



Squirrel Gliders (*Petaurus norfolcensis*) are one of six species of gliding possum found in Australia. What makes them different from other types of possum is that they have a gliding membrane on each side of their body that extends from wrist to ankle. These 'wings' enable them to glide between trees in search of food, shelter and breeding partners. In NSW, Squirrel Gliders are listed as a *Vulnerable* species which means that we need to reduce the threats to their survival to stop them from becoming extinct.

Habitat and diet

Squirrel Gliders occur mainly in woodland and open eucalypt forest, where they create small, bowl-shaped nests out of leaves in the hollows of old trees. Here, they often live in small groups and move between 1-9 different den sites.

Squirrel Gliders are nocturnal so they feed at night. Their diet varies seasonally and consists of nectar, pollen, eucalypt and wattle sap, seeds, honeydew (a sugary coating on leaves made by scale insects) and insects.

What do they look like?

Squirrel Gliders get their name from their dense, fluffy tails which resembles that of a squirrel and is longer than their body! They have soft grey fur on top with a dark stripe that runs half-way down their body and a white belly. They weigh only a tiny 190-300grams but have been known to glide for up to 90 meters!

Threats

- Loss and fragmentation of habitat
- Loss of hollow-bearing trees due to logging and development
- Predation by cats and foxes
- Barb wire fencing
- Loss of flowering shrubs and trees in forests and woodlands

Did you know?

Squirrel Gliders communicate with others using a raspy call interspersed with gurgling chatter. If alarmed, they let out a loud yip! Have a listen to what they sound like at www.bit.ly/1PUSAFO

