

backyards for biodiversity

YELLOW-BELLIED GLIDER



The yellow-bellied glider (*Petaurus australis*) is a large gliding possum with a membrane of skin that extends from the wrist to the ankle, allowing the animal to make glides of over 100 metres.

Sadly, in NSW the yellow-bellied glider is listed as vulnerable and threatened with extinction.



Where do they live?

Yellow-bellied gliders are arboreal (tree-dwelling) mammals that live in tall mature eucalypt forest and generally in areas with high rainfall and nutrient rich soils.

They require sites with suitable foraging habitat and large hollows.

They are highly mobile and occupy large home ranges between 25 to 120-ha. They can travel up to 500m from their nesting site each night in search of food.

They usually occur in family groups with up to six individuals, comprising an adult male and female with a number of offspring.



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This project is supported by the NSW Government through its Environmental Trust



What do they eat?

Yellow-bellied gliders are nocturnal, which means they feed at night. They feed primarily on nectar, sap, honeydew and manna with pollen and insects providing protein.

They also extract sap by biting into the trunks and branches of trees, often leaving a distinctive 'V'-shaped scar.

What do they look like?

The head and body is about 30cm long and the tail is about 45cm long. It has grey to brown fur above with a cream to yellow belly, which is paler in young animals.

They have a dark stripe down the back which is distinct to this species.

They have a loud, distinctive call, a high-pitched shriek that subsides into a throaty rattle. They can be heard over 500m away.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Avoid removing hollow bearing trees and understorey plants.

On farms, control grazing within vegetation remnants to encourage regeneration of trees and understorey shrubs (including wattles).

Plant native trees and shrubs to provide food resources for yellow-bellied gliders and other native animals.

Connect isolated habitat patches by planting corridors of local native plant species.

Desex domestic cats and keep cats indoors or in a cat-run, particularly at night.

Remove invasive weeds and dispose of garden waste appropriately.

Install nesting boxes.

Scan the QR code to find out more about Backyards for Biodiversity.

