



Speech by


## Dale Shuttleworth

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

Hansard Thursday, 2 August 2012

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### MEN OF THE TREES

 **Mr SHUTTLEWORTH** (Ferny Grove—LNP) (5.36 pm): I rise in the House this afternoon to pay tribute to a fantastic group of volunteers associated with an organisation known as Men of the Trees. The members of Men of the Trees attend plantings on most Saturday mornings from late January through to early December. National Tree Day, which was last Saturday, is Australia's biggest community tree-planting event and is coordinated by Planet Ark. Since Tree Day started in 1996, more than 1.5 million volunteers have planted over 11½ million native trees and shrubs.

Each year Men of the Trees hosts a planting site for National Tree Day, and this year's site was at Arbor Street Reserve, adjacent to Ferny Grove Police Station. As usual, the event was well attended, with around 80 volunteers. This year, around 850 trees were planted throughout the morning, with volunteers then enjoying morning tea prepared by the local Apex organisation. Fran and Marion diligently provide outstanding support to the organisation Men of the Trees and clearly have quite an extensive understanding of and experience in forestry and horticulture. They were, again, integral to the success of the day.

This year there was large awareness of National Tree Day which saw a variety of local groups, such as the local scouts and girl guides, providing their support. This planting adds to the significant contribution in the local area that Men of the Trees is continuing to provide through other local projects located at Keperra Picnic Grounds, Bunya Crossing at Wongan Creek, Yingally Drive at Arana Hills and Bob Cassimaty Park at Ferny Grove. This last site, Bob Cassimaty Park, while being managed by Men of the Trees, was made possible through the collaborative efforts of Brisbane City Council and Queensland Rail.

Over the last 18 months that this project has been undertaken thousands of trees have been planted at areas adjacent to Kedron Brook. The involvement of QR has been undertaken as an act of goodwill by the department to offset concerns regarding the loss of established trees raised by the community during the construction of the new park-and-ride facilities at Ferny Grove Railway Station. It was at one of these planting events throughout the campaign that the now Premier made the announcement of the Everyone's Environment initiative. This welcome initiative, now on the eve of commencement, will provide outstanding organisations such as Men of the Trees, Kedron Brook catchment environment group and other organisations with welcome funds to undertake projects that ensure our local environment and the community at large benefit from this policy initiative. I encourage these organisations and other groups such as schools and scouting groups undertaking weed eradication, cleaning our waterways and general clean-ups to apply for grants as they become available.

*(Time expired)*