



## **High density of Yellow Bellied Gliders at Pikes Hill Rd.**

### **Author**

David Caldwell ([evilzombiedave@gmail.com](mailto:evilzombiedave@gmail.com))

### **Surveyors**

David Caldwell, Shelly McLaren, Chris, Jess.

This report details the detection of a number of Yellow Bellied Gliders *Petaurus australis*, at Pikes Hill Rd in East Gippsland, on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

This survey was undertaken by volunteers from Goongerah Environment Centre (GECO).

8 Yellow Bellied Gliders were detected over a distance of approximately 1km, during a period of 1 hour of survey.

### **Method**

A transect of 2 kilometres was walked along Pikes Hill Rd on 04.02.16, between 2130 and 2300 hrs. At approximately 200m intervals along the transect, a masked owl territorial call (source: 'Nightlife of Australia') was played using an mp3 player and a mega-phone. Spotlighting was conducted continually during playback, and between playback intervals. A listening period of between 2 and 3 minutes was undertaken after playback of the owl call. Detection locations were recorded on a handheld GPS in GDA 94. Direction of detected gliders was estimated using a handheld Silva compass.

Spotlights employed were a 12V halogen handheld spot of generic design, and a Led Lenser P14 torch of at least 185 lumens. 2 pairs of 10x42 binoculars were on hand.

There was no evidence of rain in the previous 12 hours and the sky was clear. No moon was present. Wind was still to very light.

Transect Start GDA 94: 55H 0657529 5845162

Transect End GDA 94: 55H 0658221 5843700

## Results

Yellow Bellied Gliders were heard calling at 4 locations along the transect. It was possible to discern calls from 8 different gliders at these locations. 3 of the locations were 200m intervals and 1 location was incidental along the transect.

Individual gliders were heard from 2 different locations, 4 gliders were heard from 1 location, and 2 from 1 location.

All detections of Yellow Bellied Gliders were aural, as visual id was not possible due to distance from the transect.

Other species recorded were Sugar Gliders that were heard at 2 locations, and a Common Brushtail Possum was sighted at 1 location.

Transect distance from 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> detection locations is approximately 1km. The time of the survey over this distance was approximately 1 hour 2 minutes.

Way-point	Time	Species	Number of individuals	Co-ordinate in GDA 94	Bearing	~ Distance from co-ordinate (m)
PB-0	2130	Yellow Bellied Glider	1	55H 0657529 5845162	40	40
PB-1	2150	Yellow Bellied Glider	1	55H 0657631 5844935	60	80
PB-1	2152	Yellow Bellied Glider	3	55H 0657631 5844935	310	40
PB-2.5	2207	Sugar Glider	1	55H 0657875 5844746	40	40
PB-3.5	2220	Common Brushtail Possum	1	55H 0657659 5844653	270	3
PB-4	2224	Yellow Bellied Glider	1	55H 0657705 5844620	140	20
PB-4.5	2232	Yellow Bellied Glider	2	55H 0657725 5844529	260	50
PB-5	2240	Sugar Glider	1	55H 0657813 5844454	330	50

See attached maps on pages 3 and 4 for transect overview detail.

## Conclusion

The detection of this number of Yellow Bellied Gliders (8) is a high relative abundance, and has management implications for this immediate area. A detection rate of greater than 5 gliders per km, or more than 7 per hour requires the creation of a 100 hectare SPZ.

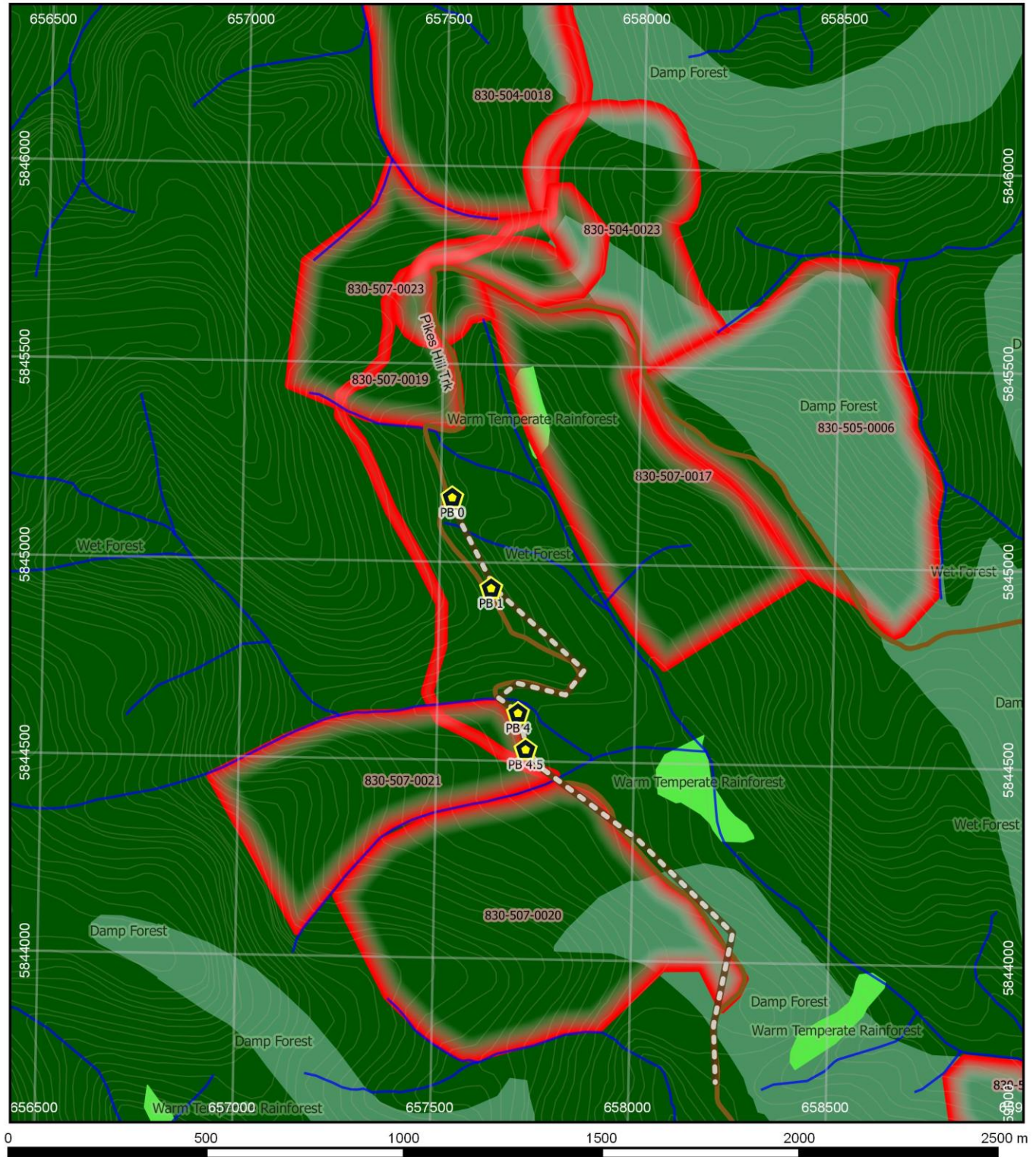
I urge the department of environment and Vicforests to act in accordance with the planning standards for this species.

Sincerely

David Caldwell

Goongerah Environment Centre GECO

Pikes Hill Track - Yellow-bellied Glider (*Petaurus australis*) detection locations; Survey Transect; Scheduled Logging (VicForests Timber Release Plan, August 2015); Ecological Vegetation Classes (NV2005\_EVCBCS)



#### Legend

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| Yellow-bellied Glider detection locations | Selected Ecological Vegetation Classes (NV2005_EVCBCS) | Scheduled Logging Coupes (VicForests, TRP) [Approved_TRP_August_2015] |
| Survey transect                           | Damp Forest  | Roads   |
|   | Warm Temperate Rainforest                              | Watercourses  |
|   | Wet Forest   | Contours  |

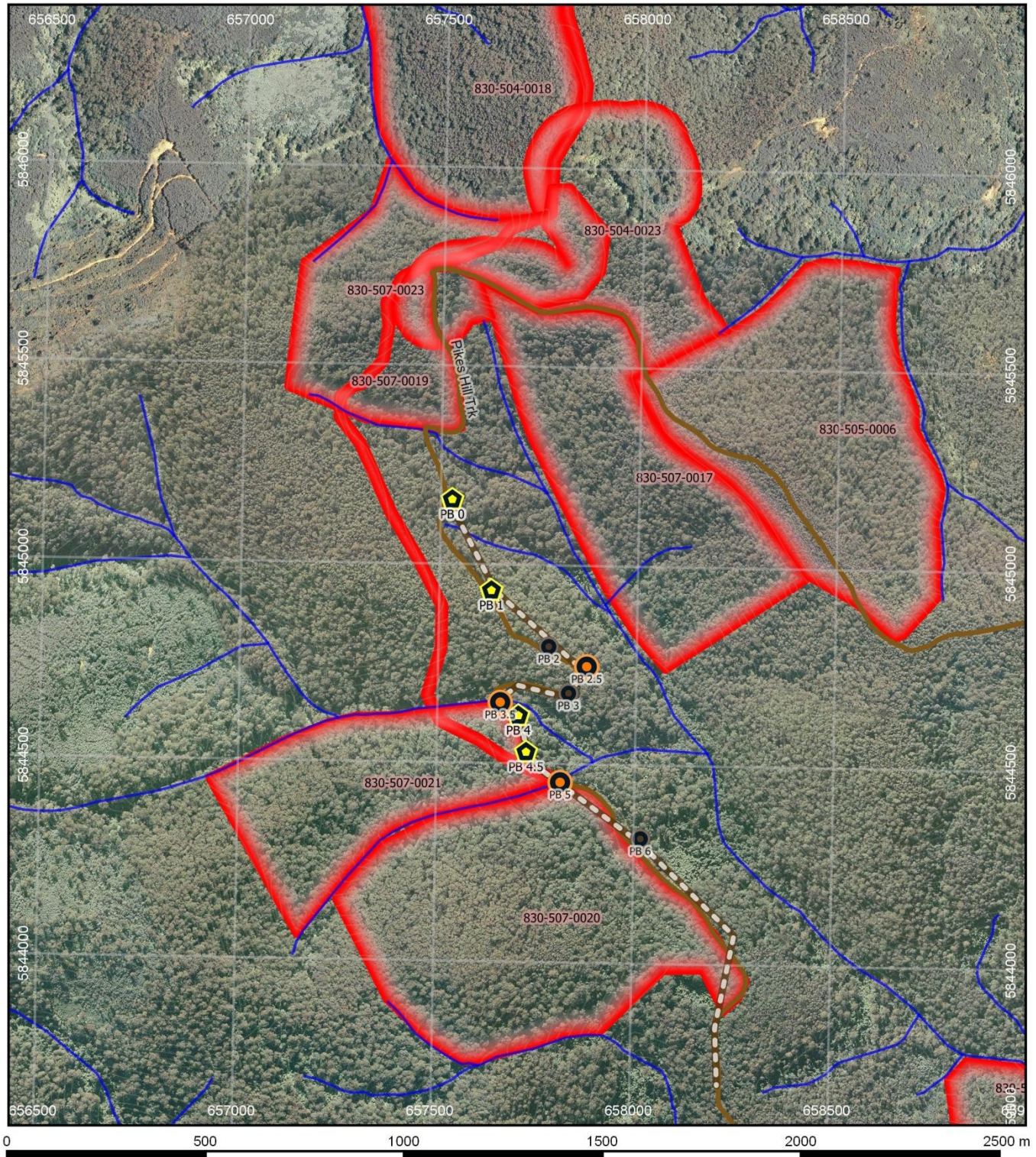
Projection: EPSG: 28355  
GDA94/MGA Zone 55

Map Scale:  
1:12,500



07 February 2016

Pikes Hill Track - Yellow-bellied Glider (*Petaurus australis*) and other nocturnal fauna detection locations; Survey Transect; Scheduled Logging (VicForests Timber Release Plan, August 2015); Aerial Imagery



**Legend**

- |   |   |              |
|---|---|--------------|
| Yellow-bellied Glider detection locations | Survey transect   | Roads        |
| Detection of non-target species           | Scheduled Logging Coupes (VicForests, TRP) [Approved_TRP_August_2015] | Watercourses |
| No detection of fauna species             |   | Contours     |

Projection: EPSG: 28355  
GDA94/MGA Zone 55

Map Scale:  
1:12,500



07 February 2016