



### Create new homes

We all need a helping hand sometimes and nest boxes are an ideal way to start a small wildlife subdivision in your own backyard. This is particularly beneficial in areas where there are no natural hollows, or only a limited number, so you can be guaranteed the tenancy rate will be high.

There are several reputable companies that build suitable nest boxes that you can purchase; otherwise you can build your own.

When locating your nest boxes, ensure that they are placed at least 4m above the ground to reduce predator species being able to access them. They should face away from the hot afternoon sun and prevailing winds.

Investigate what species are found in your area and aim to install boxes to suit your local wildlife such as possums, gliders, birds and insectivorous bats.

You also need to be prepared to monitor and maintain nest boxes to ensure that they aren't invaded by feral animals such as European Honey Bees and Indian Myna birds.

## Temporary Tenants

Sometimes you may find that wildlife have set up a temporary home on your property. A good example of this is a possum in your roof, or insectivorous bats roosting under roof eaves or even in pool umbrellas.

If you do come across some temporary tenants, please minimise disturbance to them. Allow them to vacate the premises of their own accord during their normal daily routine. For example, don't disturb nocturnal species during the day - wait until well after nightfall when they will leave to forage, before disturbing the area. If you have a possum in your roof, note where it gains entry to the roof and once it has left for the night, repair or block the entrance. Provide an alternative home, such as a nest box, in a nearby tree.

If you have insectivorous bats roosting in your house, disturbance or attempted removal at certain times of the year can be disastrous, particularly when bats have dependent, flightless young that stay in the roost 24 hours a day.

Contact an experienced wildlife rehabilitator to discuss ways to minimise disturbance or contact a wildlife consultant for advice on effective ways to move them to a safer location.

**wildcare**  
**caring for**  
**our wildlife**

Our emergency hotline is available 24 hours,  
7 days a week including ALL public holidays.

**24 Hour Emergency Hotline**

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## Most people associate 'habitat loss' with the large-scale clearing that occurs with development.

While this has a tremendous impact on our native wildlife, there is a lot of habitat being lost on a much smaller scale...mostly in our own backyards. Many of our native wildlife species have adapted to living in urban and semi-urban areas, so it is important that we understand how we can best protect wildlife homes found in our own backyard.

## How can we help protect wildlife homes?

### *Trees and Hollows*

Over 300 Australian wildlife species are known to rely on hollows for their survival including birds, reptiles, insectivorous bats, possums, gliders and other marsupials. It takes between 120 to 220 years for eucalypt trees to develop hollows.

Habitat trees provide not only nesting sites and resting sites but, also, a rich source of food by way of foliage, invertebrates and plant and animal exudates.

If large trees are not endangering your property, leave them to provide a home and food source for your wild neighbours.

Remember to always check with your local Council before removing trees to ensure that you do not contravene any regulations.

### *Plants*

During spring and summer, most of our wildlife neighbours are raising their babies. Many species of birds nest in bushy shrubs and palms. Each year hundreds of birds are admitted into care because backyard plants have been heavily pruned or removed by people who haven't noticed the nesting wildlife, until it is too late. Please be careful when pruning backyard plants. Check thoroughly so that you don't inadvertently destroy a home and leave a wildlife family homeless or nestlings orphaned.

In South-east Queensland, date palms are a popular nesting site for lorikeets and other native birds. Please do not trim these palms during later winter and spring when these species will be nesting.

When designing your backyard garden, try to select plants that will flower and fruit at different times so that there is a food source such as nectar or pollen throughout the year. The perfect garden for wildlife includes a variety of native species of a range of heights and includes a good selection of shrubs, groundcovers, trees and vines.

When planting consider things such as:

- prickly bushes provide shelter and nesting sites for small birds
- clumping plants such as Lomandra and Dianellas provide an ideal habitat for small frogs, particularly if growing near a water source
- replacing parts of your lawn with groundcovers will not only reduce mowing but also provide a perfect habitat for small lizards, insects and other small creatures.

### *Rocks, logs & leaf litter*

Fallen leaves, branches and small logs provide the perfect environment for invertebrates and fungi which are rich food sources for many species of birds, small mammals, reptiles, frogs and echidnas. These areas are also great locations for some species to build homes for protection from the elements and predators and for breeding.

Large rocks are ideal locations for frogs and lizards such as the Blue-tongue Skink, providing wonderful areas for basking and cool secure retreats for safety.

Allocate a section of your yard with these features to providing the perfect habitat for our wonderful array of local wildlife.

Always obtain logs and rocks from reputable suppliers—please do not take them from bush areas, as you will be removing a wildlife home just to create another one.

