

What is your current bat habitat?	YOUR BAT HABITAT			Bat Friendly Actions
	Low Bat Friendly	Moderately Bat Friendly	Bat Friendly	
Do you have a wetland, watercourse or dam nearby?	No, or yes, but with vegetation buffer around the edge and no open water. 0 BATS	 Yes, but with little to no reeds or native vegetation cover or buffer around the water body. 3 BATS	 Yes, with good cover of reeds & native vegetation on edges, including an area of open clean water. 7 BATS	Bats need wetlands, dams and creeks with open water for drinking. Many insects also need water for part of their life cycle, often gathering over water. This concentration of insects provides an important food source for bats, which often forage over open water. Vegetation and reeds also play an important water filtration role, trapping pollutants before they enter wetlands and watercourses. Action: By fencing off waterways to stop grazing / trampling of vegetation and undertaking appropriate revegetation you can encourage an increased diversity of insects on your property which will encourage bats.
Have you done any revegetation on your property?	No 0 BATS	 Yes: Dense tree cover with no understorey or groundcover. 2 BATS	 Yes: Trees, understorey and groundcover mimic natural vegetation structure. 5 BATS	Bat activity is highest in areas with tree density similar to the vegetation structure before European settlement. A greater range of native shrubs and grasses provides habitat for a greater diversity of bat species. Many bat species require adequate understorey cover for flight corridors and all South East bats are dependent on a diverse range of insects for food, many of which depend on native grasses. Action: Ensure any revegetation mimics the original vegetation structure, including shrubs and native grasses. If necessary, improve the habitat in your revegetation by thinning out trees and adding appropriate native shrubs and grasses.
Do you have scattered native trees on your property? (Include dead trees)	No 0 BATS	 Yes: One or two trees. 2 BATS	 Yes: Several or lots of trees. 4 BATS	Even single paddock trees provide vital roosting and foraging habitat for bats. Many insects gather near isolated trees, which provide an important food source. Action: To keep scattered trees healthy, encourage natural regeneration of understorey plants by fencing around trees. This will allow natural regeneration of replacement trees for future bat generations. Leave dead trees standing; they are essential for bat roosting sites.
Do you have a block of native remnant vegetation on your property or nearby?	No 0 BATS	 Yes: Grazed with little understorey 3 BATS	 Yes: Ungrazed with good native understorey 7 BATS	Remnant vegetation provides important roost sites, foraging corridors and food sources for bats. Native vegetation is home to a wide range of insects, which bats need for food. Action: By fencing off remnant vegetation to restrict grazing you will allow natural regeneration and improve the health of your bush. Controlling weeds and planting appropriate understorey species if required will provide a more diverse habitat and encourage a wider range of bat species.
Do you have any tree hollows / bark crevices or bat boxes?	No 0 BATS	 Yes: A few. 2 BATS	 Yes: Many / lots. 6 BATS	Bats need tree hollows and cracking bark for day roost sites. Bats have very specific roost requirements. Height above ground, entrance size and cavity size all impact on roost suitability. Some bat species change roost sites every night. By providing a greater range of roost sites you will encourage different species of bats to your property. Action: Leave dead or old trees standing. Install bat boxes.
Do your land management practices encourage healthy trees?	 Grazing or cropping & use of fertilizer beneath trees. 0 BATS	 Trees are fenced off (i.e. in grazing paddock). Grazing & cropping pressure removed from directly beneath trees 3 BATS	 Trees are fenced off. No grazing or cropping beneath trees. Good regeneration /revegetation in fenced off areas under and around tree. 5 BATS	The health of trees is often affected by live stock grazing and cropping. By removing these, allowing natural regeneration and appropriately revegetating understorey plants, trees can often be revived and will put on new growth. Even if you have a lone gum tree in the backyard you can plant a 'garden' of native species around it to improve its health. Healthy trees provide better habitat for bats, and the bats then continue to help the trees by eating many insects that feed on the trees. Action: Fence off scattered trees and bush. Encourage natural regeneration and appropriately revegetate understorey species.
Do you use pesticides / herbicides on your property?	Regularly / broad scale 0 BATS	Sometimes / broad scale 1 BAT	Never or rarely. Use is targeted. Minimal disturbance techniques are used for weed control. 4 BATS	Bats are very susceptible to pesticide poisoning through drinking polluted water or eating contaminated insects. Insecticide use also reduces microbats' only food source - insects. Action: Limit use of pesticides and herbicides. Use minimal disturbance techniques for weed control.
How did you score?	<p>0 – 10 <i>Not very batty!</i> 11-19 <i>You're on the right flight path!</i> 20 + <i>Bats for biodiversity, biodiversity for bats!</i></p> <p>Add up the total number of bats from the bat habitat assessment and give yourself a score out of 38.</p> <p>TOTAL = /38</p> <p>Your property is not very bat friendly, however you have a great opportunity to begin changing that! There are a lot of things you can work on to improve your bat habitat. By looking at the suggested actions, make a list of things you can do in the bat assessment summary and you will be on your way to providing some of the essential habitat requirements for bats.</p> <p>Your property is already providing many essential bat habitat requirements. Try to look at your property from a bat's perspective: Do you have adequate understorey cover for foraging corridors? Are your wetlands or streams fenced off with a buffer of native vegetation around them? Are there enough roost sites of the right size and location? Is there a wide range of different plant species that will support a diverse range of insects for food? By working on a few aspects you will be able to more fully provide adequate foraging corridors, roost sites and food sources for bats in your region. Keep up the good work!</p> <p>Well done! The bat habitat on your property is very good. You may still be able to enhance a few bat habitat elements on your property. Remember: Different bat species have slightly different habitat requirements. A higher diversity of vegetation types can support a higher diversity of insects and therefore a higher diversity of bat species. How many different bat species do you have on your property?</p>			