

CM/5.1/ 15.03 MAYORAL MINUTE

One Tree Per Child MOTION / UNANIMOUS DECISION

Mover: Cr Betts

That:

- 1.** Council endorse the participation of Waverley Council in the 'One Tree Per Child' Initiative for 2015.
- 2.** Council liaise with the school principals from all primary schools from within the municipality to actively encourage cooperation and support of the schools with a view to planting some of the trees within the school grounds or surrounding parks.
- 3.** The trees be planted in areas where ongoing maintenance is able to be provided.
- 4.** The Mayor be authorised to approve Council's participation in any promotion of the 'One Tree Per Child' concept aimed at awareness and increasing participation.
- 5.** Council notes the interest of Bourke Shire Council in this project.
- 6.** Council also notes the environmental sustainability link with the Indigenous philosophy of planting breathing trees.
- 7.** Council give consideration to facilitating students from the Bourke region to attend the launch of this project.

Background

Former NSW Australian of the Year, Jon Dee together with Olivia Newton-John, founded 'National Tree Day'. During the period that Jon and Olivia fronted 'National Tree Day', the event had seen over 10 million native trees and shrubs planted with that number now growing to over 20 million.

Olivia and Jon have again recently joined forces and in 2013 launched their 'One Tree Per Child' Project.

The aim of the project is to get tree planting to be part of the school curriculum so that every primary school child plants a native tree as part of a school event.

The concept has got good support thus far. It will be launched internationally with the City of Bristol in the United Kingdom committing to the project with around 36,000 trees to be planted in the first plantings (one for each primary school child in the city).

Current Situation

Following discussions with Jon Dee, the 'One Tree Per Child' team has expressed interest in partnering with Waverley Council in 2015 to launch the program in Sydney. This will follow the international program launch in the City of Bristol.

There are approximately 4000 children of primary school age within Waverley. Council already runs a Sustainable Schools program with positive collaboration with Waverley schools and this initiative would build upon our biodiversity outreach program with the kids.

Furthermore, Council has already committed to enhancing tree planting in many precincts through street tree plantings, biodiversity restoration and revegetation initiatives, and the Waverley Bushcare program. Participation in the 'One Tree Per Child' initiative would further enhance these existing programs.

Financial implication

The cost to Council for the participation in the 'One Tree Per Child' Initiative will be between \$4,000.00 - \$5000.00 which will be met out of the tree replacement budget.

Discussions with both the Executive Manager, Clean and Attractive and Executive Manager, Sustainable Waverley, have confirmed that participation can be addressed through our existing street tree replacement program and easily integrated into our Sustainable Schools program.