



Watershed
Landcare
Incorporated

GREATER GLIDER

*Petauroides
volans*

*in the Watershed
Landcare region*



SPECIES PROFILE

The Greater Glider is Australia's largest gliding fauna species with a head and body length of 350-450 mm and a long furry tail measuring 450-600 mm. The Greater Glider has thick fur that increases its apparent size. Fur colour is white or cream below and varies from dark grey, dusky brown through to light mottled grey and cream above. It has large ears and strongly reflective eyeshine in the beam of a spotlight making it easy to detect.

Greater Gliders are arboreal (tree dwelling) and feed exclusively on eucalypt leaves, buds, flowers and mistletoe. They favour forests with a diversity of eucalypt species, which provides seasonal variation across the range of its preferred feed tree species. They can glide up to a horizontal distance of 100 m including changes of direction of as much as 90 degrees.

During the day Greater Gliders shelter in tree hollows, using up to 18 hollows within their home range. They occupy a relatively small home range, averaging of 1 to 3 ha, but cover larger areas (up to 16 ha) in open woodland and forests with lower productivity.

While they are usually solitary, mated pairs and offspring will share a den during the breeding season until the young are independent. Females give birth to a single young in late autumn or early winter, which remains in the pouch for approximately 4 months and are independent at 9 months of age.

LOCAL DISTRIBUTION

The Greater Glider occurs in eucalypt forests and woodlands along the east coast of Australia.

In the Watershed Landcare region, the main sightings have been made along the Great Dividing Range, particularly in the west of Wollemi National Parks in locations such as Ganguddy-Dunns Swamp.

The area that Greater Gliders occupy has decreased substantially due to historical land clearing. Their habitat continues to decline due to further clearing, habitat fragmentation, fire and some forestry activities.



GREATER GLIDER



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WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

- Protect hollow bearing trees. Leave dead trees with hollows standing.
- Extend their habitat. Plant trees to re-connect stands of isolated trees. Keep tree patches closer than 100m apart.
- Look at alternatives to barbed wire on the top strand of your fences, especially in forested areas.
- Educate others. Let people know about Greater Gliders in your area, how to protect them and report sightings.

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

Websites that allow you to record your sightings of the Greater Glider (listed right), also enable you to search records for local populations of this species.

Information for this fact sheet was sourced from the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and the Australian Government Department of Agriculture Water and Environment. You can visit their websites for additional information via the following links:

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/ThreatenedSpeciesApp

www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened

REPORT A SIGHTING

Reporting your sightings of threatened species such as the Greater Glider to contribute to our understanding of the species' populations in our local area.

The sightings you report may be used in research and conservation programs and will help guide decisions on where government and land management activities will occur.

You can record your sightings online using:

- the NSW BioNet Atlas:
www.bionet.nsw.gov.au
- the Atlas of Living Australia:
www.ala.org.au