

FACT SHEET



Squirrel Gliders (*Petaurus norfolcensis*)

WHAT ARE THEY?

A small gliding possum found in the South West Slopes of NSW (and through eastern Australia). They average 50cm in length from head to tail. A distinguishing feature is the very bushy tail and dark stripe running from the head to lower back.

WHERE DO YOU FIND THEM?

They are widely distributed in the south west slopes but in relatively low numbers, which makes long term survival high risk. They live in trees, are nocturnal, spending the day sleeping in hollows of old trees. They are found in many roadsides including paper roads, road reserves and easements where there are mature trees with hollows. They will also be found on farms where large old trees can be accessed easily from other remnant vegetation near by.



WHAY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?

Squirrel Gliders spend all night foraging. Their diet includes insects such as lerps, beetles (including Christmas beetles), spiders, moths and caterpillars. They play an important role in keeping a balance of insect populations. They would also provide a pollination service to flowering eucalypts.

They are highly social and charismatic little creatures and one of the last small marsupials to remain in our highly changed landscape.

Squirrel Gliders live in family groups of up to 5. This will include adults and young. Once the young are independent (12 months) they need to find new home ranges, hollows and food sources.

Squirrel Gliders eat:

- beetles and insects
- moths and caterpillars
- nectar and pollen
- tree sap and gum



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WHAT IS AFFECTING LONG TERM SURVIVAL?

The threats include:

- Current low population size
- Loss of large hollow bearing trees
- Competition for use of tree hollows
- No connection between existing vegetation
- Loss and degradation of food resources

WHAT CAN WE DO?

- Care for and protect old hollow trees
- Connect habitat patches
- Create new habitat
- Control introduced pest predators



HOW DO YOU KNOW IF YOU HAVE THEM?

Finding Squirrel Gliders is challenging. Unfortunately, they are often found dead on a barbed wire fence or brought in by the family cat.

You can spend time at dusk watching big old hollow trees (stag watching) to see if any emerge from the hollows. It is worth the pleasure of spending time doing this on warm evenings.

**Old hollow bearing trees
are the critical habitat
for Squirrel Gliders.**



**If you find an injured Squirrel Glider contact:
WIRES: 1300 094 737**

**If you wish to record a sighting contact
Petaurus Education Group
Squirrel Glider LAMP Project Officer
Lou 0458 240 634
loubullpetaurus@gmail.com**