

Greening the West 1 Million Trees Project

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the 1 Million Trees Project?

The '1 Million Trees Project' (1MT) encompasses the "Greening the west of Melbourne" funding commitment from the Federal Department of Environment as part of its 20 Million Trees program. One million trees refers to the target number of tree plantings the Government has committed to Melbourne's west. The trees are to be delivered in conjunction with LeadWest Ltd representing local councils. Projects eligible for 1MT funding will need to occur within the Local Government Areas of Brimbank, Hobsons Bay, Maribyrnong, Melton, Moonee Valley and Wyndham, including Point Cook Coastal Park, as shown in the map below (Figure 1).

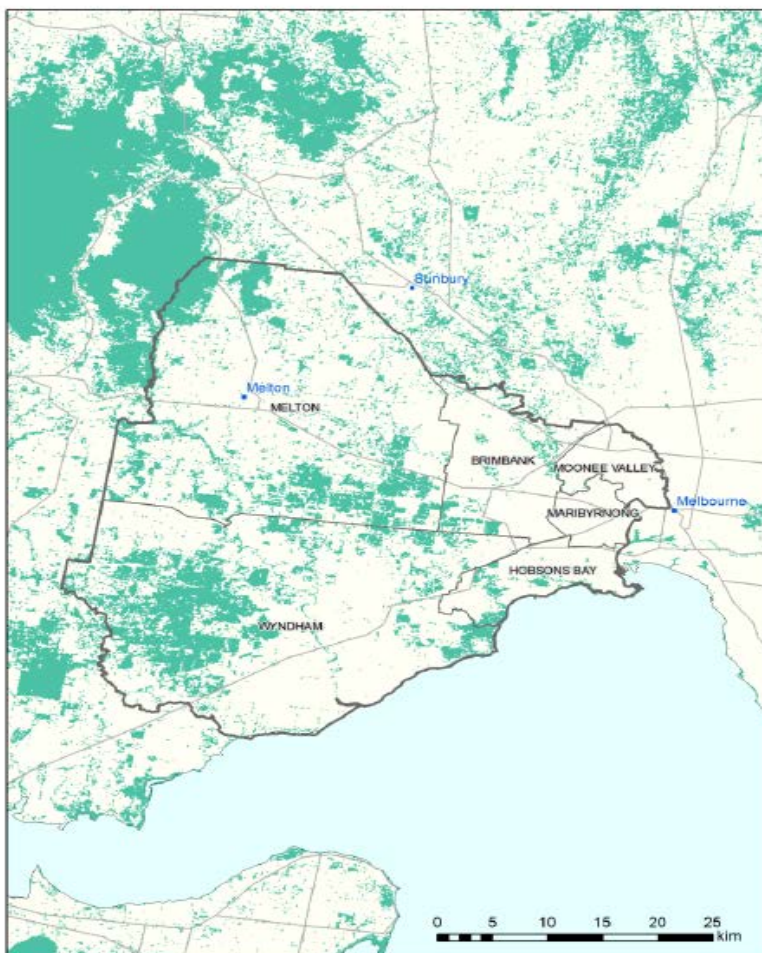


Figure 1: Eligible Local Government Areas for the Greening the west of Melbourne election commitment

More info: [Departmental media release](#)



How much funding has been committed to 1MT? What are the timelines?

A total of up to \$5 million over three years is available for projects in the west of Melbourne. Projects must be completed by 30 June 2017. Funding will be allocated across the financial years as follows: \$1 million in 2014/15, \$2 million 2015/16, and \$2 million 2016/17.

Tell me more about the 20 Million Trees program

The Australian Government has committed \$50 million over four years to work with Australian communities to plant 20 million trees by 2020 to re-establish green corridors and urban forests. The 20 Million Trees program is part of the national stream of the National Landcare Program and has four strategic objectives:

- 20 million trees – 20 million trees and associated understorey planting by 2020
- Environmental conservation – support local environmental outcomes by improving the extent, connectivity and condition of native vegetation that supports native species
- Community engagement – work cooperatively with the community
- Carbon reduction – contribute to Australia reducing its greenhouse gas emissions/

The 20MT Program will complement and align with the Australian Government environmental initiatives such as the [Green Army](#) and the work of the [Threatened Species Commissioner](#).

As well as Greening the West of Melbourne, the Government has made a specific 20MT commitment to improve the Cumberland Conservation Corridor in greater western Sydney.

What is the project boundary?

The project boundary is as per Figure 1 above however the Government has indicated that some planting (potentially direct seeding activities) may occur outside of the specific LGAs. These will need to be clarified through the Project Steering Group.

Who's involved and who is responsible for delivery?

LeadWest Ltd is the regional organisation for Melbourne's west and is focused on advocacy for the region.

In 2014, LeadWest was advised that it had been successful in applying for funding for tree planting in Melbourne's west through the 20 Million Trees program and is noted by the Department as the "Eligible organisation" responsible for project oversight and compliance with contracts and the funding agreement.

A **1MT Project Steering Group** comprising representatives of relevant land managers in the west has been established. This includes membership from these organisations:

- LeadWest
- Brimbank, Hobsons Bay, Maribyrnong, Melton, Moonee Valley and Wyndham councils
- Melbourne Water, City West Water, (Western Water representative TBC)
- VicRoads
- Friends of Lower Kororoit Creek
- Port Phillip & Westernport Catchment Management Authority



- Parks Victoria.

How does this relate to Greening the West?

Greening the West (GTW) is a regional initiative that aims to enable *sustainable, liveable, healthy communities through urban greening* in the western suburbs of Melbourne. It seeks to foster greening projects and activities that deliver increased vegetation along with access to, and use of quality green space. GTW is driven by a Steering Committee of representatives from local government, government agencies, water authorities and industry and community groups.

The GTW Strategic Plan (2013) sets a number of targets for enhancing trees, vegetation and green spaces in the west and advocates for greater investment in these areas for the improved health and wellbeing of residents and greater liveability of suburbs.

The 1MT Project will assist in contributing to a key GTW strategic target of:
doubling the tree canopy cover in the west by 2050.

Members of the Greening the West Steering Committee and their colleagues who are directly responsible for tree planting in their area have established a 1MT Project Steering Group under the leadership of LeadWest with key support provided by City West Water, facilitator of GTW.

What is the definition of trees?

The Program will support the planting of mixed native species including trees, shrubs and understorey species to re-establish and restore native vegetation. Trees and shrubs with a potential height of **at least 2 metres** when mature will count towards the 1MT target.

Understorey species will also be considered for funding to ensure that locally appropriate vegetation structures are achieved.

Where can trees be planted?

Projects can take place on both private and public land and may involve multiple landholders and land titles. It should be noted that trees cannot be planted on private land where they deliver a private benefit only, such as gardening or landscaping.

How we will prioritise planting? Have any areas been targeted yet?

Five major nature link regions for planting within the Project area have been identified. These five areas provide the framework for planting priorities and sites will mostly sit within these areas:

- **Werribee River Nature Link Enhancements**
 - establish **200,000** mixed native trees along the Werribee River Nature Link, including along the Werribee River riparian corridor, within Wyndham City Council and Melton City Council.
- **Point Cook Coastal Park and Port Phillip Bay Western Shoreline Nature Link Enhancements**
 - establish **150,000** mixed native trees along the Port Phillip Bay Western Shoreline Nature Link, including at Point Cook Coastal Park, Cheetham Wetlands, Truganina



Reserve, Skeleton Creek, Laverton Creek, Lower Kororoit Creek; and Hobsons Bay Coastal Trail, within Hobsons Bay City Council and Wyndham City Council.

- **Maribyrnong River Valley Nature Link Enhancements**
 - establish **300,000** mixed native trees specified in the Maribyrnong River Valley Nature Link; Fairbairn Park; Aberfeldie Park; Afton Street Reserve; Canning Street Reserve; Maribyrnong Valley Parkland; Boeing Reserve; AJ Davis Reserve; Pa Kirchner Reserve; Thompson Reserve, Tea Gardens; Buckley Street bike path; Thompson Escarpment; Jacks Wood; Quarry Park; Braybrook Escarpment; and Medway Escarpment, within Maribyrnong City Council, Moonee Valley City Council and Brimbank City Council.
- **Kororoit Creek Nature Links and Brimbank Urban Environs Enhancements**
 - establish **150,000** mixed native trees in the Kororoit Creek Nature Link; Taylors Creek, Green Gully; Energy Park; Dempster Park; Llyod Reserve; John Mcleod Reserve; Selwyn Park; Keilor Park Recreation Reserve; Bon Thomas Reserve; Kevin Flint Reserve; Sassella Park; Kings Park Reserve; Deer Park Urban Forest; and Federation Trail, within Brimbank City Council and Melton City Council.
- **Toolern Creek and Melton Urban Environs Enhancements**
 - establish **200,000** mixed native trees within the middle reaches of Werribee River Nature Link, including along the riparian corridor of Toolern Creek; around the Melton Reservoir; along the riparian corridor of the Parwan Creek; and along the riparian corridor of the upper reaches of the Kororoit Creek, within Melton City Council.

Who are the key contacts for 1MT?

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