

Resolution of Council

17 March 2025

Item 13.8

Enhancing Threatened Frog Habitat through Expanding Biodiversity Corridors

Moved by Councillor Thompson, seconded by Councillor Miller –

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note that:

- (i) World Frog Day and World Rewilding Day will both be observed on the 20 March;
- (ii) the City of Sydney is home to at least 5 frog species, including the Green and Golden Bell Frog, Eastern Dwarf Tree Frog and Peron's Tree Frog;
- (iii) frogs are a vital part of the ecosystem, serving as a natural control for mosquito and other pest populations;
- (iv) once abundant across the coast of NSW and Sydney, the Green and Golden Bell Frog species is now facing a major population decline due to the threat of habitat loss and degradation, pollution, introduced species, parasites and pathogens;
- (v) major cities, including Melbourne, Berlin, New York City and Paris have transformed urban spaces into green corridors to protect native fauna and flora species; and
- (vi) neighbouring councils, such as the Inner West Council and Woollahra Council have both committed to the implementation of green and biodiversity corridors;

- (B) Council further note the findings and targets included in the City's Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan:
- (i) the Green and Golden Bell Frog is among 8 species classified as 'priority fauna' species, as they are threatened species generally uncommon in urban areas;
 - (ii) limited habitat availability, lack of habitat connectivity, destruction and fragmentation of remaining habitats were identified as key threats to biodiversity within the Local Government Area;
 - (iii) the City aimed to meet a target of recording priority fauna species from a greater number of locations and in higher numbers compared to 2012 baseline by 2023; and
 - (iv) the City aimed to meet a target of a progressive increase in the number of habitat features for priority fauna species established along potential habitat linkages by 2030;
- (C) Council reaffirm its commitment to protecting and supporting important species such as our frog populations; and
- (D) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:
- (i) review the environmental targets, timelines, and actions resulting from the Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan and the Greening Sydney Strategy;
 - (ii) review findings from the 'Hop to it' biodiversity health check survey and request recommendations from the Urban Ecology Coordinator as to how the City can support local frog species;
 - (iii) report back to Council through the CEO Update as soon as practical:
 - (a) what is the status and timeline of the following actions for City-managed priority sites as set out in Table 9 of the Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan:
 - i. the establishment of a continuous habitat corridor (G.2);
 - ii. the incorporation of bush restoration and habitat enhancement principles into landscaping of new open space (G.4);
 - iii. the enhancement of coastal saltmarsh habitat (G.6);
 - iv. the naturalisation and any continued development of Johnstons Creek Canal (G.7); and
 - v. the construction of a pond at Orphan School Creek (G.8);
 - (b) what actions have been taken since 2013 to implement biodiversity corridors and to support pre-existing habitats;
 - (c) what were the findings of the 'Hop to it' biodiversity health check survey and what recommendations were provided by the Urban Ecology Coordinator;

- (d) what is the current conservation status of all species classified as 'priority fauna' within the Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan;
- (e) what population fluctuations have been observed in the Green and Golden Bell Frog species since 2013; and
- (f) what steps Council can take to grow a network of biodiversity corridors to support local wildlife.

Carried unanimously.

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