



Date 16-12-2025

By email info@geg.org.au

To EPBC Compliance

environment.compliance@dcceew.gov.au

Formal Complaint and Request for Urgent Intervention — Damage to *Yellow Bellied Glider* habitat within the Nowa Nowa Lyles Break Planned Burn (GP-TBO-NOW-0368)

Please accept this letter and the attached report as a **formal submission and complaint** regarding serious and avoidable damage to habitat for the nationally listed threatened species—***Yellow Bellied Glider*** associated with pre-burn mechanical works by Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMV) conducted within the **Nowa Nowa Lyles Break planned burn area (GP-TBO-NOW-0368)**.

During November 2025, Gippsland Environment Group surveyed two unnamed tracks, around old logging coupes, in the western section of the burn area and found more than 120 felled trees, many of them solid trees that have been removed from the site. Approximately 28 large old hollow-bearing trees were also felled, despite the presence of active Yellow-bellied Glider feed trees and Victorian Biodiversity Atlas records of Sooty Owls nearby. Additional signs of logging activity - including log piles and stripped bark - were observed along Lyles Break and Smarts Break. None of the felled trees were mountain grey gums; most were stringybark and some ironbark, indicating deliberate selection.

The attached survey report documents this extensive tree-felling within this planned burn site (GP-TBO-NOW-0368). We believe the impacts documented in the survey report provide evidence of a serious failure of compliance with statutory requirements under the **Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (FFG Act)** and the **Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)**.

According to correspondence on 03-12-2025 from Sam Quigley, Director Forest and Fire Operations – Gippsland, these trees were felled by Forest Fire Management Victoria as pre burn preparations and the logs were moved from the burn site to nearby domestic firewood collection areas for access by the community

We seek clarification on the following:

1. Was an on-ground biodiversity assessment undertaken prior to this work?
2. Why were trees allowed to be felled in and around active Yellow Bellied Glider feed trees?
3. Substantial hollow bearing trees were felled in this operation. Did pre-felling assessments assess for Yellow Bellied Glider den trees
4. Why were trees allowed to be felled into creek lines?
5. What actions will be taken to investigate and address this incident?

Gippsland Environment Group is of the opinion that burning this site will result in further damage to Yellow Bellied Glider habitat, feed and den trees and requests that this burn be removed from the schedule, or if not removed, it must be referred to the Federal Environment Department as a controlled action

We request to be kept informed of all findings and actions taken.

Yours sincerely,



Jade Kemety
GEG President

President, Gippsland Environment Group Inc



Date of report 17-11-2025

Gippsland Environment Group felled tree survey report 09-11-2025

In Nowa Nowa Lyles Break planned burn GP-TBO-NOW-0368

7 ha was burnt by FFMV over two days on the 24th and 31st October 2025

Total area planned to be burnt is 406 ha

Gippsland Environment Group surveyed in the western section of the burn area, along two unnamed tracks (presumably old logging roads) for a distance of approximately 8km along two creek lines, in the interior of the planned burn area, and adjacent to regenerating logging coupes. See map and GPS data.

More than 120 trees were felled. The majority of the trees were felled in what was the original Toe Rag Creek exclusion zone beside the logging coupes. Significant numbers of the felled trees were solid trees, and these have been removed from the site.

Approximately 28 significant large old hollow bearing trees were felled, despite a number of Yellow-Bellied Glider feed trees existing within the same area and nearby VBA records of Sooty Owls. The hollow bearing trees that were felled, were left where they were cut.

There are remains of log piles/dumps and where bark was removed on Lyles Bk and Smarts Bk.

Gippsland Environment Group observed that none of the felled trees were mountain grey gums (mountain grey gums are no good for timber or firewood) and were mostly stringybark and some iron bark trees. This appears to have been a logging operation.

Below: Planned burn site <https://plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au/burn-site/3009968>

Red outline indicates approximate area surveyed

← Back to search

SAFE

Nowa Nowa - Lyles Brk

5km SE of Nowa Nowa

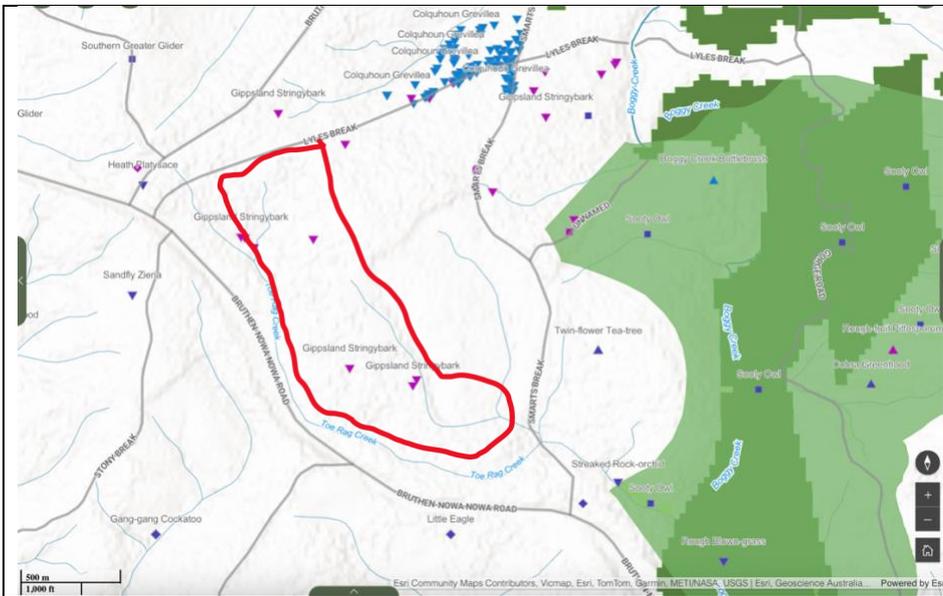
LAND MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE
To develop a fuel reduced area to the North West of Nowa Nowa Community.

Learn about the strategy behind this burn

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------------|----------------------|----------------|
| AGENCY: | FFM Vic | PLANNED AREA/LENGTH: | 406 ha |
| DISTRICT: | Tambo | TREATED AREA/LENGTH: | 7 ha |
| REGION: | Gippsland | TREATMENT TYPE: | Fuel Reduction |
| NUMBER: | GP-TBO-NOW-0368 | PROPOSED YEAR: | 2026 |

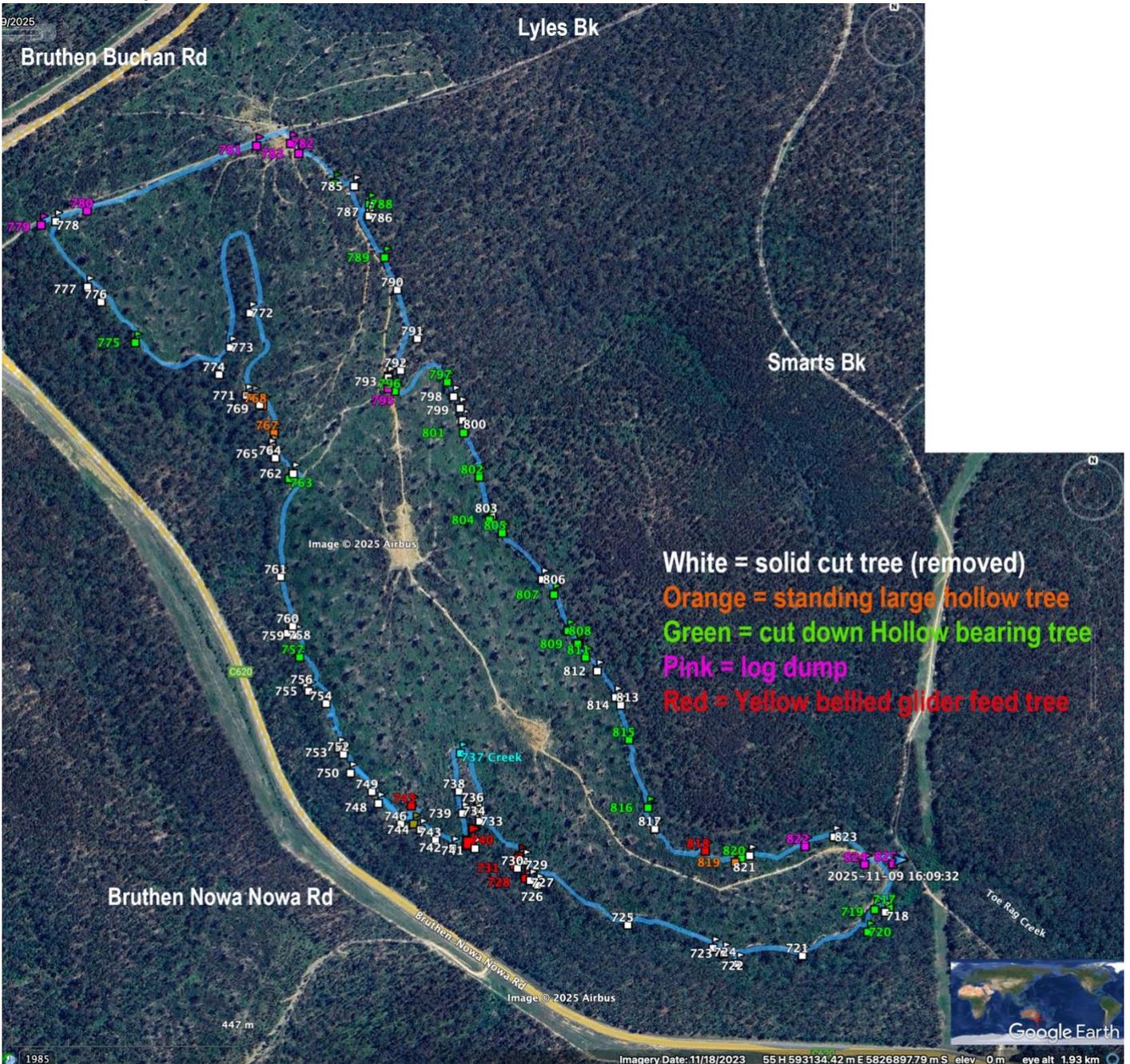
General enquiries for this burn:
VicEmergency Hotline
1800 226 226

Powered by Esri



Left: Red outline indicates the section of the planned burn that was surveyed along Toe Rag Creek and the tributary

Below: surveyed area



Photographic evidence. Note this is just a sample of the 120 plus cut trees in the sample area surveyed in the map above

Below: Hollow bearing trees felled into Toe Rag creek buffer/logging exclusion zone beside the logging coupes.



Below: Hollow bearing trees felled into Toe Rag creek buffer/logging exclusion zone beside the logging coupes. Red arrow indicates the creek



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Below: Tree felled into Toe Rag creek



Below: Hollow bearing tree felled near Yellow Bellied glider feed tree (indicated by red arrow)



Above: Yellow Bellied glider feed tree close up

Below: Another hollow bearing tree felled near Yellow Bellied glider feed tree (indicated by red arrow)



Above: Yellow-bellied glider feed tree close up

Below: Solid trees felled near Yellow-bellied glider feed trees. The solid trees all appear to have been removed. Red arrow indicates the Yellow-bellied glider feed tree.



Below: The above Yellow-bellied glider feed tree close up



Below: Solid trees felled into Toe Rag creek buffer/logging exclusion zone beside the logging coupes – the solid trees have mostly all been removed



Below: Solid trees felled into Toe Rag creek buffer/logging exclusion zone beside the logging coupes.



Below: Solid trees felled into Toe Rag creek buffer/logging exclusion zone beside the logging coupes. Solid trees have been removed from the site.



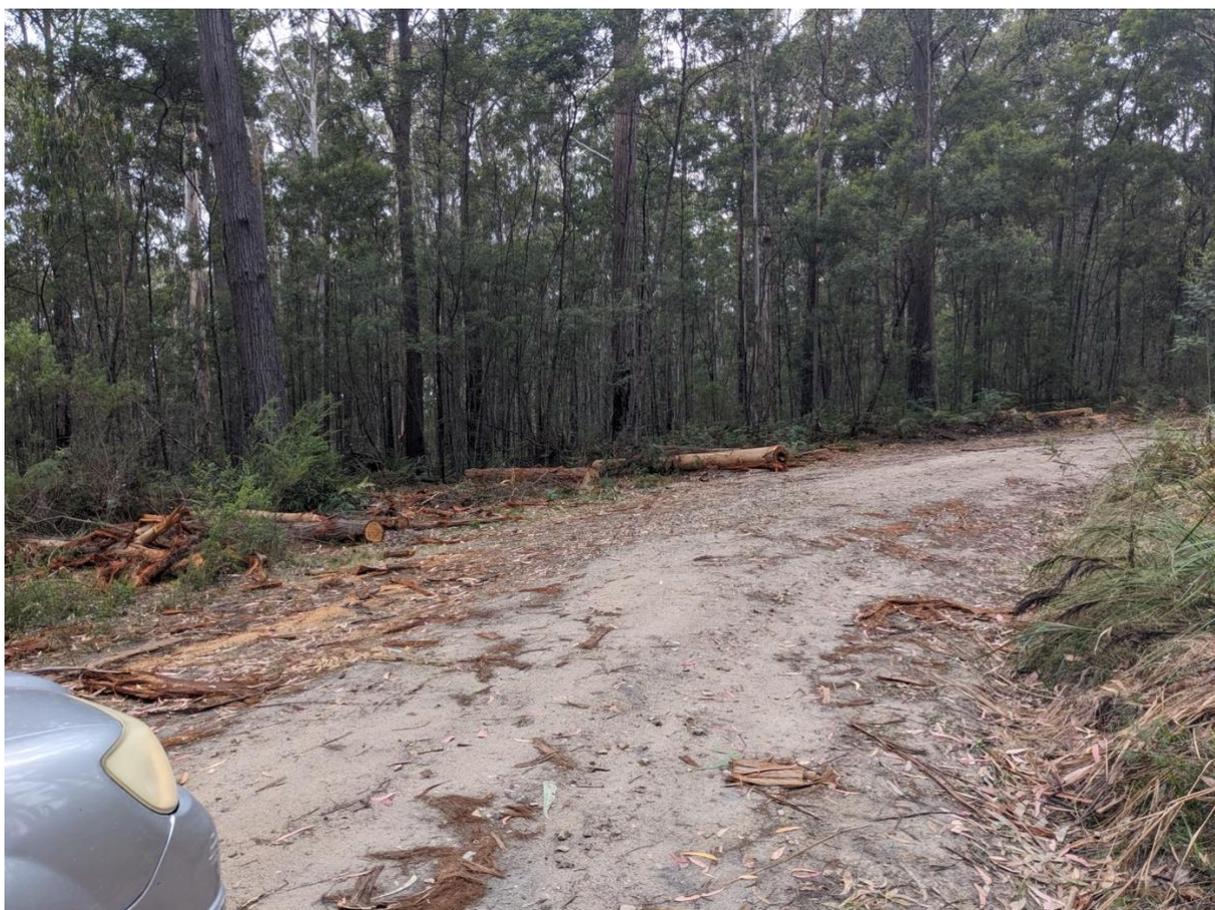
Below: Solid trees felled into Toe Rag creek buffer/logging exclusion zone beside the logging coupes. Solid trees have been removed from the site.



Below: Remains of log dumps on Lyles Bk 24-10-2025



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Below: Remains of log dumps on Lyles Bk 09-11-2025



Below: Remains of log dumps on Lyles Bk 09-11-2025



Below: Remains of log dumps on Lyles Bk 09-11-2025



Below: Remains of log dumps on unnamed track 09-11-2025

