Western Australian Museum

frog facts

Photo: M. Peterson

Moaning Frog

The frog that sounds like an owl…

What names do they have?

- Moaning Frog
- *Heleioporus eyrei*

What kind of animal are they?

- Amphibian

Threatened, thriving or trespassing?

- Thriving

What do they look like?

- A round frog with big eyes.
- They have short arms and legs.
- The colours on their back can be dark brown or grey, mottled in dirty white or light grey.
- Their sides are often a yellow colour.
- The males have larger arms.

How big are they?

- Adults can be up to 6.5cm long.

What do they eat?

- Adult frogs eat small bugs like insects, spiders and worms. Tadpoles eat rotting plants and algae.

What do they sound like?

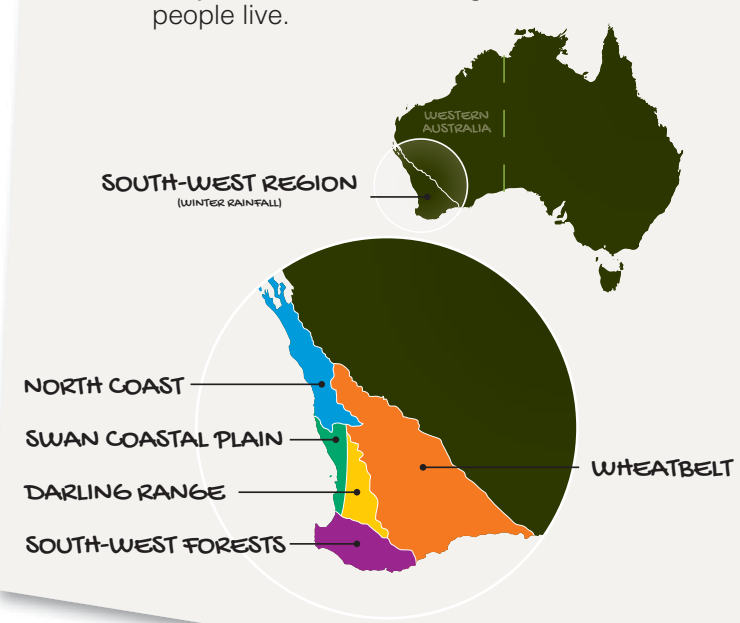
- Their call is a sad, long, drawn out moan.

What is a fun fact about this animal?

- They are found in people's gardens who live close to the wetlands. They make a moaning call which can keep people awake at night!

Where can they be found?

- During breeding season, in early autumn, they are found in swampy areas, along flowing water sources and wetlands where the soil is sandy. At other times of the year, they move away to live in surrounding bushlands.
- They also can be found in gardens where people live.



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