

Gardens for wildlife

Warm sheltered corner

Common urban lizards, skinks and geckos eat small insects, worms and pests such as snails and are in turn food for birds, bigger lizards and scorpions.

Lizards are cold-blooded, so they cannot control their own body temperature and need to bask in the sun or lie on warm surfaces to absorb energy from the sun to provide them with the energy to move and digest food.

They avoid overheating by sheltering under vegetation, below ground or in water.

Invite a lizard to your place

- **Set aside a warm sheltered corner** of the garden covered with a thick layer of mulch
- **Furnish with some logs**, fallen branches, leaf litter, piles of rocks, boulders, natural cracks in the soils and undercover plants such as native grasses and daisies.
- **Add some recycled corrugated iron** which will radiate heat to reptiles sheltering underneath when the cooler temperatures of autumn and spring limit opportunities for lizard to gain enough warmth.

These many basking and sheltering opportunities for lizards create great habitat for small mammals, birds, frogs.

Photo: Large tree goanna by David Francis



Blue-tongue lizards are slow-moving animals and are often attacked by domestic dogs and cats, often killed outright, or can die from the stress of the attack.

Photo: Blue tongue lizard by James Booth



Photo: Warm sheltered corner



The largest of our lizards is the massive Tree Goanna (picture left by David Francis). To encourage goannas, retain dead trees and old trees with hollows. To ensure they have future homes plant indigenous gum trees