



OBITUARY TOO EARLY: Experts say finding the yellow-spotted bell frog is as significant as discovering a Tasmanian tiger.

Rare frog hasn't croaked it

A RARE species of frog has defied scientific belief by hopping back from apparent extinction.

The yellow-spotted bell frog, believed by scientists to have been extinct for the past 30 years, was rediscovered in the New South Wales Southern Tablelands.

NSW Environment Minister Frank Sartor said the discovery of the marbled green and gold frog was a reminder of the importance of protecting natural habitats.

"I'm advised that finding this frog is as significant a discovery as a Tasmanian tiger," he said yesterday.

"This discovery is a reminder of the need to protect this environment so future generations can enjoy the noise and colour of our native animals."

A fisheries conservation officer, Luke Pearce, stumbled across the frog while surveying a stream for endangered fish.

He returned with a herpetologist to find a

thriving population.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature says that 30 to 50 per cent of amphibians are now threatened with extinction.

Mr Sartor said the location of the frogs would remain secret to ensure the survival of the species.

The NSW Government is in talks with Taronga Zoo in Sydney about developing a captive breeding program for the amphibians.