

NSW SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Final Determination

The Scientific Committee, established by the Threatened Species Conservation Act, has made a Final Determination to reject a proposal to remove a population of the Yellow-bellied Glider *Petaurus australis* Shaw 1791 on the Bago Plateau from the Schedules of the Act.

The Scientific Committee has found that:

1. In 2008, a population of the Yellow-bellied Glider *Petaurus australis* Shaw 1791 on the Bago Plateau was listed as Endangered under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act* 1995. The listing was made on the basis that the population was considered to be disjunct or near the limit of its geographic range and that the geographic distribution of the population was projected to decline on the basis of a reduction in habitat quality.
2. In March 2012, on the basis of new information addressing population disjunction, the Scientific Committee exhibited a Preliminary Determination to support a proposal to remove the Endangered population of the Yellow-bellied Glider on the Bago Plateau from the Schedules of the *Threatened Species Conservation Act* 1995.
3. In considering the proposal to de-list the population, the Committee reviewed available information on the population and sought additional expert advice on the species. New records of the Yellow-bellied Glider were reported in areas to the south of the Bago Plateau and along the Tumut River valley, within Kosciuszko National Park (Kambouris *et al.* unpublished manuscript). These additional records suggested that Yellow-bellied Gliders on the Bago Plateau were potentially part of a regional metapopulation. However, the Committee determined that the available unpublished survey data did not sufficiently resolve the issue of whether the Bago Plateau population could still be considered disjunct or whether it should now be regarded as fully or functionally interconnected with other, adjacent populations.

The Committee is of the opinion that the population meets the criteria for listing as an Endangered population on the basis of its significant conservation value, projected decline in habitat quality, and reduced genetic diversity due to restricted gene flow. The Committee considers the population of the Yellow-bellied Glider on the Bago Plateau should be retained as an Endangered population.

Associate Professor Michelle Leishman
Chairperson
Scientific Committee

Proposed Gazettal date: 22/11/13
Exhibition Period: 22/11/13 – 31/01/14

References:

Kambouris PJ, Kavanagh RP, Rowley KA (unpublished manuscript) A re-assessment of distribution, habitat preferences, management and status for an endangered population of Yellow-bellied Glider *Petaurus australis* on the Bago Plateau, South-western slopes, New South Wales.