

ABC Drive Program with Andrew Collins

Friday, 17 October, 2025

Andrew Collins

(frog call sound)

Georgia from Bunbury, well done to you. It is indeed the white-bellied frog. And why are we talking about this? Well, it needs some help and it needs help from you.

The South West Natural Resource Management group have launched a crowdfunding campaign to help battle the extinction of the white-bellied frogs.

Now they have had a Federal Government grant, which was close to a quarter of a million dollars, but it's not enough. So they've turned to you to try and help and protect this native critter. Let's talk further about this. Linda Metz is the Sustainability and Environment Lead at South West NRM.

Linda welcome to you.

Linda Metz

How are you?

Andrew Collins

Yeah, good. Thank you very much. Tell us about the white-bellied, frog.

Linda Metz

Well, it's an amazing little creature and it really is little so it's pretty much no bigger than your thumbnail. So it's probably not something that you used to seeing or hearing around the place.

But it is critically endangered which means it's in quite a bit of trouble and we are going to give it our best shot to try and help it out.

Andrew Collins

That's a hell of a noise for something as big as a thumbnail.

Linda Metz

Yeah, they definitely bat above their weight in terms of the noise. You know what they, what they lack in size, they make up for, in volume, and that's quite typical to frogs. Frogs are amazing creatures for that sort of reason. Their calls are super critical, so when you're such a little fellow, you're obviously not making a big physical presence.

It's that sound of the calling that penetrates through the night and that other potential partners out there can hear and respond to. So having them call is actually really important. Having that big voice to be heard.

Andrew Collins

Now the fact that you've launched a crowdfunding campaign, is that a usual course of business?

Or do you generally rely that the government grants are enough? We get that and we can deliver our project but in this case, it's not enough. Why, why, why why are we at this juncture?

Linda Metz

We are at the end of the Federal Government funding that we received for this program and we're really just hoping for a little top-up. We know that there is some additional work that we need to get, some critical data around the summer. The summer period, where the soil moisture in the area where we're investigating falls.

And the soil moisture for this guy is really important in terms of its breeding and calling. So unfortunately we're a little bit light on, we're hoping to raise an extra twenty thousand dollars which will enable us to extend this project for a little bit longer and we can get that critical data that we really need.

Andrew Collins

Is that the first time you've done something like this and do you think it's a sign of the times?

Linda Metz

We know that there's a bit of a changing world out there. I think people are wanting to donate and help out and this is a really tangible way that people can actually make a difference to what is a critically endangered species.

We normally rely on governments but we know that, you know, times are tough for everyone and that the government purse has some limits. And we're hoping to call on the community, to throw a little bit of money, our way. It's a tax deductible donation. We're a registered charity so you can claim that back on your tax and try and help this little guy out.

Andrew Collins

Okay? So white-bellied frog, put that in your search engine, what's the crowdfunding search term?

Linda Metz

People can even go to our website. There is a page on our website, which is South West NRM under saving native species, white bellied frog. ([Donate here](#))

Andrew Collins

You describe the little fella, really beautifully. As big as your thumb, but a hell of a call. But in reality, is it hard to raise a good amount of dollars for a tiny frog versus say, a numbat?

Linda Metz



We have term we use jokingly called charismatic mega fauna, which is that the bigger the animals, sometimes, the more attention they get. And you see that, even with young kids, you know. They learn about elephants and lions and tigers and they don't always know about our native animals and even worse is these tiny little things that you hardly ever see.

And that's one of the real challenges with Australian native fauna is, it's not often seen. It's not always easy to have a connection with they're often nocturnal as well. So they're quite active at night when we're typically asleep. And so, yeah, you don't get to know about them as much, but we're really trying to, to raise the profile.

We've got a great working relationship with some partners. So with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, and Perth Zoo who we've been working on this project with and we want to raise the profile so that hopefully yeah, people have a bit more awareness about the perils but also what they can do to positively, you know, bat for these guys.

Andrew Collins

Sustainability and Environment Lead at South West NRM. Looking to save this critically endangered critters, the white bellied frog.

23 minutes past three.