

# Squirrel Glider Paper Plane

## STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

Using the pattern provided in this hand-out you will make your very own Squirrel Glider Paper Plane.

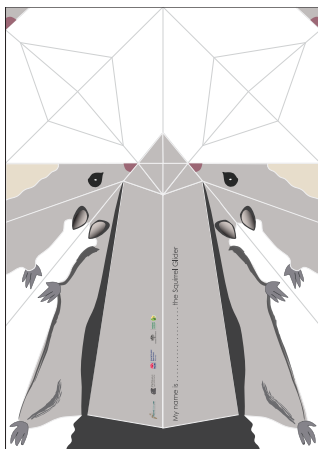
Start by printing the guide back-to-back (PRINTER SETTINGS: double-sided, flip on long edge, fit PDF to page) and trim the paper to size.

**How far can you make your Squirrel Glider glide?**

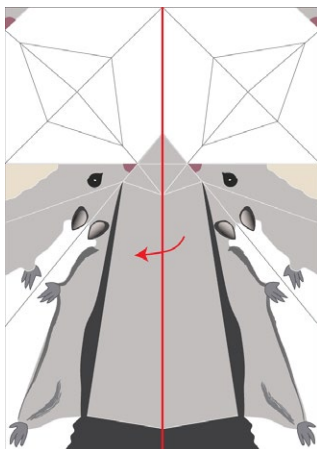


### Acknowledgement

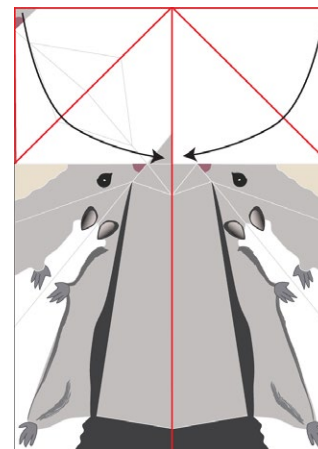
This resource has been prepared as part of the Squirrel Glider Local Area Management Plan Project in partnership with Petaurus Education Group Inc. This project is supported by Murray Local Land Services through the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.



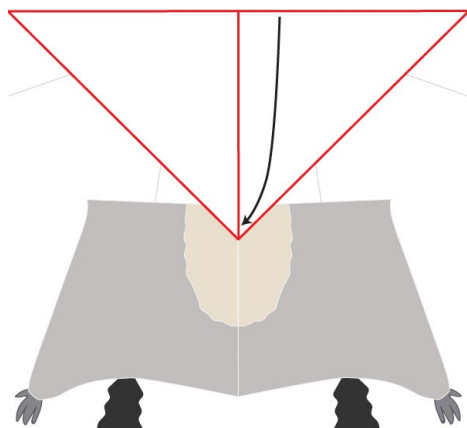
**Before you start folding** draw a pattern on the grey patches of your Squirrel Glider to represent the softness of its fur and name your Squirrel Glider.



**STEP 1:** With your Squirrel Glider face showing, fold the paper lengthways in half, form a crease and open it again.

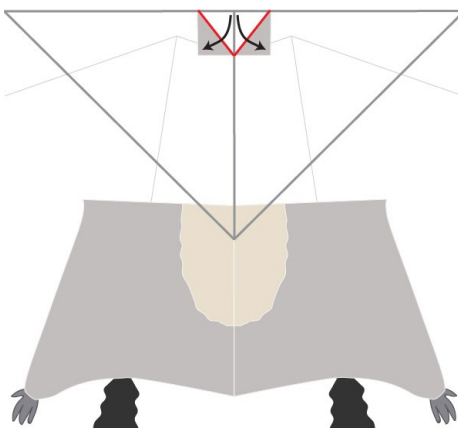


**STEP 2:** Fold the top corners towards the centre crease to form an arrow-like shape.

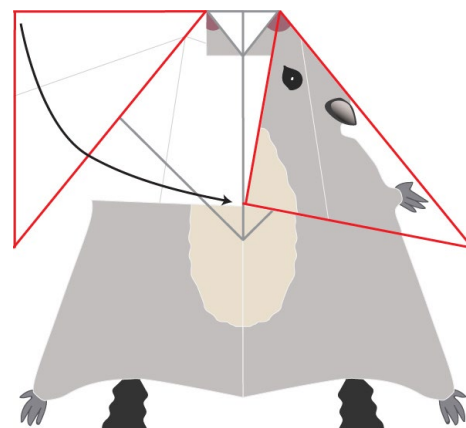


**STEP 3:** Flip the paper over so you can see your glider's belly.

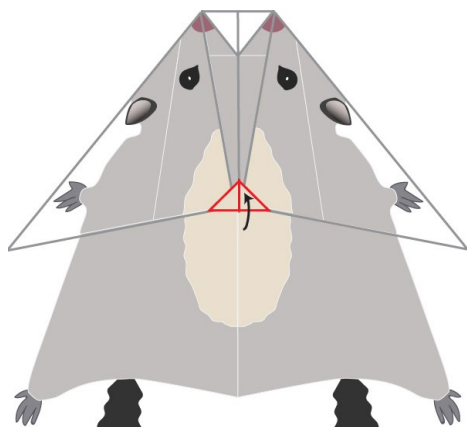
Fold the arrow point back towards the crease. You will create a rectangle.



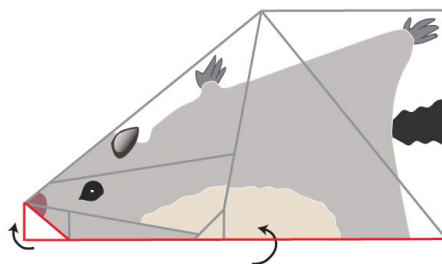
**STEP 4:** Fold, along the lines, the two inside tips of the paper. This will help form the nose.



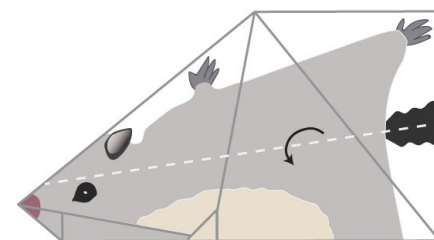
**STEP 5:** Fold back the two top corners of your paper from the nose tip (use the pattern lines as a guide). The tips should meet at the centre crease.



**STEP 6:** Fold up the tip paper underneath the Step 6 fold. This will secure your body shape.



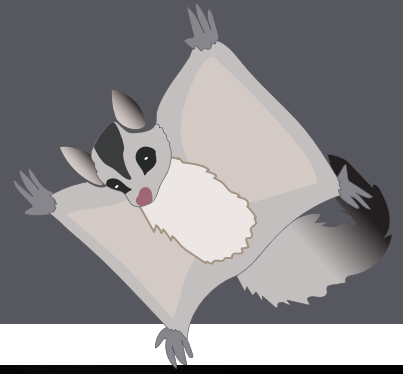
**STEP 7:** This is a little tricky. Fold back and forth along the guide at the nose (see the red triangle in the diagram) to create a crease. Push the little triangle inwards as you fold the Squirrel Glider in half to look like the diagram.



**STEP 8:** Fold back down the 'wings' of the Squirrel Glider using the pattern lines as a guide. You are ready to fly your plane. Try adding a 'stiff' paper tail or folding the side edges of your plane to see if it glides further.

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## SQUIRREL GLIDER FACTS



### IDENTIFICATION

Squirrel Gliders (*Petaurus norfolcensis*) belong to the possum family, which has 26 species including their similar-looking cousin the Sugar Glider. They have long bushy tails, with brown-grey fur and a dark stripe from the forehead and down the back. The bushy tail has a distinctive dark tip. The underside of the body varies from pale grey to creamy yellow.

Squirrel Gliders, from head to the base of the tail, range from 180 to 230mm long. Their tail is about 270mm, making their total length around 500mm long. They weigh approximately 230 grams.

A Squirrel Glider's diet consists of nectar, pollen, plant sap, invertebrates, fruit and seeds. They eat these varieties of food because they are 'omnivores', which means they eat both meat and plants.



### WHERE THEY LIVE

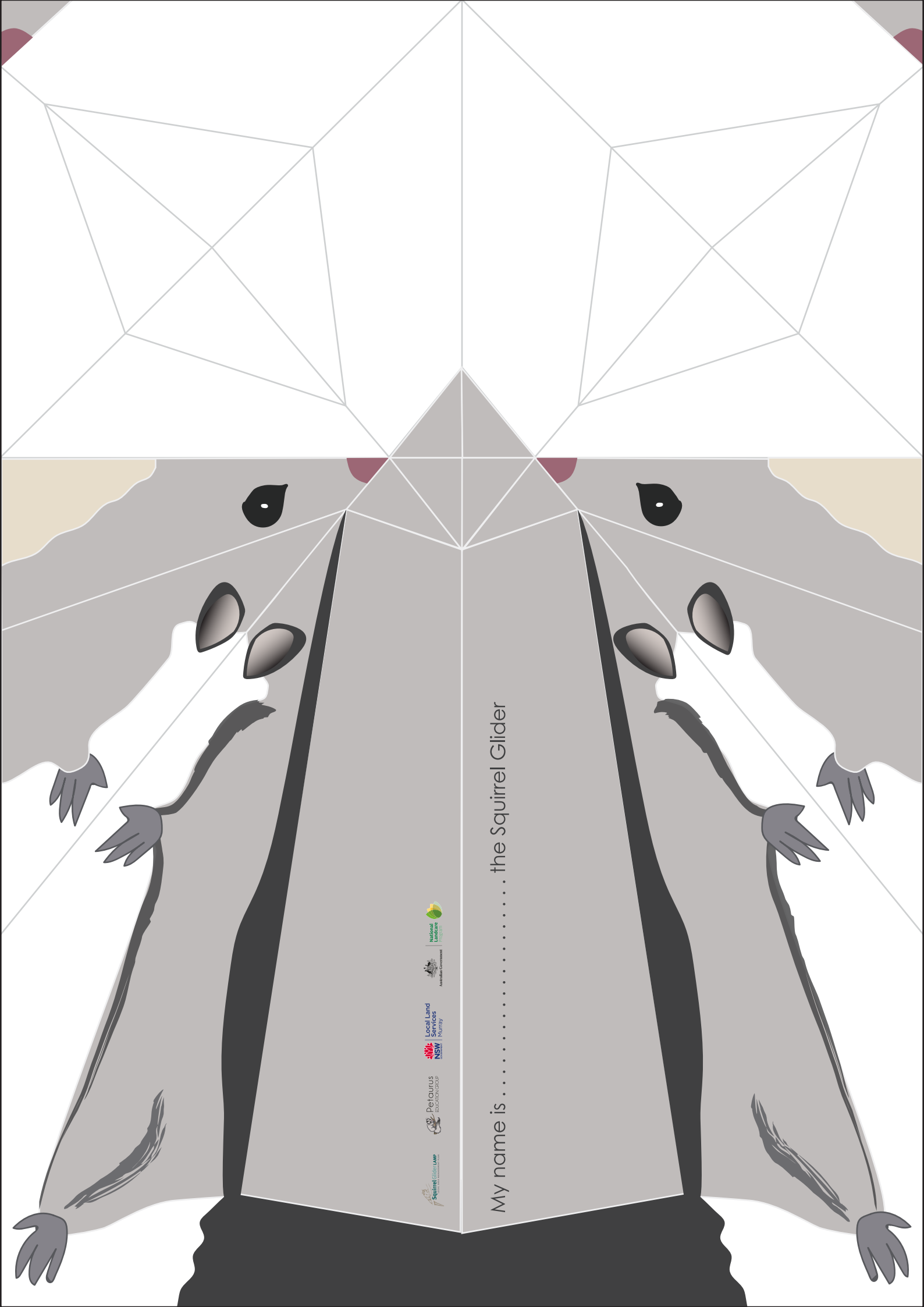
They are mainly found along the eastern borders of Australia, where the landscape might be dry, open forest, woodland or tall coastal forest; anywhere they can really adapt to. Sadly, these cute creatures are under threat as their habitat is slowly but surely being removed, making it difficult for them to glide from tree to tree. This has forced the gliders to cross roads and open paddocks to find suitable habitat. By doing so they become vulnerable to cars, feral cats, foxes and natural predators such as owls. Squirrel Gliders are currently listed as vulnerable in New South Wales.



### GLIDING

Squirrel Gliders can glide up to 70m, though distances of 30m are more typical. They achieve this by having a special gliding membrane which runs between their forepaw and ankle. When they glide, their tail allows them to steer in the direction they want to go.

They will then climb high up in a tree before jumping off and gliding to the next tree. With fewer habitat trees for Squirrel Gliders to glide between, they become vulnerable to predators and other threats.



My name is ..... the Squirrel Glider



