
SQUIRREL GLIDER
Source: BigStock


Source: Bruce Thomson
GREATER GLIDER


SUGAR GLIDER
Source: Bruce Thomson


FEATHERTAIL GLIDER
Source: Museums Victoria


YELLOW-BELLIED GLIDER
Source: Josh Bowell

WHY GLIDE?

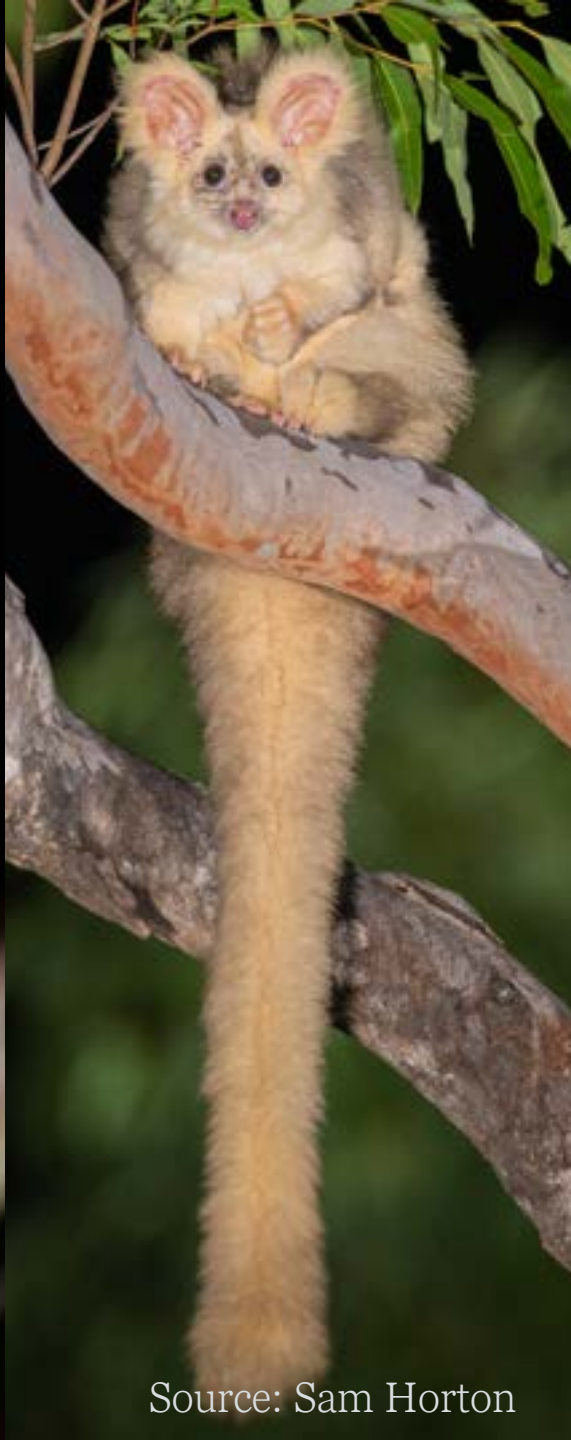
- The world is home to more than 60 gliding mammal species
- Gliding squirrels in Asia, Europe, North America and Africa
- Gliding lemurs in Asia and the Philippines
- Gliding possums in Australia
- Why glide?
  - Avoid predators
  - Energy efficient
  - Habitat structure
  - Sparse and irregular resources

Source: Britannica.com

GREATER GLIDER

- Largest gliding possum
- Long fluffy tail and round ears
- Eucalypt forests and woodlands, especially old forest
- Diet of eucalypt leaves
- Solitary, home range of 1-10 ha
- Can use up to 20 hollows in home range
- Moves to feeding areas along established routes using glides of up to 100 m
- Breeding season March to June

Source: Josh Bowell



Source: Sam Horton

Biological Conservation
Volume 144, Issue 5, May 2011, Pages 1663-1672

How to make a common species rare: A case against conservation complacency

D.B. Lindenmayer, J.T. Wood, L. McBurney, C. MacGregor, K. Youngentob, S.C. Banks

Destruction of greater glider habitat jumped by 52% after vulnerable listing

26 Jun 2020

Gold Coast SkyRidge development pushing greater glider population to brink, conservationists warn

ABC Gold Coast / By Dominic Cansdale

Posted Thu 28 Jul 2022 at 7:35am, updated Thu 28 Jul 2022 at 10:12am

Greater glider populations pushed closer to extinction after bushfires, ongoing threat to habitat

By Leah Szanto

Updated April 28 2021 at 2:34pm, first published April 27 2021 at 2:30pm

Greater glider now endangered as logging, bushfires and global heating hit numbers

Tue 5 Jul 2022 17.21 AEST

THREATS TO GLIDERS

Source: Climate Council

Source: Wikipedia Commons

Source: Daryl Dickson

Source: Josh Bowell

Source: Sam Horton

HOLLOWS FOR GLIDERS

- All of Australia's glider species need hollows
- Individuals and family groups will use multiple hollows
  - Greater gliders up to 20 hollows within a 2 hectare home range
- Multiple hollows have multiple benefits
  - Reduce parasite load
  - Avoid predators by being unpredictable
  - Different thermal properties
  - Different weather conditions
  - Denning versus rearing of young
- Greater gliders den in largest, oldest trees
- Without hollows, gliders can't survive!

A HOLLOW DECLINE

- Historical habitats would have had dozens of tree hollows per hectare
- Hollows are decreasing drastically
  - Clearing and thinning
  - Bushfire
  - Firewood collection
- Many remaining hollow-bearing trees are reaching the end of their lives
- Dead trees make up some of the shortfall, but are extremely short-lived
- Need alternatives to bridge the gap as natural hollows take 100+ years to form

Source: Kenworth Australia

Source: Irish Times

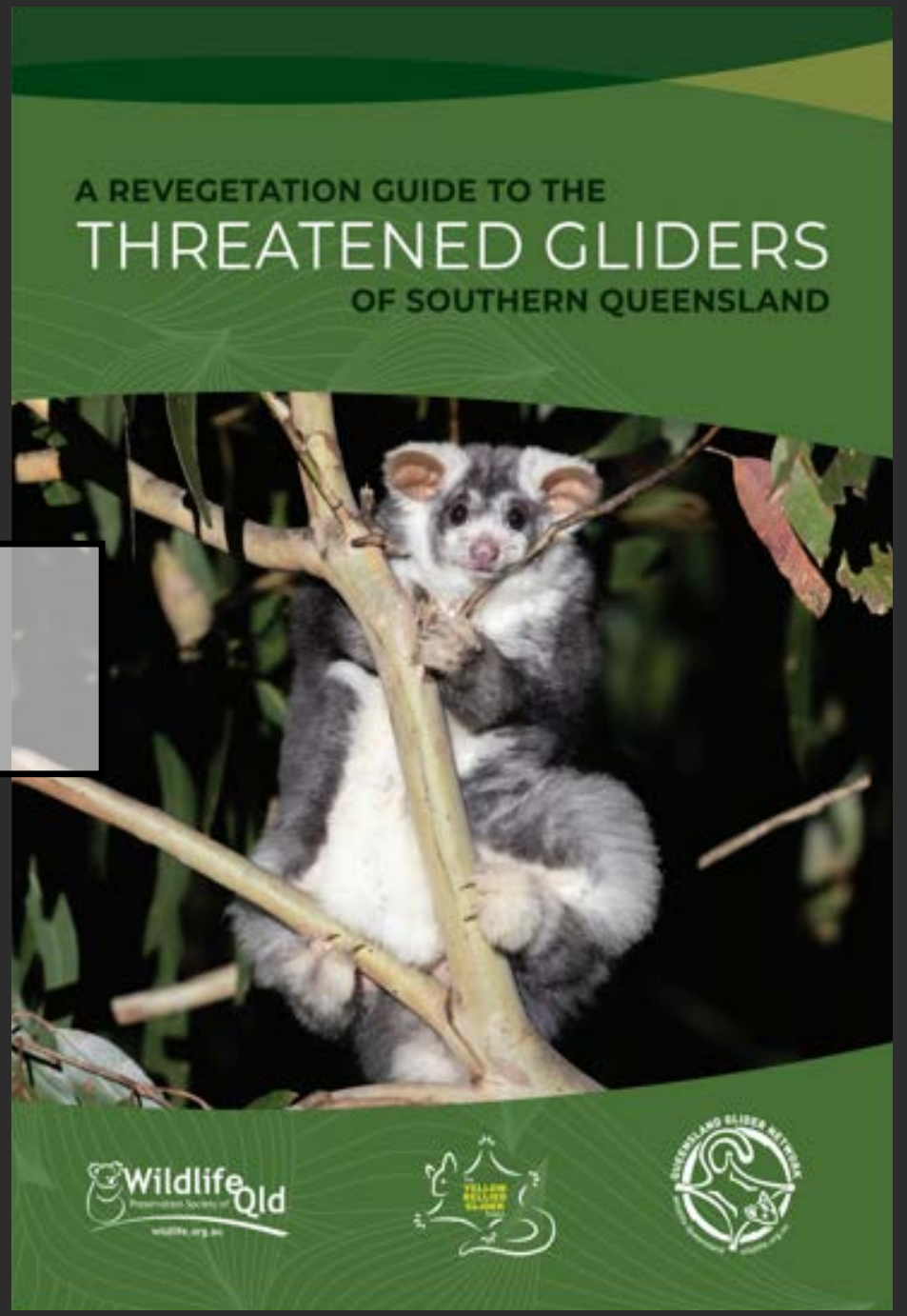
REGIONAL BUSHFIRE RECOVERY PROJECT

- Greater gliders severely impacted by 2019/20 bushfires
  - 1/3 of total species habitat burnt in eastern Australia
- Funded by the Australian Government's Bushfire Recovery for Wildlife and their Habitats program
- Part of a suite of around a dozen projects focusing on large gliders in Victoria, NSW and Queensland
- Several components
  - Series of workshops around South East Queensland
  - Surveys on private land to identify glider populations
  - Production of revegetation guidelines for gliders
  - Assist Healthy Land & Water with habitat mapping

SAVING GREATER GLIDERS

Source: Hollow Log Homes

Source: Andrew Campbell



Source: Goldingay et al. 2020

Source: Hollow Log Homes

ARTIFICIAL HOLLOWS

- Artificial hollows are one way to replace natural hollows in the landscape
- Many different options
  - Traditional nest boxes
  - Moulded plastic nest boxes
  - Chainsaw-carved hollows
- Design depends on target species
  - Front entry for possums, parrots, small gliders
  - Rear entry for gliders
  - Large custom boxes for cockatoos, owls, etc.
- If you can do one thing for gliders – install a nest box on your property