

SHOALHAVEN THREATENED SPECIES



Yellow-bellied Glider

Scientific name: *Petaurus australis*

Conservation status in NSW: Vulnerable

What does it look like?

The Yellow-bellied Glider is a large, active, sociable and very noisy glider. Adults have a head and body length of about 30 cm and a large bushy tail that is about 45 cm long. It has grey to brown fur with a cream to yellow belly, which is paler in young animals. A dark stripe down the back is also a common feature. It has a large gliding membrane that extends from the wrist to the ankle, which enables it to glide through the air over large distances. It has a loud, distinctive call, beginning with a high-pitched shriek and subsiding into a throaty rattle.

Where does it live?

They prefer tall mature eucalypt forest generally in areas with high rainfall and nutrient rich soils. This species is found in high quality bushlands with hollow bearing trees in the Shoalhaven however is thought to be extinct in the Booderee National Park (Jervis Bay). They live in small family groups of two - six individuals and are nocturnal. They nest, often in family groups, in hollows of large trees. They occupy large home ranges of between 20 to 85 hectares in order to find enough food to survive.

What does it eat?

Mainly nectar, sap from Eucalypt trees with pollen and insects providing protein. They extract sap by incising (or biting into) the trunks and branches of favoured food trees, often leaving a distinctive 'V'-shaped scar. In Shoalhaven they show a preference for feeding on the sap of Red Bloodwoods and Grey Gums.

What threatens its survival?

- Loss and fragmentation of habitat.
- Loss of hollow-bearing trees.
- Loss of feed trees.

This information is supplied by

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