

Eco Playground Planning Kit – Professional Edition

Designed for Australian Schools, Councils, and Early Learning Centres

Section 1: Site & Stakeholder Checklist

Before you begin, evaluate your site and involve key stakeholders. Site Assessment: - Existing shade, trees, and natural features - Drainage and soil quality - Sun exposure and wind direction - Nearby classrooms, pathways, or hazards Stakeholder Input: - Ask children about preferred play types - Get feedback from teachers on supervision needs - Include grounds staff for maintenance concerns - Discuss long-term goals with administration Tip: Use a site map or aerial photo to mark out zones and constraints.

Section 2: Budget Planning & Cost Ranges (AUD)

Item	Estimated Cost
Timber Climbing Structures	\$4,000 – \$9,000
Recycled Plastic Play Modules	\$2,500 – \$6,500
Safety Surfacing (Mulch/Rubber)	\$2,000 – \$5,500
Landscaping & Plants	\$1,000 – \$3,000
Loose Parts (bark, logs, etc.)	\$400 – \$1,200
Labour & Installation	\$2,000 – \$6,000

Tip: Stage your investment across terms or funding rounds to ease cash flow.

Section 3: Design Features & Space Planning

Plan for diverse play types and developmental benefits. Key Elements: - Movement: Timber balance beams, stepping logs, climbing mounds - Sensory: Herb gardens, water channels, bark chips, texture paths - Quiet Space: Wooden cubby house, shaded reading area - Social Play: Sand pit with borders, mud kitchen, plant tunnel - Inclusive Access: Wide paths, varying heights, open-ended items Zoning Tip: Group loud and active zones separately from quiet areas.

Section 4: Sample 3-Stage Installation Plan

A phased approach helps manage cost and construction disruption. Stage 1 (Term 1): Site prep & natural landscape - Mulch, log edging, drainage, tree planting Stage 2 (Term 2): Core play elements - Install timber climbers, balance logs, recycled plastic slide tower Stage 3 (Term 3): Enhancements - Add mud kitchen, sensory garden, shade cloths, loose parts storage This model helps you spread costs while achieving early impact.