

Saving Our Swift Parrots and Woodland Birds



Swift Parrot Recovery Program

Critically Endangered Species:

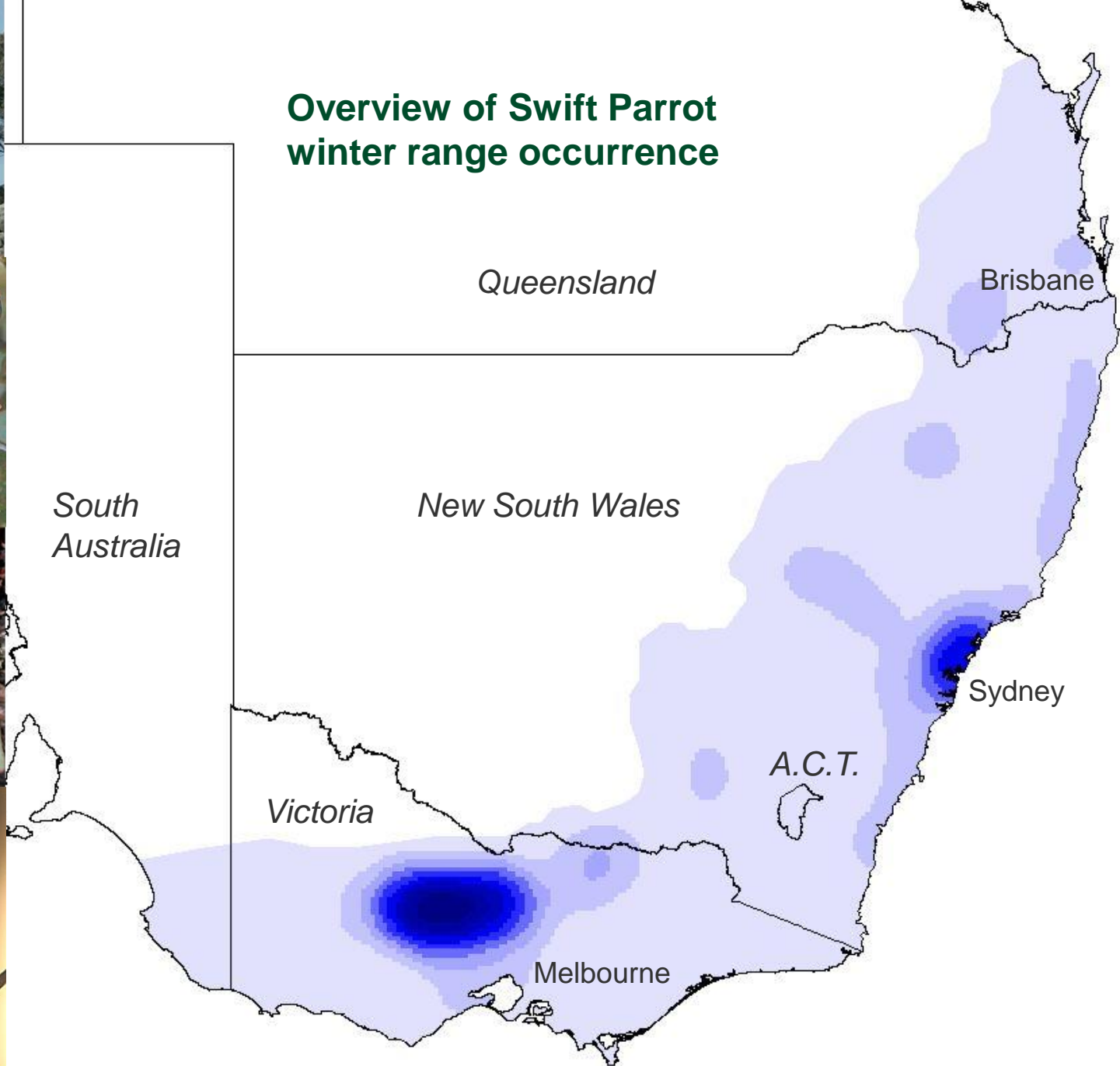
Swift Parrot population < 2500 birds & declining

National Recovery Plan:

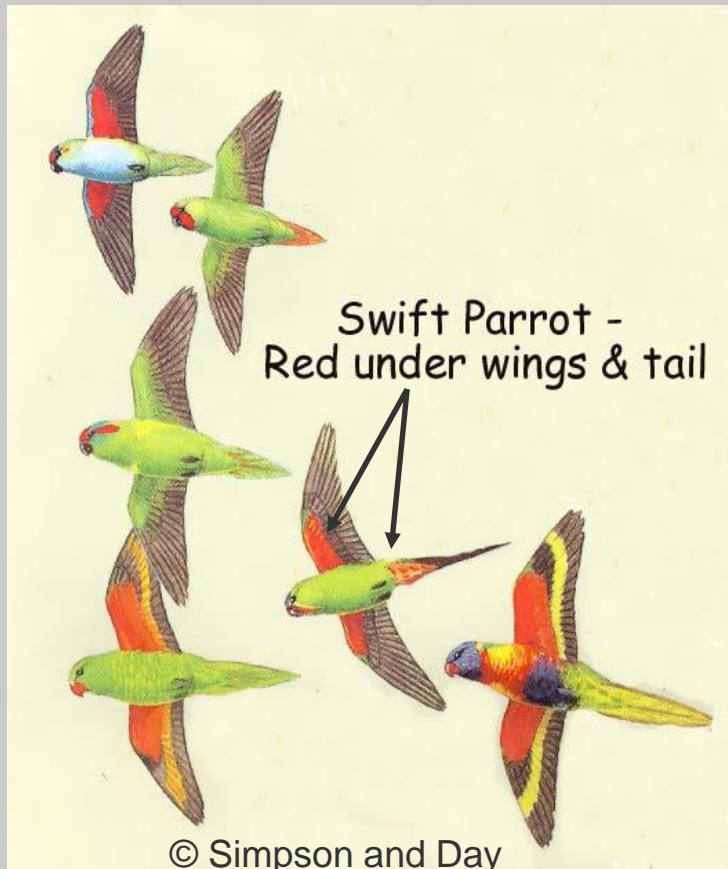
- Research within winter and breeding range
- Monitoring programs
- Community involvement
- Habitat protection and restoration



Overview of Swift Parrot winter range occurrence



Swift Parrot Identification



- Plumage differences
- Call differences
- Behaviour



Swift Parrot Identification



Riverina Swift Parrot foraging habitats

Grassy Box Woodlands
including:

- White Box
- Grey Box
- Yellow Box
- Blakely's Red Gum



Riverina Swift Parrot foraging habitats

Box Ironbark Woodland

- Mugga Ironbark
- Grey Box
- White Box

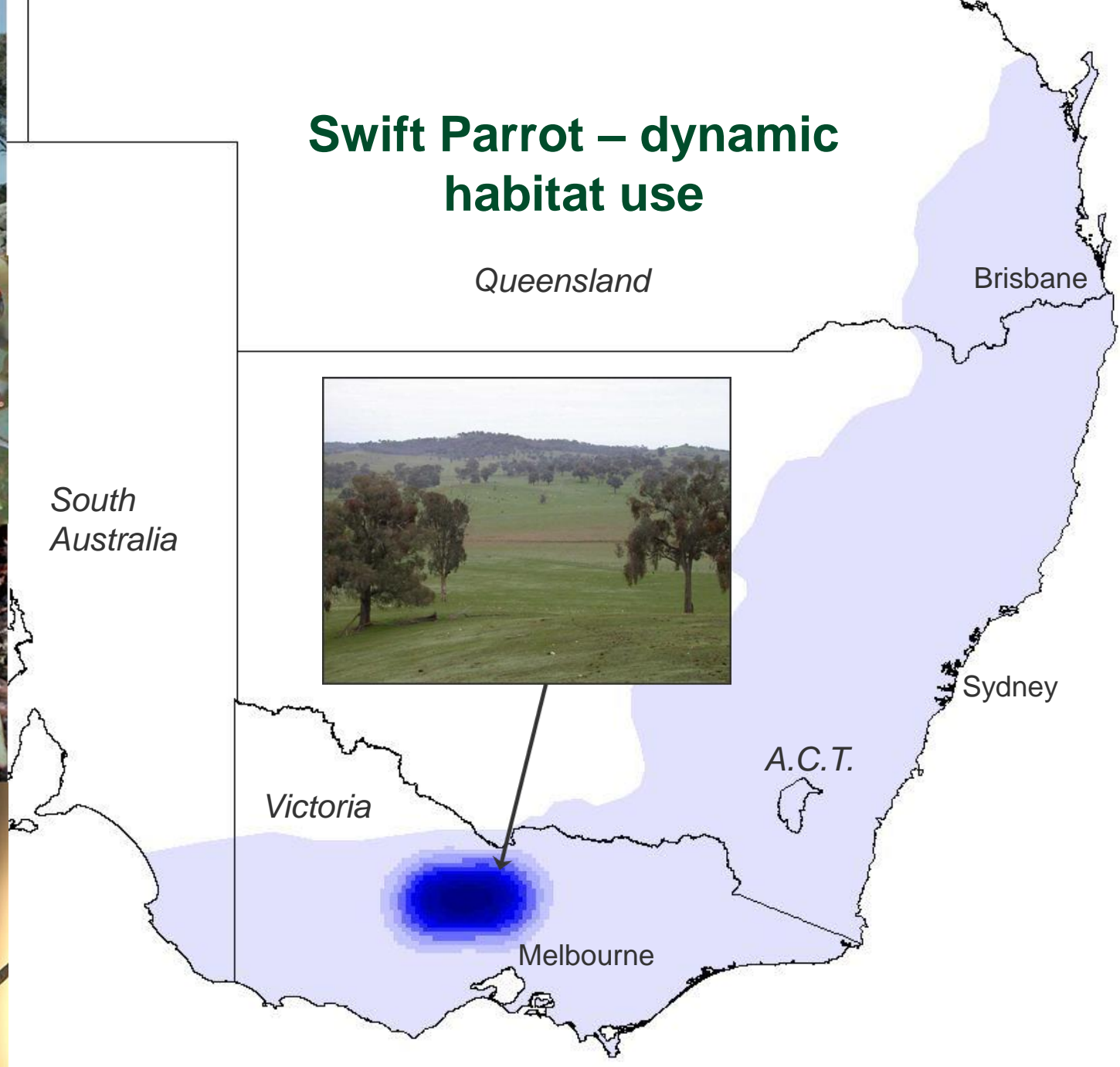




Swift Parrot Research

- Prefer largest trees available
- Nectar and lerp - important food sources
- Diversity of small honeyeater species co-occur
- Return to the same sites repeatedly (site fidelity)

Swift Parrot – dynamic habitat use



South
Australia

Queensland

Brisbane

Sydney

A.C.T.

Victoria

Melbourne

Swift Parrot – dynamic habitat use



South
Australia

Queensland

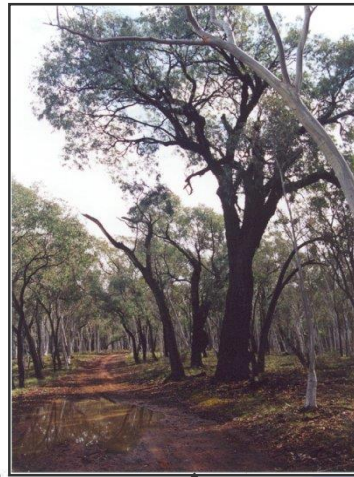
Brisbane

Sydney

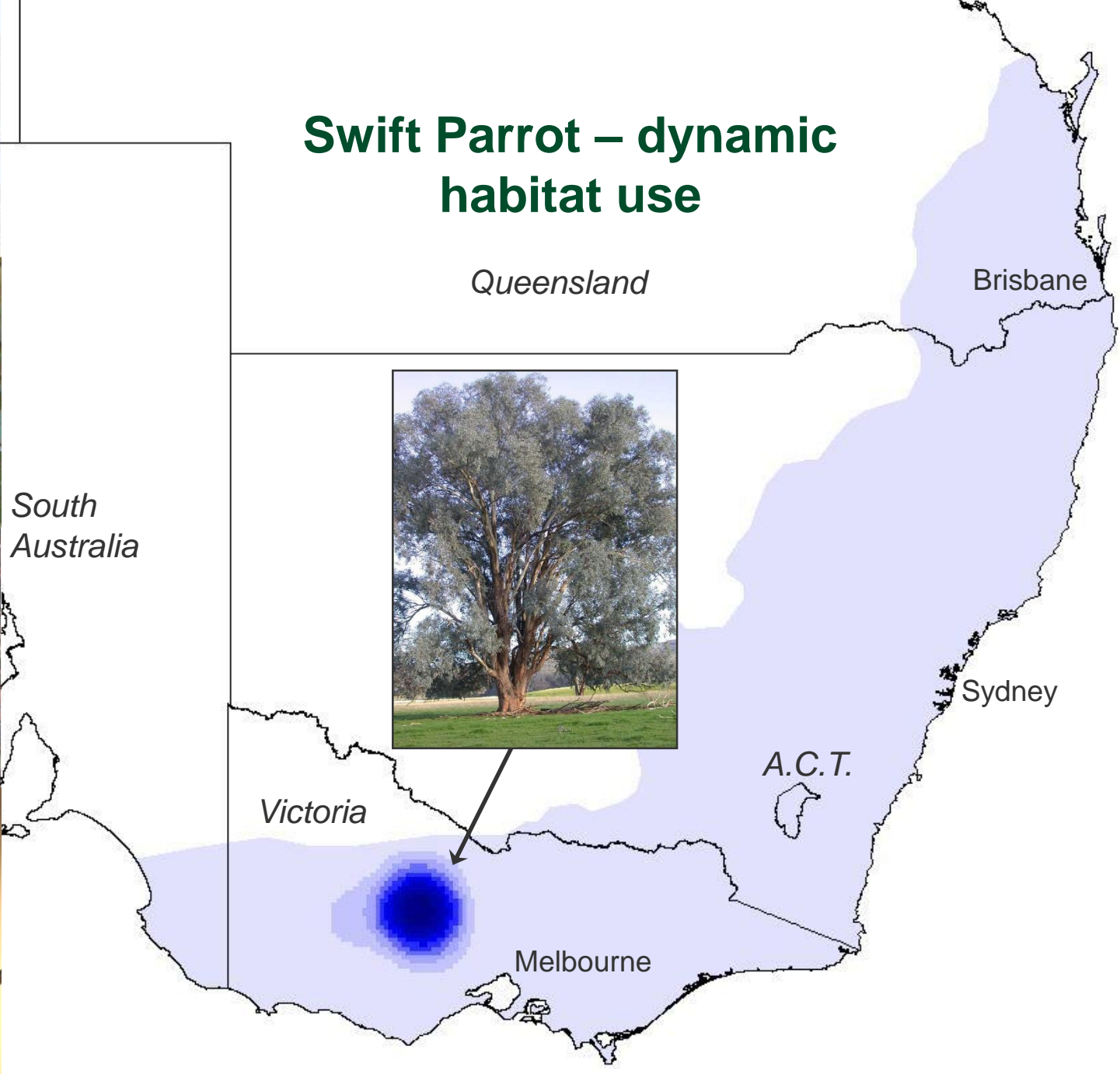
A.C.T.

Victoria

Melbourne



Swift Parrot – dynamic habitat use



Queensland

Brisbane

South
Australia

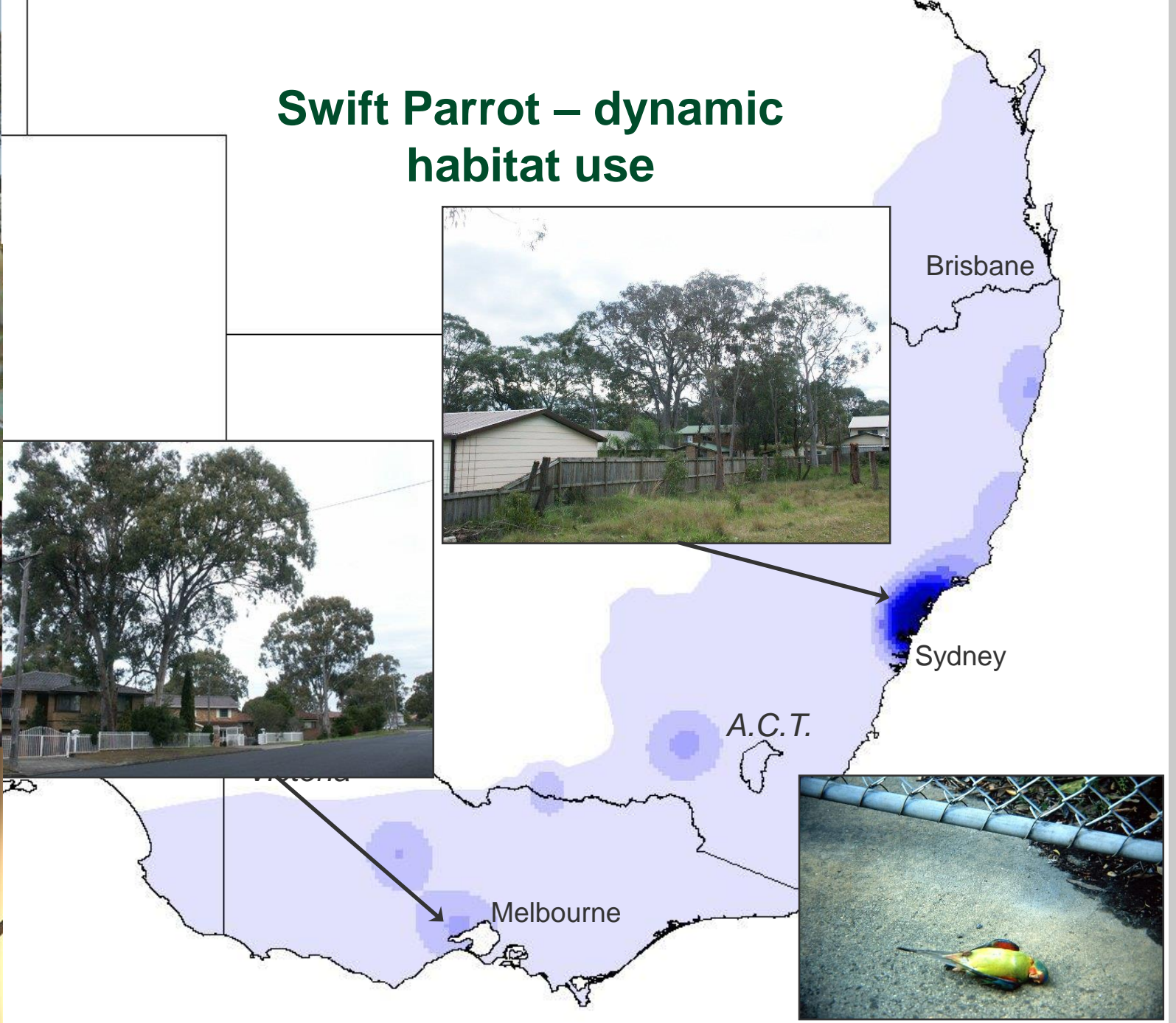
Sydney

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Swift Parrot – dynamic habitat use



Swift Parrot – dynamic habitat use

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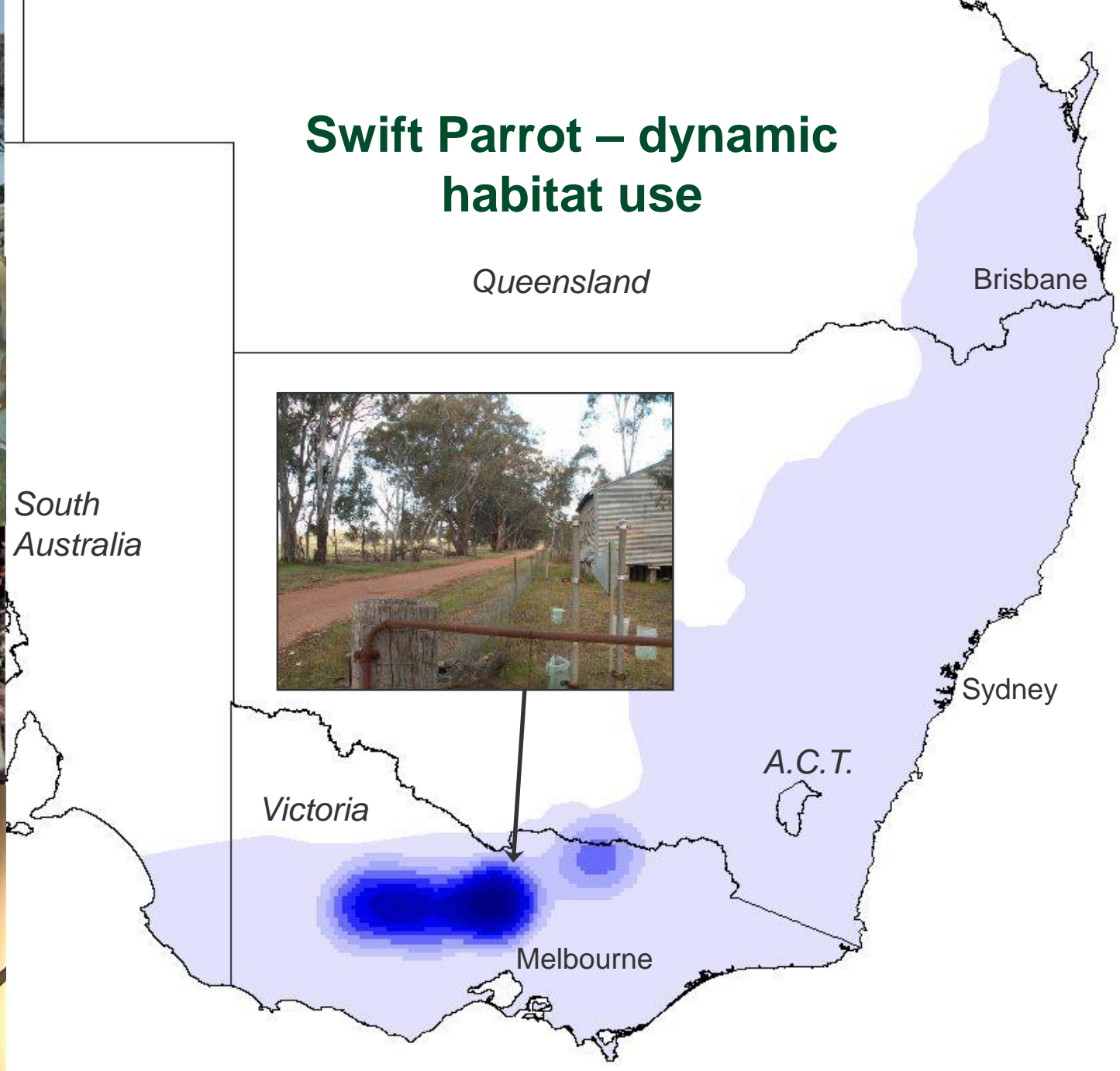


Sydney

A.C.T.

Victoria

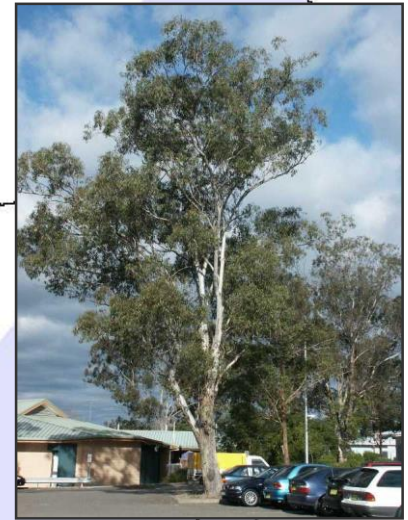
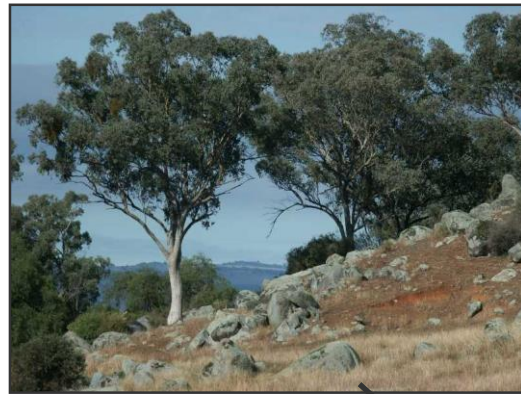
Melbourne



Swift Parrot – dynamic habitat use

Queensland

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Sydney

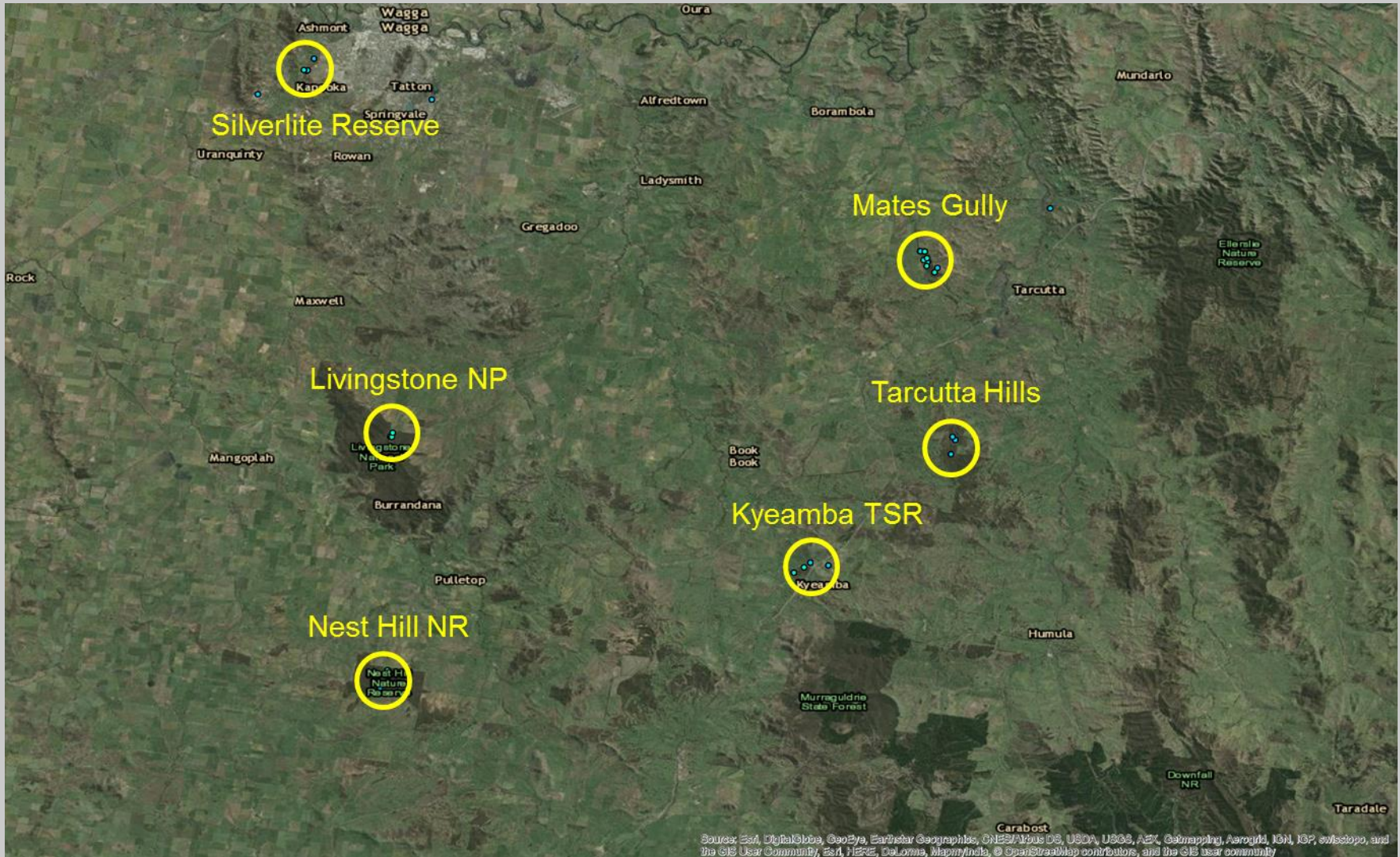
A.C.T.

Victoria

Melbourne



The importance of the Riverina





Protect and link
mature
remnants

Enhance and
restore degraded
habitats



Paddock trees and remnants in the agricultural landscape are critical to the survival of Swift Parrots enabling them to fatten up for return migration...





Old growth breeding habitat in Tasmania



Photo © M. Webb

Congregated nesting...many hollows and nest sites in old growth trees

Old growth forest on Maria and Bruny Islands



Swift Parrot nestlings



Production forest management issues – forests with high timber volumes



Breeding habitat not adequately protected under current legislation and forestry prescriptions





Old growth forest cleared and fragmented...

...converted to plantation

Swift parrots forced into:

- Less productive habitat
- Fewer nest hollows
- Increased competition for limited nest sites and food

Strange behaviour of males at nest sites



Sugar Gliders – may be cute and furry but...



Fierce competitors for hollows as well as...

...savage and devastating predators.

Up to 90% nestlings killed



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HC600 HYPERF IRE

Crowdfunded Swift Parrot nest boxes



Swift Parrot nest box success



Volunteer surveys – join in the fun!



Photo © G.Dabb

2017 survey dates:

20 - 21 May (3rd weekend in May)

5 – 6 August (1st weekend in Aug)

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National Swift Parrot and Regent Honeyeater Surveys

- Location
- Date
- Time started/finished
- Number of observers
- Map details
- Swift Parrot/Regent Honeyeater observations
- Details of activity (e.g. foraging, aggression, perching, calling)
- Food/Habitat Resources Used
- Other nectarivorous bird species present

