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GREENING AUSTRALIA AND OFFICEWORKS CELEBRATE FIVE YEARS OF TREE PLANTING IN AUSTRALIA

Officeworks' tree planting initiative, Restoring Australia, is celebrating its fifth anniversary this month in partnership with Greening Australia.

Launched in 2017 as part of Officeworks' commitment to make a positive difference to people and the planet, the Restoring Australia initiative has a goal to plant two million trees nationally by 2025.

The partnership has planted 1.24 million trees to date, planting two trees for every one 'used' based on the weight of paper and wood products customers purchase at Officeworks.

Over the past five years, 1,800 hectares of land has been restored, spanning 19 sites nationally. In 2022, more than 240,000 native trees will be planted in three regions between June - November to restore Australia's natural landscape and biodiversity. The new planting season will focus on sites including the West Australian Wheatbelt, the Victorian Otways and the Tasmanian Midlands.

Officeworks Head of ESG and Corporate Affairs, Ryan Swenson said the longstanding initiative is having a positive impact on people and the planet across the country.

"We developed Restoring Australia in 2017 after listening to our customers, who told us it was important that Officeworks was committed to sourcing paper sustainably and contributed positively to the planet. What we also heard was they recognised sustainability is a shared effort. Restoring Australia is a simple way for Australians to shop more sustainably, simply by purchasing their paper products with us. Our achievements to date are shared, thanks to our customers, team members and planting partner Greening Australia who have supported the planting of 1.24 million trees across Australia," Mr Swenson said.

"We have a huge goal to plant two million trees by 2025. Over the past five years, our partnership with Greening Australia has allowed us to support local landholders and communities to regenerate land and return lost fauna and flora back into the environment. We are committed to taking meaningful climate action and recognise the important role that tree planting and large-scale land restoration must play. We were thrilled to reach the one million tree mark last year and we're well on our way to planting our next million trees."

Five years ago, 29,031 seeds and seedlings were planted on the first Restoring Australia site in the Tasmanian Midlands on farmland belonging to farmer Julian von Bibra. Today on the property, 161,754 trees stand tall across 250 hectares of land and a further 29,859 trees will be planted through the initiative this month across an additional 23 hectares.

The restoration of land has been felt firsthand by Julian, who has since seen an immediate micro-climate change on his property together with improved river health and water quality and renewed biodiversity of the land with native animals returning and bird life increasing.

"As farmers and landholders, it's not just about the produce we take to market, we have the responsibility to manage the landscape for future generations and at times this can feel overwhelming. Having the support of

Greening Australia and Officeworks is so important, it makes the bigger picture more achievable and provides the resource, expertise and funding to restore parts of the landscape in ways that complement our agricultural needs," said Mr von Bibra.

In addition to helping threatened species, the sustainability focused initiative has helped Julian rehabilitate riparian areas where grazing animals had impacted river banks. The next phase of planting activity, together with Restoring Australia and Greening Australia, focuses on connecting fragmented native remnant vegetation via planting arrangements that integrate into the agricultural landscape, such as shelter belts, and linking these with other properties and landholders to reinstate the eastern tiers of Tasmania with the western tiers for increased biodiversity.

Greening Australia Director of Great Southern Landscapes and Nature in Cities, Paul Della Libera, said: "We urgently need to scale up our efforts to tackle the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss, but we can't do it alone. Through working in partnership with corporates like Officeworks and with local landholders and communities, we can take practical and large-scale action to restore landscapes, increase biodiversity, improve water quality and store carbon. Together, we're able to make change at scale in ways that benefit communities, economies and the environment. That change is evident when we revisit properties like Julian von Bibra's to monitor restoration work five years on and plan the next impactful projects – the result is incredible to see."

Restoring Australia is part of Officeworks' [People & Planet Positive 2025 plan](#) that support the aspirations of its team members, enhance connections to local communities, reduce environmental impact, and sourcing products in sustainable and responsible ways. For more information on the initiative visit:

www.officeworks.com.au/restoringaustralia

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Note to editors: Supporting visual assets including videos and photos can be accessed [HERE](#). Please credit images to Annette Ruzicka

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About Officeworks:

Established 28 years ago in Richmond, Victoria, Officeworks is committed to making bigger things happen for its customers, team, the community and stakeholders. It operates 167 stores across Australia, a website that is home to more than 40,000 products, a national call centre, and a business team that helps micro, small and medium-sized businesses start, run and grow. Officeworks offers customers a wide range of office supplies, technology, furniture, art supplies, education resources and helpful services like print & copy and on-site and remote tech support through Geeks2U – delivering an experience that is easy and engaging, no matter how customers choose to shop. Officeworks is focused on the safety, wellbeing and career progression of the more than 9,000 team members it employs. It's also dedicated to operating in a sustainable manner, including building and maintaining meaningful connections with the communities in which it operates, fundraising for its national partners and local community groups, continuing to reduce its impact on the environment and source responsibly.

About Greening Australia:

Greening Australia has been restoring Australia's unique landscapes and protecting biodiversity at scale through collaborative, science-based programs for 40 years. Greening Australia is committed to tackling Australia's greatest environmental challenges in ways that work for communities, economies and nature; planting millions of native trees and plants, protecting hundreds of native species, and supporting Traditional Owners' aspirations for restoring Country. For more information, visit www.greeningaustralia.org.au.