

The LAMP Post



Welcome!

Welcome to the first edition of the LAMP Post, which will provide quarterly updates on the Burrumbuttock Squirrel Glider LAMP project. Please contact us if you'd like to contribute to the newsletter or if you have questions about the project!



What is the LAMP project about?

The LAMP project aims to secure the Burrumbuttock squirrel glider population in the long term by collaborating with local community on the development and implementation of a Local Area Management Plan (LAMP).

A LAMP is essentially a map that shows what on-ground work needs to be done in the area to ensure the viability of the local squirrel glider population.

A LAMP is voluntary and completely reliant on the support of local landholders and community who direct what work should be done.

The first stage is to identify the size of the glider population; the second stage is to develop habitat maps and collaborate with landholders to decide on the works needed; the third stage is to start work (e.g., revegetation, habitat enhancement, and fencing).

A partnership

The project is supported by a Steering Committee of Burrumbuttock landholders, West Hume Landcare, Wirraminna, Greater Hume Shire, Office of Environment and Heritage, and Murray Local Land Services. The Committee meets several times a year to direct the project, and provide recommendations to Murray Local Land Services.



Squirrel glider surveys complete!

Stage one of the project is complete. Ecologists from the Australian Research Centre for Urban Ecology finished squirrel glider surveys around Burrumbuttock in July. They collected information on squirrel glider numbers, distribution, age, breeding status, and condition of local habitat. These data have been used to estimate the current size of the Burrumbuttock squirrel glider population, and determine what might need to be done to increase the population.

Twenty-two private properties, and 11 roadsides and Travelling Stock Reserves were surveyed around Burrumbuttock. Thirty-five squirrel gliders, one ringtail possum, and 21 brushtail possums were located.



Squirrel glider status

Squirrel gliders (*Petaurus norfolcensis*) are considered Vulnerable in New South Wales, and Endangered in Victoria and South Australia.

Where to next?

Population and habitat assessment data are being collated. Burrumbuttock landholders will soon be invited to local workshops to receive an overview of the current state of the squirrel glider population, review draft maps of on-ground works for the LAMP, and to provide the Steering Committee with direction on glider work needed in the area.



What can be done for local gliders?

One of the great things about working with squirrel gliders is that they are often found on private land, so local landholders can do a lot for them. Some of the most important work that can be done for squirrel gliders, include connecting patches of habitat through revegetation, improving the condition of current habitat patches (e.g., through pest and weed control, and planting), and increasing the size of habitat patches currently occupied by gliders.

Other practical activities that can help squirrel gliders are minimising the use of barbed wire, controlling introduced predators, keeping large, old trees with hollows in the landscape, and installing nest boxes (where no hollows are available).

Maintaining and restoring areas of native vegetation that provide important resources such as hollow-bearing trees and food plants are also important for squirrel glider populations. Keeping cats indoors at night may also help reduce predation on gliders.



Squirrel glider management guide

The newly-revised *Squirrel Glider Habitat Management Guide* is available through Murray Local Land Services or Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre. Please contact us if you would like a copy.

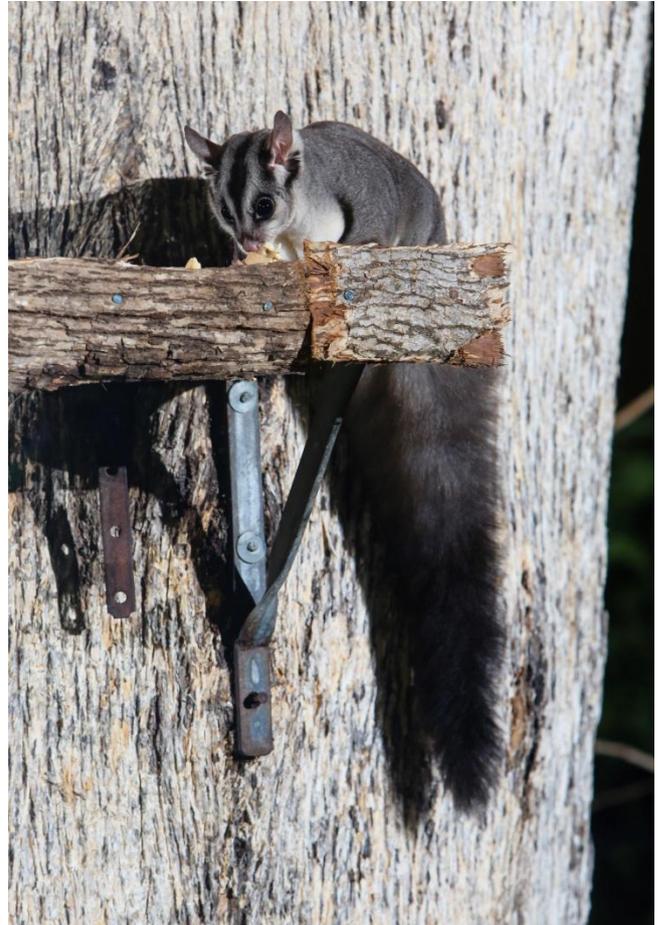


Photo credits: Peter Merritt; Simon Dallinger

Fast fact

The gliding action of a squirrel glider as it leaps among trees is called *volplaning*.

More information:

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Or visit:

www.wirraminna.org/2014/10/19/lamp-for-threatened-squirrel-glider/

www.murray.lls.nsw.gov.au