

# Goongerah Environment Centre Survey Report

## Greater Glider (*Petauroides volans*) detections in VicForests' logging coupe 893-503-0022 'Teeter Totter' Playgrounds Track – Bendoc State Forest – East Gippsland

### Abstract:

Forest areas within VicForests' logging coupe 893-503-0022 'Teeter Totter' were surveyed to assess the presence of nocturnal fauna. 3 Greater Gliders were detected in nocturnal spotlight surveys on 07 February 2021.

Spatial analysis of the Greater Glider records obtained during this survey were assessed using Geographic Information System software and all 3 Greater Gliders detected were found to be located within a 1 ha area polygon. The detections also represent a substantial population of Greater Gliders located in isolated habitat. Protection is therefore required under the relevant mandatory biodiversity conservation measures set out in the regulatory framework governing logging operations in Victoria's State Forests.

The methodology, results, and recommendations arising from this survey are further detailed within this report.



*Playgrounds track logging coupe 893-503-0022 'Teeter Totter'*

### Surveyors

Owen Hanson  
Tiff Tarrant

### Date of survey

6 and 7 February 2021

### Authors

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### Date of report

11 February 2021

## Method: Nocturnal Fauna Spotlight Survey conducted 6 and 7 February 2021

### Equipment Used

- Hand-held Spotlights
- Global Positioning System (GPS) [Garmin GPSMAP 64s]

### Method used

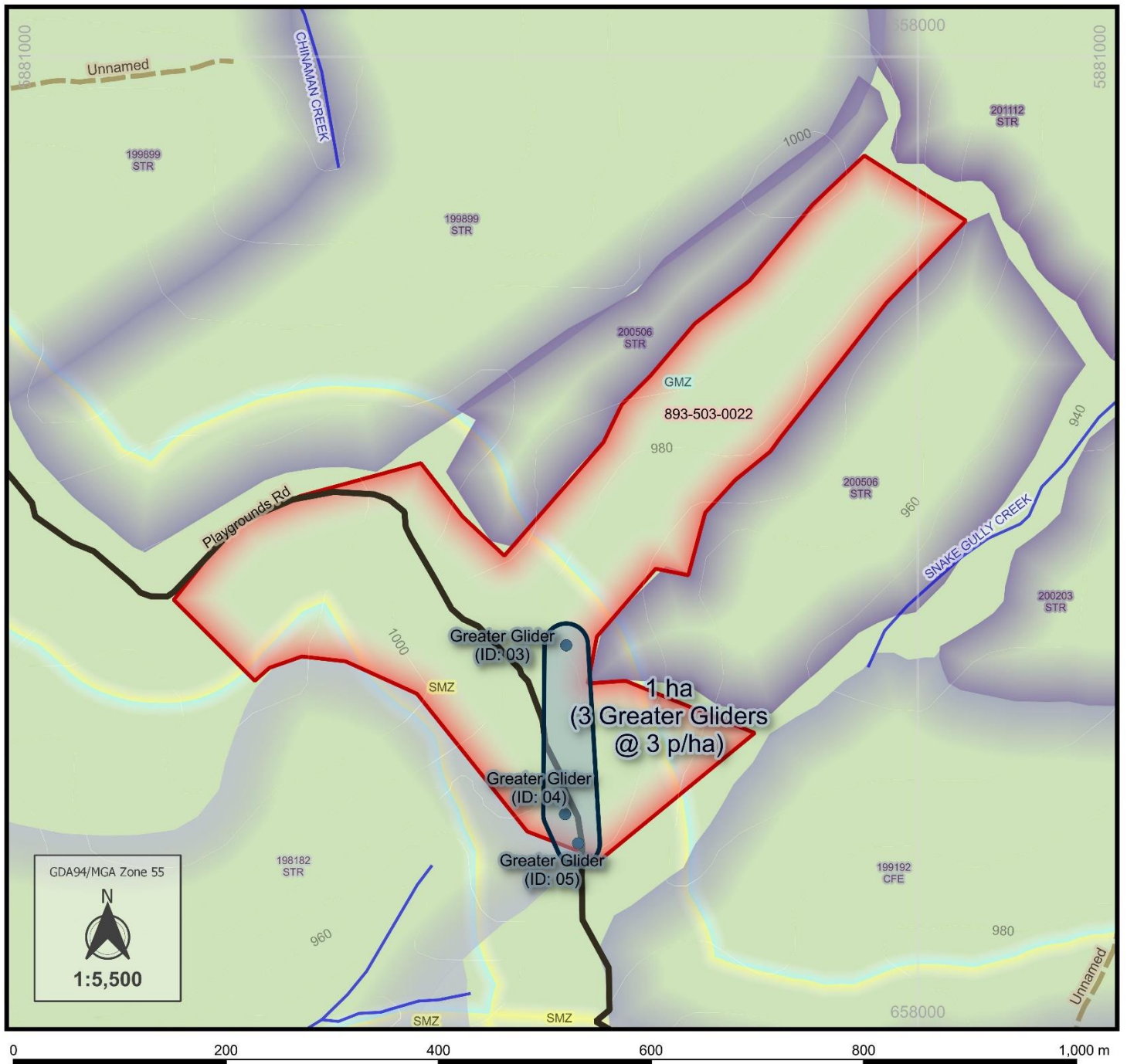
1. On 6 and 7 February at around 11pm surveyors commenced a spotlighting survey along Playgrounds track in Bendoc State Forest and forest areas within VicForests logging coupe 893-503-0022 'Teeter Totter'.
2. The survey involved shining a hand-held spotlight into the canopy of trees to search for the presence of nocturnal fauna.
3. As fauna were identified the location of the fauna species was marked with the GPS.
4. The results of this survey and the locations of the Greater Gliders observed are shown in Table 1 and accompanying map (Figure 1) below.
5. Fauna record location data was analysed using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping software to determine compliance requirements with the regulatory framework governing logging operations in Victoria's State Forest with respect to fauna detection-based biodiversity conservation measures.

## Results

Table 1: Results of nocturnal survey conducted on 6 and 7 February

Date	Time	Waypoint ID	Species	Type	Bearing	Distance	Location (GDA94)
07/02/21	02:55:00	PLYGRNDGG03	Greater Glider	Visual	n/a	0	55 H 657669 5880446
07/02/21	03:20:00	PLYGRNDGG04	Greater Glider	Visual	n/a	0	55 H 657668 5880287
07/02/21	03:25:00	PLYGRNDGG05	Greater Glider	Visual	n/a	0	55 H 657680 5880259

**Figure 1: Map of fauna detections observed and recorded in Bendoc State Forest on 6 and 7 February**



**Current Investigation**

- Greater Glider locations
- High Density Greater Glider area

**Logging and disturbance**

- Scheduled Logging Coupes (VicForests, December 2020)

**Logging History (High Severity, LOGSEASON)**

- 198081
- 198182
- 199192
- 199899
- 200203
- 200506
- 201112

**Forest Management Zones**

- Special Management Zone
- General Management Zone
- State Forest (all FMZs)

**Roads**

- 

**Watercourses**

- 
- Contours

## Excerpts from relevant legislation

1. “*Planning Standards for timber harvesting operations in Victoria’s State forests 2014, Appendix 5 to the Management Standards and Procedures for timber harvesting operations in Victoria’s State forests 2014*”, Department of Environment and Primary Industries, The State of Victoria, 2014 (**Planning Standards**)

Excerpt from table 4, page 43:

East Gippsland	Greater Glider	<i>Petauroides volans</i>	Establish a SPZ of approximately 100 ha of suitable habitat where verified records report more than 2 individuals per hectare, more than 10 individuals per km or more than 15 individuals per hour of spotlighting, or where substantial populations are located in isolated or unusual habitat.
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2. Forest Management Plan For The East Gippsland Forest Management Area, Victoria  
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, East Melbourne, December 1995 (**EG FMP**)

Excerpt from page 30:

<p>CONSERVATION GUIDELINE continued</p> <p><b>Arboreal mammals.</b> For each of the following occurrences, approximately 100 ha of suitable habitat will be included in the SPZ:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• resident Koala populations.</li><li>• Greater Glider and Common Brushtail Possum - &gt;2 individuals per ha, &gt;10 per km, or &gt;15 per hour of spotlighting.</li><li>• Yellow-bellied Glider - &gt;0.2 per ha, &gt;5 per km, or &gt;7 per hour of spotlighting.</li><li>• Eastern Pygmy Possum - &gt;5 per standard pitfall line over 5 days.</li><li>• substantial populations of the above species that are isolated or in unusual habitat.</li></ul> <p><b>Rich mammal sites.</b> Well-documented sites that are particularly rich in mammal species will be included in the SPZ or SMZ wherever practical.</p>
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## Summary/Conclusions

### Presence of Greater Glider (*Petauroides volans*) at more than 2 individuals per hectare

1. Within VicForests logging coupe 893-503-0022 ‘Teeter Totter’, Greater Glider observations were made during the nocturnal fauna survey described above. The recording locations of the three Greater Glider individuals detailed at Table 1 above are shown as grey dots in Figure 1. Three Greater Gliders located within a 1 hectare area polygon were found during the survey on the night of 6 and 7 February 2021.

2. Both the “Management Standards and Procedures for timber harvesting operations in Victoria’s State forests 2014”, Department of Environment and Primary Industries, The State of Victoria, 2014 through its “Planning Standards”, and the EG FMP For The East Gippsland Forest Management Area, Victoria Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, East Melbourne, December 1995 **require that an SPZ (Special Protection Zone) of approximately 100ha of suitable habitat be established where more than 2 Greater Glider individuals per hectare are recorded.**

3. Further, both the Planning Standards and the East Gippsland FMP require (as an additional basis to the ‘more than 2 individuals per hectare’ criteria for protection) that a SPZ of approximately 100ha of suitable habitat be created **where substantial populations are located in isolated or unusual habitat.** The habitat within and adjacent to Teeter Totter coupe is “isolated” because it is surrounded by sizable areas of clear-felled land which is not suitable Greater Glider habitat. The detections recorded during the survey on 7 February 2021 represent a “substantial population” including because a high density of Greater Gliders was recorded, indicating a large population of the species exists in and around Teeter Totter coupe, and the unburnt habitat at the coupe is a refuge area following the devastating 2019/2020 bushfires in East Gippsland.

**4. To meet the requirements of the Greater Glider prescriptions contained within the regulatory framework governing logging operations in Victoria's State Forests a 100ha Special Protection Zone must be established and fully implemented by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning responsive to the Greater Glider detections detailed within this report.**

