



save me a home amongst the gum trees

MUNGARRU LODGE SANCTUARY

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Mahogany Glider – Cyclone Yasi - Info Bulletin 2 – 14/02/11 Daryl Dickson

Mahogany Glider – Cyclone Yasi

- Initial supplies for the mahogany glider feed stations – these are only preliminary supplies.
 - Information sheet to assist the community volunteers in the refilling of the feed station. QPWS to reproduce for distribution.
 - Community and QPWS feed station sites are being identified.
 - The first two community assisted mahogany glider feed stations were installed 13/02/11 on properties at Lily Creek & Bilyana.
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- RSPCA Jon Hanger advised today that all feed stations supplies have been dispatched and should arrive at QPWS Ripple Creek by 16/02/11. Den box plans have been forwarded ready for production to begin.
 - Compilation of the feed station kits ready for installation and distribution will commence as soon as the supplies arrive.
 - Early post cyclone observations have recorded four study animals at the research site south of Cardwell. Preliminary site inspection indicates that, at least in this area, a good proportion of den opportunities are still available in the cyclone damaged habitat. We have also observed a released glider and wild den partner at Mungarru Lodge Sanctuary both have survived and look in good condition so far.
 - Good insect numbers are present in the general area and these will assist in sustaining the gliders while this resource persists. There is also indication that the saps of some tree species may also be providing some sustenance.
 - The indication that den opportunities still exist in some of the habitat is a helpful early sign.
 - The greatest damage appears to be in the smaller isolated fragments of habitat.
 - It will be very important to maintain observation of known animals in the study site to try to measure loss of condition as limited food supplies change in the coming months.
 - ABC radio has assisted in requesting assistance from the community within the glider habitat and broadcasting information.
 - The den box program will best assist mahogany gliders in fragmented areas that have significant loss of den opportunities. Further investigation will be required to identify key areas for placement.
 - It is hard to assess the long term effects of this event on the glider population. There is no doubt that they will be more susceptible to predation, territorial disputes in areas with depleted den opportunities and greatly effected should food availability become more limited as the months pass.
 - The Mahogany Glider feeding program will only be able to reach a small proportion of the glider population across the range of the species. They are a resourceful species and we can only hope that the assistance that we are able to offer may just make a difference to there long term survival.