



Mahogany Glider Recovery Team

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Submission on the Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016

The Mahogany Glider Recovery Group strongly support the Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016

The Mahogany Glider Recovery Team (MGRT) has the responsibility of providing advice, coordinating and directing the implementation of the actions outlined in this recovery plan. Representatives, nominated by government, community and research organisations are involved with implementation of the Recovery Plan for the Mahogany Glider. Re-convened in 2012, following TS Yasi, the group has worked for the last four years to prepare a new draft recovery plan for this species. For more information about the Mahogany Glider Recovery Plan and Team visit our storymap <http://arcg.is/1AitD33>.

As defined within our terms of reference, it is a function of this group to provide advice as appropriate about mahogany glider conservation issues.

The follow are relevant excerpts from the draft Mahogany Glider Recovery Plan 2016 the following is stated:

#### **1.6 Recovery plan objectives**

The objectives of this recovery plan are to:

Reduce the threats impacting on this species and down list the conservation status from Endangered to Vulnerable.

#### **1.5 Threats**

The mahogany glider faces a number of threats including:

- 1) Habitat loss and fragmentation of the remaining habitat.

Habitat loss has been identified as a key threatening process to this species and past experience has shown that a self-assessment process is not viable if the habitat for this threatened species is to be conserved. High value re-growth and remnant vegetation is essential to its survival. The limited remaining habitat of this species exists in a much contested region along the wet tropics coast. Following the rediscovery of the species in 1989, it lost habitat to extensive agricultural and human development, this continued until the introduction of the Vegetation Management Act 1999 which has significantly reduced indiscriminate clearing.

We feel that it is essential that these protections in legislation are restored and strengthened to ensure the remaining mahogany glider habitat in conserved. It is also notable that in the years since the VMA introduction greater communication and understanding between landholders and those working to conserve this species has developed. Ongoing funding for extension staff and NRM organisations, specifically tasked to provide assistance and advice in land management and threatened species habitat would be beneficial.

*Jacqui Richards – Communications Officer*

*Submitting for the Mahogany Glider Recovery Group*

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