



Community nest box applications

Before our Trust will consider funding a nest box project, we have some advice for organisations to consider:

-what are the aims of your project?

The main aim of your nest box project must be around the conservation of a threatened species, a species that relies on hollows and is in decline.

Your project will probably involve volunteers, and you are welcome to educate or engage the community or schools, but this cannot be the main reason for installing nest boxes. *The main reason must be conservation.*

-what is your study design?

It is important that you know about the species you are trying to protect – what are its habitat needs, what do you know about eating, breeding etc?

In order to have a thorough study design for your project, you may need to engage a consultant or academic. The study design must underpin your project so you know:

a) what type of nest boxes you need; b) where they should be put on the tree; c) where to put them in the landscape; d) where to put them in relation to each other; and e) when they should be checked.

-collecting, analysing and reporting on data

You must regularly monitor your nest boxes, collect information from what you see, record this information in a database, and also record in state or national databases like the Atlas of Living Australia. It is also important that you report on your results to the community. If you need to analyse your data, you may need to employ an environmental consultant or academic to help.

-hard questions

In order to run a long term monitoring program, you need to have a set of questions that you are trying to answer – will the installation of nest boxes increase the population of this species? And if so, will they survive with the habitat that is present?

Installing next boxes involves regular monitoring. Do you have the capacity to run the program in the future? If you don't have annual funding, do you have a volunteer program in place to carry out monitoring, recording and reporting of findings.

Any further questions, please contact the Executive Director of Wettenhall Environment Trust <https://wettenhall.org.au>