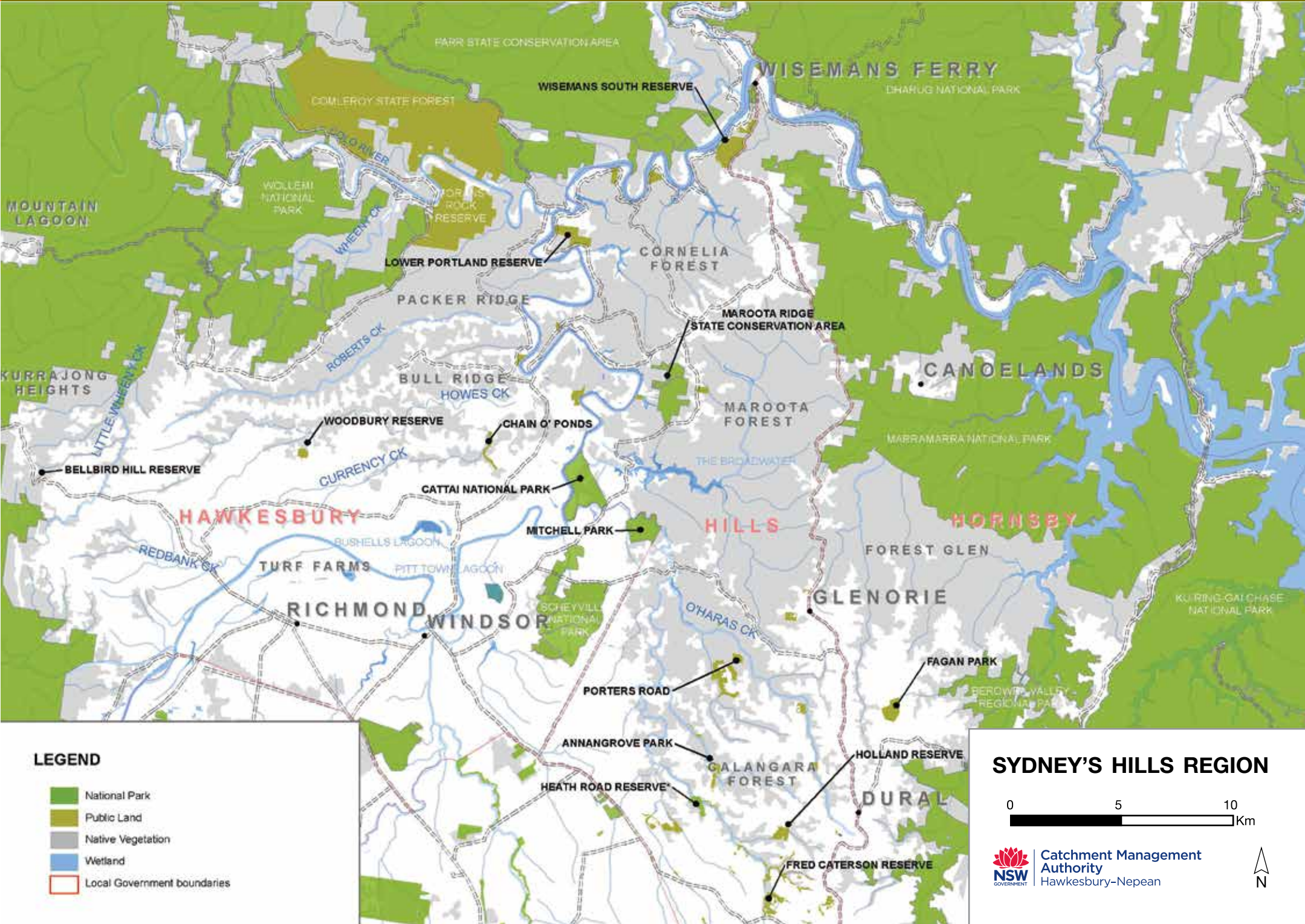


**Red-crowned Toadlet** *Pseudophryne australis*  
Vulnerable (NSW). In upper hillslope shelves of sandstone areas. Lays in damp areas out of water. Sensitive to disturbance e.g. roadworks.  
Call: Low 'creaking' like a heavy door opening



**Common Froglet** *Crinia signifera*  
Common in damp habitats, especially degraded creeklife. Highly variable appearance.  
Call: Rapid repeating 'creek'

## THE HILLS REGION



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