



save me a home amongst the gum trees

MUNGARRU LODGE SANCTUARY

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Mahogany Glider – Cyclone Yasi - Info Bulletin 3 – 19/02/11 Daryl Dickson

Mahogany Glider – Cyclone Yasi

- Supplies for the mahogany glider supplementary feed stations are now at QPWS Ripple Creek (courtesy of RSPCA, Lypard, Wombaroo) – QPWS are putting the kits together
- The Wildlife Preservation Society QLD & Tully Branch have funded and sourced the required Camera traps, torches and other essential equipment for volunteers and scientists to ensure that progress and outcomes can be measured while providing immediate support for the species. These have been donated by NGO's to ensure that DERM may concentrate on the necessary staffing resources required and to assist where possible with "sharing the load"
- Groups, individuals & industry have made contact to assist with den box construction and WPSQ have dispatched an initial number for immediate use.
- QPWS, scientists and volunteers will install a number of initial feed and monitoring stations to badly damaged remnant mahogany glider habitat & key corridor areas commencing Sat Feb 19th.
- The most severe damage has been experienced in the central and northern populations of mahogany glider habitat. (Around and to the north of Cardwell)
- We are still awaiting resource (staff) assistance from DERM to release members of QPWS staff to assist with Nature Refuge, community liaison and volunteers co-ordination to assist in the program
- Locations for Feeding stations and offers of assistance are still coming in.
- We are continuing to monitor individual Mahogany Gliders to assess condition and response to the changes landscape and availability of food resources at Mungarru Lodge Sanctuary.
- The longer term ramifications of severe damage to the entire range of this endangered species are now starting to be recognized. (Extreme fire risk / rapid weed infestation / rapid thickening / destroyed landscape linkages) These are **very significant** issues and may well cause a critical risk to the survival of the mahogany glider as a species. A commitment to longer term resources will be required.
- Confirmation that the greatest damage has occurred in the smaller isolated fragments of habitat. These remnant animals are extremely important to the long term genetic health of the population.
- Local QPWS staff and rangers from further a field are working **very** hard to co-ordinate and implement the necessary works. **They now need urgent assistance of key personnel to take over the co-ordination & liaison.**
- Enquiries are also being received from landholders requiring assistance and advice on how to manage the damage on privately owned endangered species & endangered RE. (can they "clear"? Can they harvest timber? Mostly from the angle of they do not want to be prosecuted for what they do but also some who want advice on what is the best way to help the habitat. Again a need for QPWS to have someone available to deal with these enquiries.