

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1746

asked on Wednesday, 11 November 2009

MR WATT ASKED THE MINISTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY (MS JONES)—

QUESTION:

How will the recently announced Reverse the Effect program help members of the community to offset greenhouse gas emissions from their family car?

ANSWER:

The Reverse the Effect program will help Queenslanders offset their greenhouse gas emissions from their family car by channelling their contributions into strategically located tree planting projects in Queensland that will support the ClimateQ initiative *Climate Change Corridors for Biodiversity*.

Queensland motorists can easily get involved in the program by visiting the Reverse the Effect website at www.reversetheeffect.com.au and then by following the prompts and selecting the vehicle type they own. With the Queensland Government's dollar-for-dollar matching initiative of up to \$4.5 million over the next five years, an average family sized car is offset for \$59.00. Smaller cars, motorbikes and mopeds can be offset for significantly less. Contributions to the Reverse the Effect are tax deductible and can be made by using a Visa or Mastercard.

Planting trees can help counterbalance greenhouse gas emissions. As trees grow they capture and absorb CO₂ from the atmosphere. By planting trees and creating forests this will help capture some of the greenhouse gases produced by Queensland vehicles.

All trees that are planted as part of the Reverse the Effect program will form multi-species biodiverse forests that will be protected and remain in the ground for over 100 years. They will help mitigate climate change and also expand and link Queensland's protected areas.

The forests will be planned by ecological specialists to achieve long term ecosystem viability and biodiversity outcomes. Multiple tree species will be planted to create forests that add to a location's ability to survive in the long term, increase resilience to the impacts of climate change and enhance the natural environment.

These forestry projects will be planted in locations that will complement and enhance protected areas in Queensland and will see important corridors of bushland established.

These corridors will not only help with reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the absorption of CO₂ from our atmosphere but will offer additional environmental benefits. For example, the enhancement of important ecosystems, revegetation of cleared landscapes, assistance with soil erosion and salinity and help contribute to improvements in water quality. They will also re-establish wildlife habitat and help wildlife respond to climate change by, for example, migrating to suitable new habitats.

All forestry projects will be measured and accredited under Australian Government standards. The carbon credits or permits that are created from the projects will be 'retired' against the contributions received from Queensland motorists. This will ensure they are never on-sold and no double dipping of carbon reduction claims can occur.