

### Habitat Planner Instructions

- 1 Use a compass to find the direction of north on your property. This is the orientation you should use to sketch your site analysis plan.
- 2 The planner borders can be used to represent the boundaries of your property.
  - Sketch the shape and location of your house in proportion to your property boundaries.
  - Add all existing structures and permanent features such as sheds, driveways, paths, pool, kids play equipment, patios, clothes line etc
  - Sketch all existing gardens to be retained
- 3 Use the results from the other activities within the Biodiversity Module to help populate your planner. The results from your site analysis, habitat assessment and other activities, combined with the module content can be used to help you design the layout and habitat types you want to create and to choose the best plants for different situations.
- 4 Stage your work - the creation of your backyard habitat garden can be broken down into stages. By designing your garden to be built and created in manageable stages helps you to set and reach obtainable goals. Sometime we can be overwhelmed with all the work required to obtain the end goal. Creating stages can also help to set budgets if you have to save up to complete different sections of the garden or add certain features. To represent the development stage on your plan, you can either draw lines/areas over the final design and number the stages in order of completion or draw separate plans for each stage.

### ***Things to consider in the design of your habitat garden***

- Locate and include any existing trees that are to be retained and/or removed
- Locate veggie gardens where they will receive sufficient hours of sunlight
- Match your plant selection to your soil type
- Do not plant tall trees or shrubs in the path of sunlight to solar panels or solar hot water
- Consider plants to shade hot westerly walls during summer
- Choose plants that will allow warm winter sun into your house during winter
- Don't locate potentially large growing plants where you wish to retain views
- Consider the mature size of any trees and potential for roots to damage foundation, paths and underground pipes.
- If you want to watch wildlife from within your house consider the location of specific habitat features in relation to windows and outdoor areas.
- Consider access to habitat features by pets and safety of wildlife.

### ***Include any key design features, spaces, functions or actions that you require from your garden***

#### ***Such as:***

- Children's play areas
- Pathways
- Location of compost bins and worm farms
- Clothes drying areas and amount of sunlight hours
- Open grassy areas for pets
- Entertaining areas

Note: Check before you dig; if you are planning a new garden, extensive changes or will need to dig deep holes of use machinery to excavate it is always a good idea to locate essential underground or overhead services such as water/sewer pipes, powerlines and phone or electrical cables running to sheds etc.

## My Backyard...

Instructions: Create your habitat by first drawing the shape of your backyard then the shape of your house. Place the items where you think they will work best to create a harmonious habitat and garden space so you can enjoy the wildlife that will be attracted to your backyard.



