



Kings Forest - Wallum Sedge Frogs

Education Information



Kings Forest Wallum Sedge Frogs



- A total of 82.39 ha of Wallum Sedge Frog habitat was mapped as occurring on the Kings Forest site. Of this, 1.50ha is breeding habitat and 80.89 ha is foraging habitat.
- In addition to the Wallum Sedge Frog habitat on site, there is a further 47.89 ha of habitat identified offsite within the Cudgen Nature Reserve and to the south-west of the site.
- “Overall, the amount of breeding habitat on the Kings Forest site is small and the better-quality habitat lies outside of the eastern and southern margins of the site” (BEC, 2014).
- Approximately 1.09 of breeding habitat and 36.01 ha of foraging habit will be removed as a result of the development.
- Approximately 0.41 ha of breeding habitat and 44.88 ha of existing foraging habitat will be retained, protected and enhanced.
- Removal of Wallum Sedge Frog habitat will be undertaken in stages across the project with all frogs collected and removed by a specialist ecologist and transferred to retained habitat prior to the removal of any habitat to keep them safe.

Refer Figure 16 of Wallum Sedge Frog Management Plan



Wallum Sedge Frog Protection Measures



- Prior to any works being undertaken on the project, all habitat was delineated with sediment fencing and orange flagging and signed with Habitat Zone do not enter.
- Sediment fences are checked daily by the onsite environmental officers and fixed as required immediately.
- Wallum Sedge Frog Habitat is mapped and displayed in the construction office on-site everyone is aware where the no-go zones are.
- Pre-clearing checks of Wallum Sedge Frog habitat - before any habitat is removed, a qualified spotter-catcher does a targeted active search and relocates any frogs within the habitat to be removed to habitat that will be retained. This occurs no more than 24 hours before the clearing is to commence to ensure all frogs are collected.
- The location of relocated frogs is recorded including the health of each frog, the life-cycle stage and sex of the individual - these are report annually to the state and local government agencies.
- Exclusion fencing has been placed along the boundary of all Environmental Management Areas adjacent to construction works to prevent frogs entering the construction area.

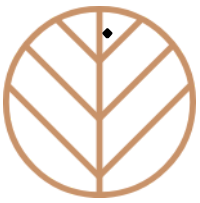


Wallum Sedge Frog Offsetting



- The development will result in the removal of 32.80 ha of Wallum Sedge Frog Habitat.
- To offset this loss, 47.36 ha of habitat will be created resulting in a **net gain of 10.2 ha of Wallum Sedge Frog habitat.**
- Three types of habitat will be created, including:
 - Compensatory breeding habitat - sedgeland - 9.76 ha.
 - Compensatory breeding habitat - wet heath - 24.26 ha.
 - Compensatory forage habitat - dry heath - 13.34 ha.
- In total, **303,029 plants will be planted** to compensate for any lost habitat.
- As part of the land dedicated to NPWS, 9.73ha of existing and 6.72 ha of created compensatory habitat will be protected by nature reserve zoning.

Refer Figure 20 & 21 of the Wallum Sedge Frog Management Plan



Wallum Sedge Frog Education



- **Identification:**

- They have a small, slender body with a sharp projecting snout and narrow head.
- They are coloured either light grey-brown or bright green and sometimes have dark spots.
- A white-stripe extends from below the eye, over the shoulder and breaks up into a series of thick, globular spots.
- A dark brown stripe runs between the snout and eye.
- The dorsum is smooth and granular
- The ventral surface is white and throat is peppered with brown.
- In the hidden parts of the thigh it is blue to purple blue.

- **Habitat:**

- They inhabit coastal ephemeral and semi-permanent swamps (pH<5.5) with sedges, emergent reeds and/or ferns.
- Are more active following rainfall.



It is important to not touch Wallum Sedge Frogs - they are susceptible to Chytrid fungus. If you find a sick frog, place it in a plastic container with a lid with air holes and a small amount of water. Ring the Frogwatch Helpline on 0419 249 728. If you find a dead frog, put it in a plastic bag and place it in your freezer and ring Frogwatch - they will organise for it to be sent to a lab for analysis and you will be reimbursed any costs involved.



Being a Wallum Sedge Frog-friendly Resident



- As a resident at Kings Forest, you too can play a role in protecting the local Wallum Sedge Frog population:
 - Slow down at night when driving through the estate - look out for frogs on the road.
 - Do not use herbicides and pesticides in your garden - they are toxic to frogs.
 - Report any evidence of dogs in the Environmental Management Areas (footprints etc).
 - Report any trespassing and vandalism within retained and compensatory habitat areas.
 - Report any damage of the koala exclusion fence, especially damage to the galvanized sheets at the bottom which prevent frogs entering the developed area to the Tweed Shire Council.
 - Make sure you control weeds on your property and any you see in compensatory/retained habitat areas. Do not stockpile weeds near waterways, this can result in tannins leaching into the waterways which can decrease dissolved oxygen.
 - Remove any mosquito fish or cane toad tadpoles you see in waterways. They predate on the wallum sedge frogs.