

Monday 21 May 2012

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS NEEDED TO HELP PLANT TWO MILLION TREES

Nationals Member for Morwell Russell Northe is encouraging local community groups to participate in the Victorian Government's commitment to planting two million trees by 2014.

Mr Northe said the 2 Million Trees program was part of the Victorian Government's commitment to taking practical action to improve the state's environment.

"Over the next two years the Victorian Government will work with organisations across the state to plant 1.5 million trees across parklands and other open public space in metropolitan Melbourne and half a million trees along waterways in regional Victoria," Mr Northe said.

"It would be fantastic if local catchment management authorities, local governments, schools, other public land managers, government agencies and community and environment groups register their interest in receiving support from the program to help them plant trees in the Latrobe Valley.

"Trees are vital for a healthy environment as they provide shade, clean the air and help cool the environment.

"They also provide habitat for animals and plants and help protect our water catchments.

"Communities will be working together to revegetate and revitalise our environment, which will have flow-on benefits for our waterways, beaches and bays," Mr Northe said.

The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) is responsible for managing 2 Million Trees, and will co-ordinate the planting.

The 2 Million Trees project will support tree planting projects on both private and public land with the land owner's written approval and where it demonstrates public benefit and value for money.

For more information or to obtain an application form, go to the DSE 2 Million trees web page at <http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/2-million-trees>