

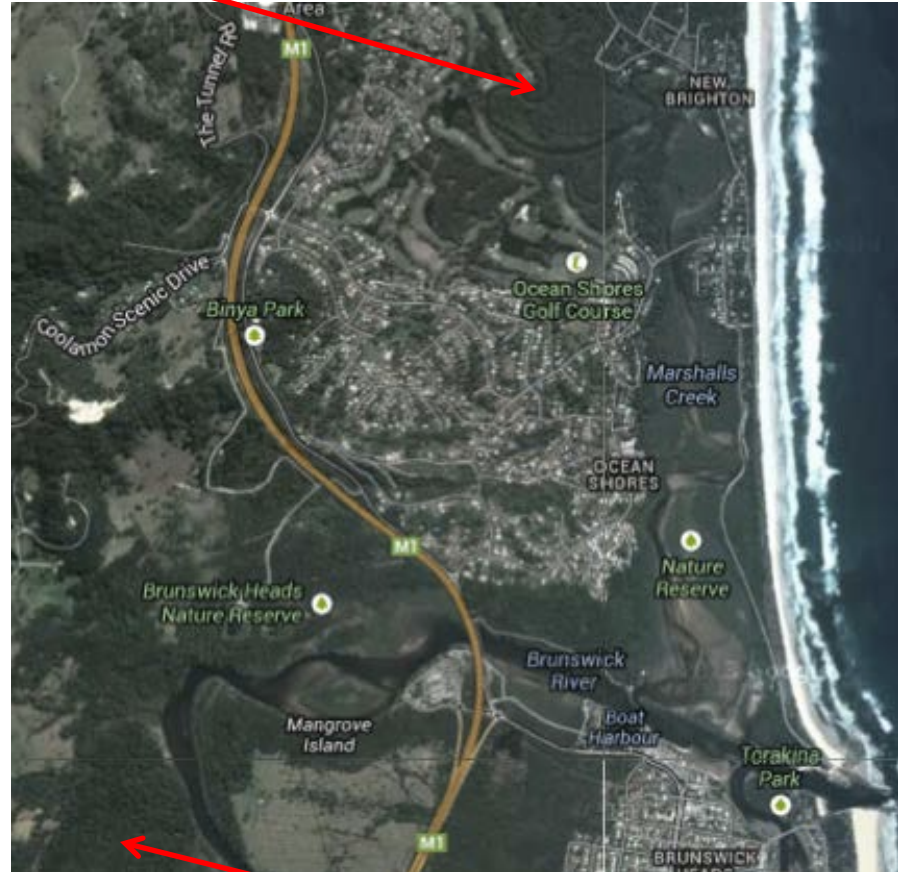
Threats to Gliders



Fragmentation of habitat

Animals need to be able to safely move between different habitats through vegetation corridors. Roads and houses pose many dangers. List all the dangers for gliders to move from habitat 1 to habitat 2.

Habitat 1



Habitat 2

Road gaps wider than 35m are very difficult to cross in a glide

Solutions

- Plant trees to help connect habitats
- Road crossings for animals

Above right: a glider pole in VIC
Below: a net wildlife crossing.



Read more about these initiatives for Squirrel Gliders www.contextualise.com/articles/print/article/helping-the-squirrel-glider-to-cross-the-road/

Loss of Tree Hollows



- Many trees with hollows have been cleared for forestry and residential development

Solutions

- Construct and erect nest boxes with an opening of 3-5cm to keep them safe from predators
- Monitor nest box use



Clearing of Understorey



Left: The shrubs underneath have been cleared to remove bush fire danger and provide easy access to people



Left: Squirrel Gliders prefer habitat where there is an understorey of plants for food and protection from predators

Solutions

Plant food plants for gliders in our schools, homes and local area.



CANOPY

- Northern Grey Ironbark
- Forest Red Gum
- Pink Bloodwood
- Grey Gum
- Red Mahogany

UNDERSTOREY

- Paper Bark
- Banksia
- Grass Trees
- Wattles
- Grevillea



Gliders love to eat eucalypt and wattle sap, nectar, pollen, and flowers

Barbed wire fencing



Solutions

- Educate the community on dangers of barbed wire and encourage changes e.g plain wire on top
- Distribute a brochure on the issue and refer to wildlife friendly fencing website

<http://wildlifefriendlyfencing.com/WFF/Home.html>



Predation by Cats, Dogs & Foxes



Solutions

- Keep cats inside or in a cage (especially at night).
 - Keep dogs on a lead and in your yard
 - Councils and National Parks consider fox baiting programs
 - Information brochure for the community
- See Dorroughby EEC Website resources



FIRE



Bushfires destroy the understorey and reduce the amount of food plants available for Squirrel Gliders. The understorey can take up to 10 years to recover from a major burn.

Solutions

- Councils and National Parks need to ensure that hazard prevention burning occurs in stages i.e sections are burned each year not the whole area at once
- The public need to observe rules and stay out of National Parks and council reserves when they are closed due to 'Total Fire Bans'



How do Councils, NPWS & Forestry Help?

- Retain and protect areas of open forest and woodland that are typical habitats
- Ensure sufficient hollow-bearing-trees and future hollow-bearing-trees are maintained within the habitat.
- Retain understorey feed trees such as wattles and protect these from grazing and development
- Reduce fox numbers
- Councils and NPWS develop planning documents to ensure all the above mentioned solutions are implemented





How do community organisations help?



- If people are concerned they can form a group that takes action e.g In Qld there is an organisation called 'Glider Watch'.
<http://www.wildlife.org.au/projects/gliders/>
- The CEN (Central Coast) run a program State Wide called 'Land for Wildlife' that encourages land holders and schools etc to preserve their natural bushland for animals. Schools are also able to apply.
<http://www.cen.org.au/Land-for-Wildlife/>
- Great Eastern Ranges Wildlife Project is trying to connect natural wildlife corridors from Victoria to North Queensland
<http://www.greateasternranges.org.au/where-is-the-great-eastern-ranges-initiative-connecting-people>