



The Growling Grass Frog

Background

The Growling Grass Frog (*Litoria raniformis*) historically occurred throughout much of Victoria, however it has shown marked population declines in recent decades. The frog is recognised as a threatened species at state, national and international levels.

The Star Dam Rehabilitation Project aims to address the decline of frogs by creating new habitat close to existing populations.

Recent studies into the habitat preferences for the Growling Grass Frog showed that the Dam environment creates a viable habitat for the Growling Grass Frog, particularly during times of prolonged drought and climate change.

GGF Facts and Features

Growling Grass Frogs primarily feed on ground-dwelling insects such as beetles, termites, cockroaches, moths, butterflies and insect larvae. They will also eat small lizards, snakes, fish and other frogs, including smaller Growling Grass Frogs. They are not active hunters, preferring to sit and wait for their prey to come to them.

They respond positively to habitat restoration, providing there are floating or emerging water plants. Growling Grass Frogs were once abundant in Victoria, and were commonly used for dissections in universities and to feed the snakes at the Melbourne Zoo.

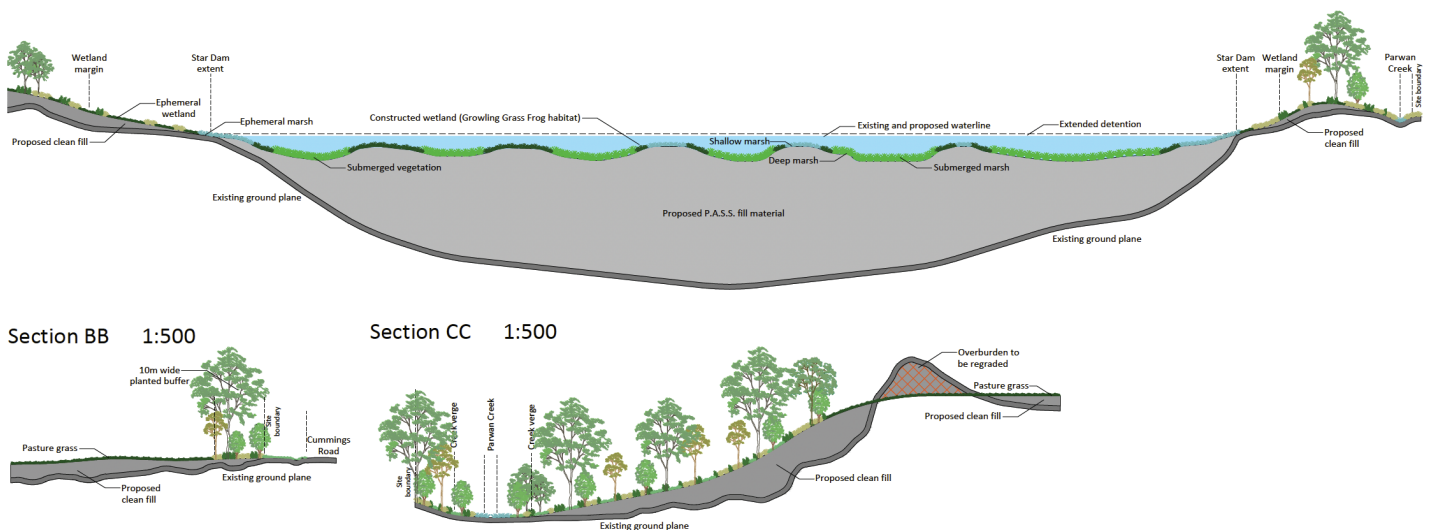
Habitat

The Growling Grass Frogs require a range of habitats to provide food, shelter, allow breeding and egg-laying, tadpole development, and fungus control. Ideally water levels should draw down naturally over later summer and autumn. The Star Dam will remain a permanent water body with seasonally fluctuating water levels.

Favourable habitat conditions include:

- Permanent water in the ponds with seasonal hydroperiods. Ideally water levels should draw down naturally over later summer and autumn.
- Ponds with still or slow-moving water with both warm shallow and deeper water, with steep drop offs to escape predators.
- Rock piles near the margins and in the shallows of the pool with minimal tree canopy coverage
- Abundant and appropriate vegetation for shelter, calling, breeding and egg deposition, safe movement between water sources.
- An acceptable quality water source not likely to introduce pollutants, pesticides, excess nutrients or heavy metals.
- Conditions identified for fungus control; warm, shallow waters with stable surface water

The proposed rehabilitation and revegetation of the Star Dam site will provide a significantly enhanced habitat for the Growling Grass Frogs.



To learn more, [click here to read our Growling Grass Frog Management Plan](#), or contact stardam@callejagroup.com.au