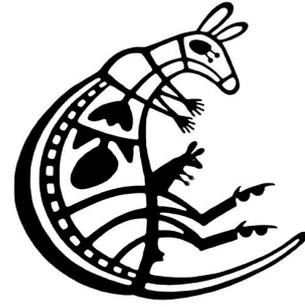


The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosino
Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate
Change
State Government of Victoria
Level 16, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne,
VIC 3002



Australian Mammal Society Inc.

Cc: Senator the Hon. Bridget McKenzie,
Minister for Agriculture; The Hon. Sussan Ley,
MP, Minister for the Environment;

11 July 2019

Re: The impact of future timber harvest in the Strathbogie Ranges, Victoria, on the threatened Greater Glider

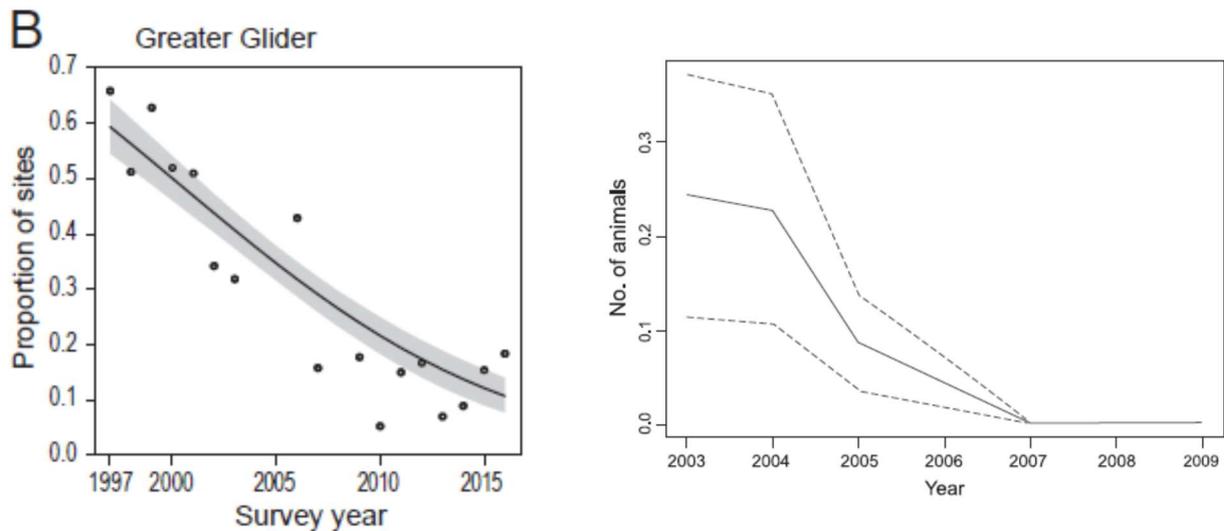
Dear Ministers,

The Australian Mammal Society is the peak body of Australian researchers and managers involved in understanding and conservation of Australia's extraordinary mammal fauna (see https://australianmammals.org.au/about_us/overview). We write to you to express concern and to propose conservation management responses for the Greater Glider.

This species is a forest dependent leaf-eating marsupial that has experienced a dramatic decline in abundance and distribution over the last two decades (see, for example, results below from an extensive monitoring program in the Central Highlands, Victoria and from monitoring at Booderee National Park, NSW). This has led to its listing as Vulnerable in 2016 under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, and as Threatened in 2017 under the *Victorian Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*.

The pattern of recent and severe declines is widespread across most of the range of Greater Glider, however a few populations have remained relatively stable. One of the most important of these remaining strongholds of the Greater Glider in Victoria is in state forest in the Strathbogie Ranges, with this location supporting especially high densities of this species.

Much of the state forest areas in the Strathbogie Ranges were scheduled for timber harvesting but were recently removed from the current Timber Release Plan, providing some temporary respite for the Greater Glider population there from habitat loss and degradation.



Examples of recent population monitoring results for greater glider across the Central Highlands Victoria (left)¹ and in Booderee National Park NSW (right)².

The Australian Mammal Society supports the action taken by the Victorian Government to remove forests of the Strathbogie Ranges from scheduled harvesting. However, the Australian Mammal Society is concerned that timber harvest may recommence in this area in future, and:

(1) requests that all timber harvesting in Greater Glider habitat in the Strathbogie Ranges be permanently discontinued, to protect one of the last robust populations of this species in Victoria.

Given declines throughout most of the species' range, protection of other Victorian populations is also important. We note there are no current explicit protections for Greater Gliders in the Central Highland and Gippsland Regional Forestry Agreement areas. We further request:

(2) that the Code of Forestry Practice 2014 be amended, to include prescriptions for the protection of the Greater Glider.

We would be delighted to engage further with you on the fate of this species in Victoria.

Yours faithfully,

V. Weisbecker

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¹ Lindenmayer DB, Sato C (2018) Hidden collapse is driven by fire and logging in a socioecological forest ecosystem. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* **115**, 5181-5186.

² Lindenmayer DB, Wood JT, McBurney L, MacGregor C, Youngentob K, Banks SC (2011) How to make a common species rare: a case against conservation complacency. *Biological Conservation* **144**, 1663-1672