

Sloane's froglet

Crinia sloanei
Vulnerable

Target: manage and monitor all critical threats to Sloane's froglet

A major success of this *Saving our Species* (SoS) project, which began in 2016, has been the formal incorporation of Sloane's froglet (*Crinia sloanei*) habitat requirements into planning processes and associated urban developments. Annual monitoring is also critical, and supported by the Sloane's Champions citizen science group. The group was formed in 2017 and assists with annual monitoring to complement the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's (the Department) monitoring program.

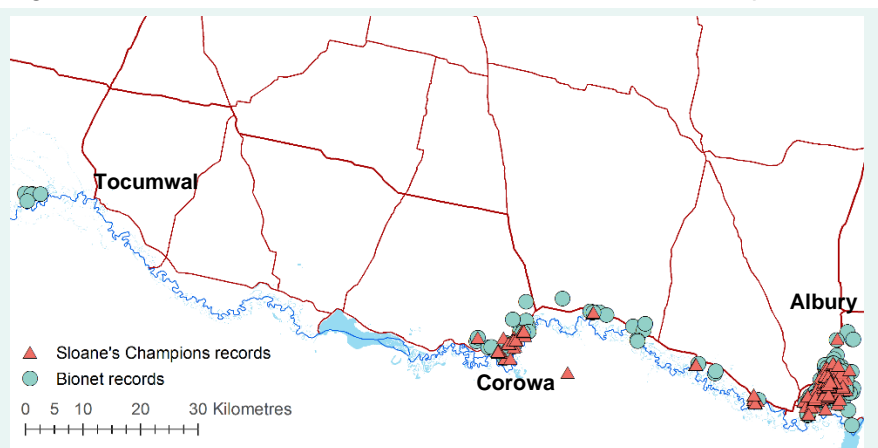
Statewide surveys undertaken from 2012 to 2016 revealed that Sloane's froglet was absent from around 90% of sites where it was previously thought to persist. Ongoing habitat loss and degradation, including loss of connectivity between wetlands, urban development and agricultural activities, and severe drought are major threats to this tiny frog.

Major outcomes of the project include:

- the monitoring of over **50 wetlands** across the species' known distribution in southern New South Wales
- the submission of over **6600 frog records** for the project
- the colonisation by the Sloane's froglet of customised stormwater wetlands in urban developments.

Trajectory: stable

Annual targeted monitoring of Sloane's froglet by the Department and citizen scientists is being used to evaluate long-term population trends at core management sites.



Partners

This project is led by the SoS program. Land managers in Albury are key partners in the project, securing Sloane's froglet by committing to appropriate habitat management through the Sloane's froglet local area management plan. Their support is critical, as almost all Sloane's froglet habitat in New South Wales is located on private land, with some also located in reserves managed by councils or Local Land Services.

The SoS program collaborated with Albury City Council, Federation Council and other land managers, such as TAFE and the Australian Defence Force, to secure habitat for Sloane's froglet. The hugely successful Sloane's Champions citizen science group is a partnership between the Department, Woolshed Thurgoona Landcare Group, Corowa Landcare Group and the Australian Museum through its FrogID program.

What did we find?

Urban development is a major threat to Sloane's froglet, but fortunately these frogs are able to adapt to artificial wetlands if they are built in the right way. We have worked closely with Albury City Council and developers to ensure that stormwater wetlands work for both Sloane's froglet and stormwater management.

All new developments covered by the Albury Sloane's froglet local area management plan (in development) are being built to suit Sloane's froglets.

Many of these sites are still in construction, but early results are promising, with Sloane's froglet calling at a site that was built only two years ago. We've also created a guide to stormwater development for Sloane's froglet, which provides developers with all the technical details they need to develop Sloane's froglet-friendly stormwater systems. Sloane's Champions citizen scientists are regularly contributing local frog data to the program, which increases our understanding of the species' distribution over time. Over 1300 records of Sloane's froglet have been submitted by around 50 citizen scientists so far.

We have only just begun to secure the future of Sloane's froglet. A key focus of future work will be to finalise the local area management plan with local Albury landholders. We are now working with Federation Council on the management of development sites for the Corowa population of Sloane's froglet.



A natural shallow wetland with thin-stemmed vegetation that is typical habitat for Sloane's froglet. Photo: Helen P. Waudby/DPIE

How developers are making Sloane-friendly suburbs

- Sloane's froglet-friendly stormwater basins are shallow, being no more than around 30 cm deep in most sections and are planted with thin-stemmed plants that the froglets attach their eggs to.
- Hydrological regimes in these basins are designed to mimic breeding conditions for Sloane's froglet by ensuring that they hold water over the winter months (the key breeding period for Sloane's froglet) and can be dried out in summer if needed.



An artificial wetland constructed in a new urban development. Photo: Helen P. Waudby/DPIE

Saving our Species is a NSW Government flagship program delivered by the Environment, Energy and Science Group in the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. To find out more about threatened species in New South Wales and the *Saving our Species* program, visit the [Saving our Species Program webpage](#).