

ENCLOSURE 5

Greenfleet – A Summary

Ordinary Meeting of Council

24 January 2007

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Who? Greenfleet is a non-profit organisation, providing a program to reduce the impact of carbon emissions (CO₂) from cars.

What? Since 1997, Greenfleet has planted more than 2 million trees on behalf of Australian motorists and fleets. To date, 17 local governments are participating in the Greenfleet program, offsetting emissions for over 1,500 vehicles. These forests will not be harvested and will create an investment for future generations.

Greenfleet's policy is to plant trees to create forests in areas of environmental sensitivity, putting back the mix of native species that had been there originally. The trees are propagated from seed collected in the local area to provide maximum ecological benefits - reducing salinity and soil erosion, and providing essential habitat for native species. Science shows that 17 mixed species trees will not only absorb a car's greenhouse emissions, but will also help to tackle salinity, improve water quality and provide habitat for native species.

How? For \$40 (tax deductible), Greenfleet will plant 17 native trees to neutralise vehicle greenhouse emissions for one year. They offer organisations a choice of greenhouse offsets:

- * A carbon-offset for cars and light commercials, based on the average car producing 4.3 tonnes of CO₂e in one year (16,000 klms, 19,020 litres of fuel). For \$40 per vehicle (tax-deductible), 17 native trees are planted per vehicle on your behalf. This is then applied to the number of vehicles in your fleet, for a carbon-neutral outcome.
- * A carbon-offset based on energy use, providing a carbon-neutral outcome in relation to your:
 - Vehicle fleet (based on annual fuel usage);
 - Staff air travel;
 - Office energy use; and
 - Conferences and events.

What is required for Wyong Shire? Greenfleet have applied their methodology to Wyong Shire's car fleet. The **annual** costs to Council to implement "Greenfleet" are as follows:

Number of Fleet Vehicles	Total Number of Trees*	Cost of Trees	Total per annum
Entire fleet including large and small plant equipment	17,931	\$40.00	\$42,137.85

*(based on 4.3 tonnes of CO₂ in one year (16,000 klms, 19,020 litres of fuel))

To plant a total of ~18,000 trees per annum will require availability of an 18 hectare site to be made available for planting. Considerable forward planning is required to establish what areas of land could be set aside to accommodate this number of trees on an annual basis.

If Council were to offset its general electricity consumption through the Greenfleet program, given our consumption of 29,803,253kWh (and 30,231.8 tonnes of greenhouse gas) we would be required to plant >112,000 plants per year at a cost of slightly less than \$300,000 **per year**. Again, this would require considerable forward biodiversity planning.

Where to from Here?

- * Implementation of Greenfleet to Wyong Shire Council is commencing in 2007.
- * An agreement will be signed between Council and Greenfleet specifying the conditions of the program.
- * Council will work closely with catchment management authorities, LandCare groups and landholders to identify the most appropriate land to plant out that will provide maximum benefits from revegetation while providing economies of scale.
- * An additional step Council is making towards reducing carbon emissions is via a review of the Council's vehicle policy to advocate and actively reduce six cylinder vehicles in favour of more fuel efficient four cylinder vehicles, small diesels and LPG fuel types.

More information? <http://www.greenfleet.com.au/>