

Sharing our backyards with Eastern Blue-tongues

Eastern Blue-tongues are one of the most familiar reptiles we share our suburbs with. They have adapted to live alongside us, but changing landscapes, busy roads, pets and the loss of habitat make life challenging. By creating wildlife-friendly spaces, we can help these beautiful reptiles continue to call our neighbourhoods home.



Adapting to suburban life

Eastern Blue-tongues are found in a range of habitats, including woodlands, grasslands, parks and suburban gardens. They shelter beneath logs, rocks, leaf litter and dense plants, where they can stay safe from predators and search for food. As older gardens and natural spaces are replaced with buildings and smaller yards, Eastern Blue-tongues must continue to adapt to a changing environment. They face challenges from traffic, domestic pets, lawn mowers and garden chemicals. Keeping natural shelter and habitat in our gardens can make a big difference.

Life of a Blue-tongue

Eastern Blue-tongues have a surprising life story. Unlike many reptiles, they give birth to live young rather than laying eggs. A female can give birth to around 10 babies in a season, with each young lizard already well developed and ready to explore soon after birth. During the colder months, Eastern Blue-tongues enter brumation, a period where their body slows down and they shelter until warmer weather returns. When threatened, they flatten their bodies, hiss loudly and display their bright blue tongue to warn predators. Eastern Blue-tongues are also helpful garden visitors. They eat snails, slugs, beetles and other small creatures, as well as some plant material, helping to keep the natural balance of our gardens.

Living together with Blue-tongues

Eastern Blue-tongues have shared our neighbourhoods for generations, and there are simple ways we can help them stay. Plant native plants, leave logs, rocks and leaf litter for shelter, provide fresh water, and check long grass before mowing. If you find an Eastern Blue-tongue in your garden, give it space and allow it to move safely on its way. By making room for wildlife, we can continue to share our backyards with these unique reptiles.



Wherever your adventures take you, we encourage you to connect with Traditional Owners to learn more about the significance of the plants, animals and landscapes.