

NEST BOX FACT SHEET

GENERAL INFORMATION

HOLLOWS AS WILDLIFE HABITAT

Many species of wildlife are reliant on hollows for shelter and breeding such as bats, possums, kookaburras and parrots. If your hollowing bearing trees have been damaged or lost we suggest installing as many nest boxes as you can.

NEST BOX INSTALLATION.

LOCATION

Nest boxes must be carefully located to maximise their success as animal homes. Check there are no existing hollows in the tree to avoid disturbing or displacing any animals already using the tree.

Climbing animals may prefer trees with rough bark such as box trees.

Ensure other essential habitat resources, such as food, water and connectivity to native vegetation, are available.

HEIGHT

Place boxes approximately 3m above ground level. This is high enough to be safe from dogs and foxes but you will be able to check the box or carry out maintenance and monitoring. Note, wildlife should be able to live free of unnecessary interference by humans and a permit is required if animals are to be handled.

ORIENTATION

The box opening should face the direction that minimises exposure to wind and rain. Positioning the box on the south or southeast side of the tree is best as this will reduce the amount of direct sunlight. Too much heat or water entry can kill young.

GENERAL

Regular inspections of the condition of the box and for the presence of pest animals, such as Indian Mynas and feral bees, is essential.

Nest boxes are available commercially or you can build them yourself. Information and species specific recommended nest box dimensions are available on the internet.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Birds in Backyards <http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/Nest-Box-Plans>

Birdlife Australia https://birdlife.org.au/images/uploads/education_sheets/INFO-Nestbox-technical.pdf

WIRES <https://www.wires.org.au/wildlife-info/wildlife-factsheets/Wildlife-Nest-Boxes-LLS.pdf>

Australasian Bat Society <http://ausbats.org.au/install-a-microbat-house/4582876246>

Header Image : Susan Mcleod –Nest Boxes Australia