

POLICY STATEMENT ON COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING DAYS

The Merri Creek Management Committee (MCMC) is committed to the restoration and indigenous revegetation of the Merri Creek valley and its adjacent parkland areas. The MCMC is also committed to community participation and community education.

The MCMC acknowledges the valuable and dedicated work by community volunteers in urban waterway revegetation programs.

The MCMC notes that some urban tree planting projects have failed because of poor community participation, lack of expertise in revegetation with indigenous plants along urban waterways, vandalism and insufficient preparation and follow-up maintenance of planting areas.

The MCMC has included in the Job Specification of both its Manager and Revegetation Supervisor duties which entail revegetation programs, community tree planting days and community education and liaison.

1. A community tree planting day or other revegetation activity will be included where possible in works programmes undertaken for each member Municipality. These activities will be included in the MCMC budget for individual municipal works programmes and will include all costs for MCMC staff involvement. Municipalities may use their own Parks and Gardens employees in addition to MCMC staff for this day.
2. MCMC costs of running community tree planting days will be treated as a normal work programme expense and will be budgetted accordingly.
3. Community tree planting days which form part of the MCMC's works programme will be organised by the Manager and Revegetation Supervisor in consultation with and on behalf of the relevant municipality/landholder.
4. Member organisations will consult with the Manager or Revegetation Supervisor prior to organising community tree planting days within their own areas of responsibility. The involvement of MCMC staff may be charged at cost.
5. Indigenous plants of guaranteed local provenance are the only planting materials endorsed by the MCMC for use in new plantings along the Merri Creek.
6. The MCMC aims where possible to involve the Friends of the Merri in its community tree planting programme.
7. The MCMC will actively seek financial and in-kind support from other funding and support bodies to enable more numerous community tree planting days to be held and to assist in financing educational materials and displays.

8 The MCMC will prepare re-usable display materials on behalf of members.
· This material will promote community tree planting days in a large scale format suitable for display at public libraries, municipal tree planting days and fairs and suitable for on-site display at community tree planting days. The MCMC will aim to educate community participants in correct revegetation procedures on community tree planting days.

9 Advertising will generally be achieved by co-operation between MCMC and the
· relevant municipality/landholder and will generally be promoted by letter-boxing, displays and posters in public places, advertisements in the local press and signs placed adjacent to the Merri Path. The costs incurred in this process in terms of MCMC staff involvement, preparation of posters/mailouts/leafletting etc. are to be included in the budget for approved works programmes."

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COMMITTEE INC. 21ST. MARCH, 1991.

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