



# WILD NEIGHBOURS

## Backyard buddies



Our backyards and schools are a fantastic place for our **WILD NEIGHBOURS** to call home! Why not help our backyard buddies by creating a safe space for them to live and thrive.

## LIZARD LOUNGE

All reptiles are ectotherms - meaning they are animals that are dependent on external sources of body heat. To start the day, lizards leave their homes to bask in the sun, warming up before heading off to find food! If you want to help lizards at home - try creating a lizard lounge near a warm rock or hard stone surface. This way they have shelter nearby to hide in the instance a predator comes along!

Try creating a lizard lounge with stones, rocks, hollow logs, old earthenware pipes or broken terracotta pots! You can see an example of a lizard lounge in this exhibit.

**HINT 1:** Try to ensure that water will not be able to enter the lounge as lizards prefer a dry shelter.

**HINT 2:** Lizards shed their skin multiple times a year - so make sure to include some rough materials that allows them to rub against and exfoliate!



## FROG HOTEL

There are over 200 native frog species in Australia - many of which are threatened. That's why so many Australians are getting behind local frog species and building frog hotels in their backyard creating a safe habitat for them to thrive!

Making a frog hotel is easy! All you need is a container to hold water - this could be a small tub, a bucket, a bowl or even an old pot! You will then need different sized PVC pipes that you can cut and sand the edges, pebbles and gravel to help the pipes stand and water!

**HINT 1:** Only fill up the water only to where the pebbles are to reduce inviting unwanted check-ins at the hotel, in particular mosquitoes!

**HINT 2:** Adding native plants to your frog hotel, adds additional shelter from the elements!

**HINT 3:** At home, try adding a solar light near your hotel to attract insects for the frogs to eat in!



Get your whole class involved and become backyard warriors together!

