



Environment Institute
of Australia and
New Zealand

EIANZ 2024 NATURE POSITIVE CITIES SYMPOSIUM

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Sheraton Grand Sydney Hyde Park
161 Elizabeth Street, Sydney



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ABSTRACT

The B&B Highway: Boosting urban biodiversity through a successful school, corporate and university initiative

The urban regenerative B&B Highway is the flagship program of the PlantingSeeds Projects organisation. Through its educational and practical applications and collaborations with the Department of Education, the CSIRO's Atlas of Living Australia, professional environmental educators, university researchers and landscape architects, it has succeeded in establishing over 150 'B&B's' – Bed and Breakfasts for Birds, Bees and Biodiversity – in three States: NSW, Queensland and Victoria.

Pre- and post-planting monitoring and evaluations through pollinator and floral assessments developed by university researchers and triangulated with citizen science insights, show a 10 per cent increase in range and breadth of pollinators in B&Bs.

B&Bs are mainly located in urban schools with endemic native plantings chosen for each site to support threatened pollinators. Through implementing regenerative urban plantings in school Local Government Area clusters, corridors for biodiversity are established. Four indoor educational sessions are matched with outdoor skills-building sessions in the following areas: local biodiversity (and outside biodiversity hunt); plants and pollinators (outside plantings); citizen science learnings and activities contributing to the Atlas of Living Australia; and constructed habitat teachings and applications.

PlantingSeeds has collaborated with local government and corporate organisations in the implementation of the B&B Highway. Government organisations include the City of Parramatta Council, Moreton Bay Regional Council, the City of Melbourne Council, and City of Liverpool Council. The initiative has also been supported by Bendigo Bank, AW Edwards, Western Sydney Airport, QBE Insurance, K&L Gates and The Landscape Foundation of Australia. The educational and practical B&B Highway program allows organisations to support local regenerative urban corridors through planting and increasing biodiversity in schools in their areas.

PlantingSeeds Projects is a not-for-profit organisation accredited on the Register of Environmental Organisations with DGR status. See: www.ps.org.au.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

Judy's expertise and impact in environmental advocacy stems from her varied and professional background in high-level journalism, academia, campaigning and sustainability research. Before founding the PlantingSeeds organisation, Judy had an impressive media and journalism career. She worked as a newspaper editor and feature writer for The Australian, The Sun-Herald and The Sydney Morning Herald, and was a current affairs producer at Channel Nine. Judy's passion for environmental issues has always been at the forefront of her work and studies with much of her media work devoted to sustainability interests and investigations. Her PhD at the Institute for Sustainable Futures at the University of Technology Sydney developed expertise in proven strategies for engaging corporates and the public in impactful environmental initiatives. Judy believes that biodiversity issues have long been seen as subsidiary but are finally receiving the vital attention they need – with species loss at an all-time high and practical actions now absolutely imperative. She is also a passionate believer in the ability of urban areas to regenerate and increase biodiversity. Judy is also an Adjunct Fellow at the Institute for Sustainable Futures at the University of Technology Sydney.