

Plain Language Statement

School of Agriculture, Food and Ecosystem Sciences
and

School of BioSciences

Faculty of Science

The University of Melbourne



Project: Public perspectives on sugar (Krefft's) glider reintroductions in cities

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Introduction

Thank you for your interest in participating in this research project. The following few pages will provide you with further information about the project, so that you can decide if you would like to take part in this research.

Please take the time to read this information carefully. You may ask questions about anything you don't understand or want to know more about.

Your participation is voluntary. If you don't wish to take part, you don't have to. If you begin participating, you can also stop at any time.

What is this research about?

Species reintroductions can be a useful way to restore biodiversity to cities. However, public support is critical to the success of reintroduction projects. The degree to which people are willing to live alongside the species, the acceptability of management actions required to ensure their ongoing conservation, and the capacity to reduce potential negative effects are all important to understand.

Sugar gliders (a small, gliding marsupial) have become locally extinct across many areas of metropolitan Melbourne since the city was established. However, over time and following urban greening and conservation projects, many urban areas could support sugar gliders once again.

We are seeking perspectives of urban land managers, other stakeholders, and the wider community, on sugar gliders in metropolitan Melbourne. Our aim is to understand where sugar gliders currently live within urban environments and how these

populations are successfully supported so that lessons can be shared across local government areas. Where sugar gliders do not occur, we would like to understand whether there is a public appetite for their reintroduction, what management actions might be considered acceptable, and the potential benefits and concerns that local governments, the general public, and other stakeholders have about the potential return of sugar gliders.

This information will be used to develop a framework to support land managers to thoroughly consider the issue and plan conservation actions that respond to both the social and ecological aspects of bringing sugar gliders back to urban environments.

Where can I get further information?

If you would like more information about the project, please contact Dr. Kylie Soanes at The University of Melbourne (ksoanes@unimelb.edu.au). You will also be provided with a link that enables you to express your interest in hearing more about the project outcomes and to share your email address. This form is separate to the survey and is not linked to your survey responses. You do not have to complete the survey in order to express an interest in the findings.

What will I be asked to do?

In the survey, you will be asked questions about living alongside sugar gliders in urban environments. There are 10–15 questions and we expect it will take approximately 5–10 minutes to complete.

What are the possible benefits?

The goal of this study is better understanding the current approach to living alongside sugar gliders in urban environments, appetite, suitability of ecological actions, and . The information produced in this work will help remove common barriers to greener streets and develop new norms for urban greening.

What are the possible risks?

Potential risks are minimal. You are free to skip questions that you prefer not to answer, or withdraw at any time. We will not ask you any sensitive or personal questions and your responses will be anonymised for data analysis. Our survey asks you to identify both the kind of organisation you represent and the local government area you are located in. It is possible that someone may identify you, or that your organisation participated in the survey, based on these responses.

Do I have to take part?

No. Participation is completely voluntary. You are able to withdraw at any time.

Will I hear about the results of this project?

All materials generated from this project, will be publicly available through the project website <https://kyliesoanes.com/active-projects/> or by contacting Dr. Kylie Soanes (ksoanes@unimelb.edu.au).

What will happen to information about me?

Full control of the raw data will be guaranteed by the use of personal computers and password protected cloud storage within the virtual space of the University of Melbourne. Data is non-identifiable, which means the researchers will delete any individually identifiable information from the database as soon as it is captured. Data will be stored following guidelines for post-publication scholarly work by the University of Melbourne. The data will be stored for a maximum of 5 years, as per University of Melbourne guidelines, after which it will be deleted.

Who can I contact if I have any concerns about the project?

This project has human research ethics approval from The University of Melbourne Project ID #35934. If you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of this research project, which you do not wish to discuss with the research team, you should contact the Research Integrity Administrator, Office of Research Ethics and Integrity, University of Melbourne, VIC 3010. Tel: +61 3 8344 1376 or Email: research-integrity@unimelb.edu.au. All complaints will be treated confidentially. In any correspondence please provide the name of the research team and/or the name or ethics ID number of the research project.