



Right: Central and southern greater gliders (*Petauroides volans*) can benefit from artificial nest boxes following fire, land clearing, or other disasters that limit their natural den sites.



NEST BOXES FOR LARGE GLIDERS

Specially designed artificial nest boxes may compensate for the lack of tree-hollow den sites for threatened gliders after fires. Landholders can make or buy nest boxes and regularly monitor their occupancy.

Equipment and supplies

- If making a box, use hardwood timber, marine ply or untreated pine with galvanised or stainless steel screws/nails and piano hinges.
- Hammer, safety glasses and dust mask
- Inspection camera and extension pole
- Field notebook or fauna recording form
- First Aid kit

Placement is key

Nest boxes installed high in old eucalypts near patches of remnant vegetation are frequented more often than those in isolated paddock trees. Sites that connect corridors or new plantings with old-growth eucalypt forest will have the most success.

Glider-specific nest boxes help reduce competition with other hollow-dependent species – like owls, quolls, and pythons, which prey on gliders. If you notice introduced Indian mynas inhabiting boxes, try to deter them by blocking the entrance with nesting material.

A minimum height of 10 m is recommended, but above 15 m is preferred. Tree-climbers or an arborist may be needed to assist with installation, as safety is paramount.

Gliders avoid boxes that sit on an angle or are poorly attached, so firm, upright attachment to the host tree is critical. Boxes should face east or south to avoid overheating. Greater gliders also appear to like sites on ridge lines or hills, which catch some breeze.

Making a nest box

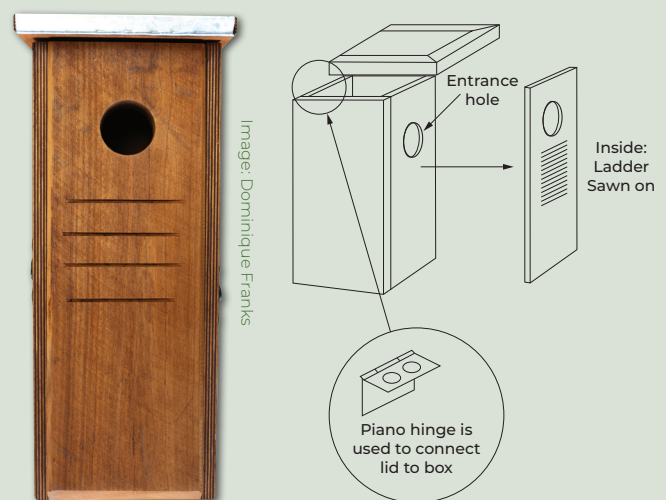
Nest boxes need to be a little larger for Australia's bigger gliders. If you are making a nest box, angle the edge of the lid for runoff. The sides of the nest are best joined with screws, but non-toxic glue can also help seal any gaps and prolong the life of the box. Painting the outside a muted colour will add camouflage, prevent wear, and seal the hollow home, but leave the inside unpainted to mimic the comfort of a real hollow. Adding sawdust, wood shavings or bark to the bottom will also replicate a natural den site, but avoid adding anything else, which may get wet and rot.

For more design ideas for other species, see www.wildlife.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/nestbox_instructions.pdf



Image: Doug Beckers

A yellow-bellied glider safe in a nest box in care. These sociable gliders den in family groups in large cavities in the wild, but may use nest boxes in suburbia.



If you don't want to build a nest box, buy one from Hollow Log Homes www.hollowloghomes.com.au

NEST BOX INSTALLATION AND MONITORING TIPS

- Install boxes in eucalypts at heights over 10 m to encourage large gliders.
- Face them east or south to reduce heating and avoid disturbing foliage around the nest box.
- Firm attachment is crucial, and boxes should be regularly checked to ensure they are safe and secure.
- Check each box with an inspection camera on an extension pole for no more than a minute (less if a resident appears upset). You may also wish to set up infrared, motion-sensitive wildlife cameras near boxes to monitor use.



Image: Wildlife Queensland

It may take a year before a camera inspection reveals a resident glider has moved in, so be patient. Artificial hollows are still better than none.