

Survey for Greater Glider (*Petauroides volans*) at scheduled harvesting coupe Squirrels Paw near Bendoc in East Gippsland

Case Number: 2018-0016

Coupes surveyed:

District	Coupe Number	Coupe Name
Bendoc	892-507-0020	Squirrels Paw

**Report prepared by
Water and Planning**

for the Department of Environment, Land,

1 INTRODUCTION

was commissioned by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) to conduct surveys for Greater Glider (*Petauroides volans*) at a scheduled harvesting coupe, Squirrels Paw (892-507-0020), near Bendoc in East Gippsland. This coupe had previously been surveyed by members of the , who determined that Greater Gliders were present in densities that require protection under relevant legislation. It appears some harvesting has already commenced in this coupe.

2 METHODS

A spotlight survey was conducted on 7th April 2018 by two staff () with significant experience surveying Greater Gliders and other nocturnal fauna. Both observers used a LED Lenser H14R.2 head torch to search trees visible from the survey transect for nocturnal fauna, which included looking for eye-shine or signs of movement. All fauna species detected either visually or by call were recorded by marking the location of the observers with a GPS and recording the bearing and estimated distance of the animal from the observers. A GPS was also used to record the location and distance of the survey transect. The location of the survey transect was recommended by DELWP staff based on Greater Glider detection records.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Weather conditions

Table 1 Weather conditions at the commencement of the survey

Temperature (°C)	17.5	Rain	0
Relative Humidity (%)	51	Flowering index	-
Cloud cover (%)	0	Moon phase (% visible)	58
Wind speed	0	Nightlight	0

3.2 Survey effort

The length of the survey transect was >3500 metres, however it included traversing slowly through areas of vegetation, precluding a more accurate estimation of the transect length. The survey was conducted between 19:19 and 00:42 (8th April). Walking conditions along the survey transect included areas along tracks; through vegetation with few or no shrubs; and through areas with dense fern cover up to waist height. Visibility along the survey transect was excellent owing to the absence of a middle storey.

3.3 Greater Glider detections

A total of 12 Greater Gliders were detected during the spotlight survey (Map 1 and Table 2), however observers are 95% confident one additional Greater Glider was detected but unable to be verified (despite multiple attempts, the animal could not be relocated when observers moved closer to its location). All Greater Gliders were detected within 30 meters of the survey transect.

3.4 Additional species of interest

A female Powerful Owl was heard in the Badgers Foot coupe (892-507-0005).

Map 1 Location of spotlight transect and Greater Glider detections

Numbers on map correspond with 'Great Glider detection number' in Table 2.

Green circle indicates area where observers are 95% confident a 13th Greater Glider was located.

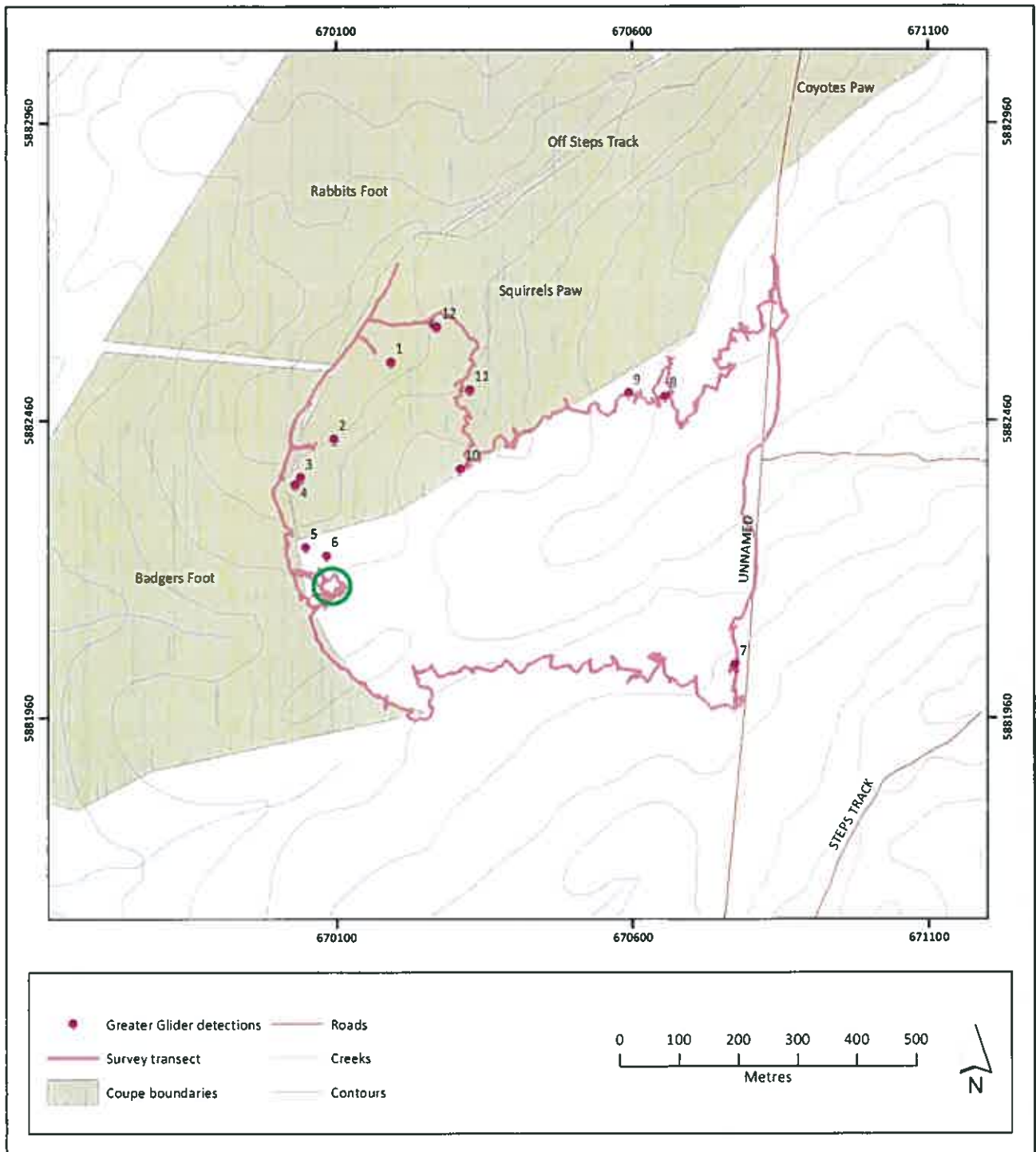


Table 2 Nocturnal fauna species detected during spotlight survey

Species	Time	Observer Easting	Observer Northing	Seen/ Heard	Distance (m)	Direction (°)	Greater Glider detection number	Estimated Fauna Easting	Estimated Fauna Northing	Notes
Greater Glider	19:26	670164	5882574	s	30	120	1	670190	5882558	
Southern Boobook	19:34	670053	5882493	s	30	90		670083	5882492	
Southern Boobook	19:34	670053	5882493	h	100	150		670101	5882405	
Southern Boobook	19:34	670053	5882493	h	200	350		670022	5882691	
Greater Glider	19:46	670065	5882423	s	30	80	2	670095	5882428	
Greater Glider	19:51	670010	5882375	s	30	110	3	670038	5882364	
Greater Glider	19:51	670010	5882375	s	30	140	4	670029	5882352	
Mountain Brushtail Possum	19:57	670003	5882308	s	15	70		670017	5882313	
Greater Glider	20:02	670024	5882267	s	30	130	5	670047	5882247	
Sugar Glider	20:05	670018	5882254	s	30	90		670048	5882253	
Powerful Owl	20:10	670026	5882208	h	100-200	180		670023	5882058	Female. Only called once, so distance was estimated at 100-200m.
Greater Glider	20:17	670071	5882205	s	30	20	6	670082	5882233	
Common Ringtail Possum	20:20	670076	5882189	s	15	130		670087	5882179	
Feathertail Glider	20:26	670104	5882175	s	0	0		670104	5882175	
Mountain Brushtail Possum	20:31	670084	5882164	s	30	180		670083	5882134	
Mountain Brushtail Possum	20:43	670039	5882160	s	30	110		670067	5882149	
Sugar Glider	21:05	670147	5882019	s	0	0		670147	5882019	
Common Ringtail Possum	21:07	670171	5881999	s	20	140		670184	5881983	
Common Ringtail Possum	21:08	670181	5881988	s	40	160		670194	5881950	
Sugar Glider	21:08	670181	5881988	s	20	140		670194	5881972	
Greater Glider	22:18	670771	5882049	s	0	0	7	670771	5882049	
Australian Owlet-Nightjar	22:22	670770	5882113	h	50	220		670737	5882075	
Yellow-bellied Glider	22:39	670835	5882606	h	40	250		670797	5882593	
Southern Boobook	22:44	670839	5882731	h	80	100		670917	5882716	
Common Brushtail Possum	23:30	670664	5882558	s	0	0		670664	5882558	two in same tree
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Species	Time	Observer Easting	Observer Northing	Seen/ Heard	Distance (m)	Direction (°)	Greater Glider detection number	Estimated Fauna Easting	Estimated Fauna Northing	Notes
Greater Glider	23:37	670645	5882498	s	10	80	8	670655	5882500	
Greater Glider	23:41	670613	5882509	s	20	260	9	670593	5882506	
Common Ringtail Possum	0:04	670390	5882416	s	10	150		670395	5882407	two in same tree
Common Ringtail Possum	0:04	670390	5882416	s	10	150		670395	5882407	two in same tree
Greater Glider	0:12	670325	5882391	s	20	230	10	670309	5882378	
Common Ringtail Possum	0:16	670334	5882422	s	15	40		670344	5882433	
Greater Glider	0:30	670310	5882525	s	20	130	11	670325	5882512	
Greater Glider	0:42	670258	5882627	s	15	130	12	670269	5882617	