

Growling Grass Frog Culvert Mix Trial

What is a Growling Grass Frog (GGF)?

The Growling Grass Frog (*Litoria raniformis*) or as it is fondly known, the GGF, is a native Australian amphibian that has been a part of the natural ecosystem for thousands of years. They are an important cultural symbol for many First Nations communities in southeastern Australia and play a significant role in maintaining healthy ecosystems. However, sadly their population has been in decline since the 1980s, making them a vulnerable and endangered species. We are protecting their habitats to ensure their survival as well as maintain the region's biodiversity.



The GGF habitat

GGFs live in a range of ecosystems, including wetlands, woodlands and urban areas. They like still or slow-moving pools rich with a range of aquatic plants, which they use for cover, mating rituals and basking. They also like to live near open grasslands, where they hunt for small insects. Like most frogs, GGFs usually call, feed and move around in the dark, often from a dry site to a waterbody.



Adult Growling Grass Frog – *Litoria raniformis*

What is a culvert?

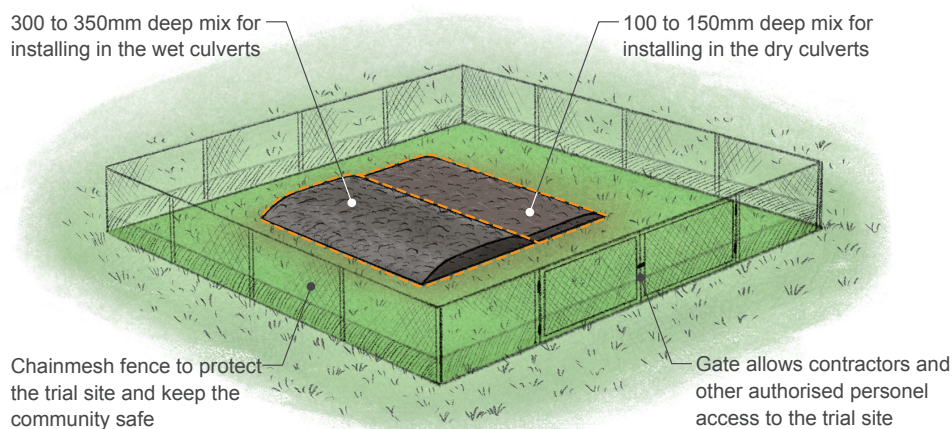
Culverts are concrete structures that allow water to flow under roadways or railways, but also allow animals to travel safely between their wet and dry habitats. Creating conditions inside the culverts as natural as possible will assist and encourage the GGFs to migrate through. The culverts being constructed on Cloverton Boulevard resemble the GGF's natural living conditions, and will allow GGF populations to move between their habitats.



The soil and rock mix will be installed in the base of the culverts

What is the soil and rock mix trial for?

The GGF trial consists of a soil and rock mix, that will be placed in the base of the culverts to create a natural surface to test that GGFs are happy to use to move through the culverts. The trial will help ecologists and other specialists in determining the suitability of the mix through testing, inspecting, and approving the mix before it is installed in the base of the culverts.



The trial site has been fenced off for safety purposes and only organic natural materials will be used. After the trial is complete, the trial materials will be removed and the site will be restored with healthy grass.