

AdelaideNOW...

Buy a car, save the planet

STUART INNES

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A LEADING South Australian car dealer claims to be the first in the nation to offer buyers a properly audited system of paying for trees to offset carbon emissions.

Car buyers will nominate their anticipated kilometres to be covered per year and how many years they wish to pay for. A formula established by the Australian Greenhouse Office taking into account the car's fuel economy will be used to calculate the cost of trees.

CMI Toyota, the state's top Toyota dealer, will pass the voluntary payment to not-for-profit group the Canopy Project.

The money will be used to plant trees, managed by Greening Australia, on private land near Kanmantoo east of Adelaide.

The trees in the "CMI Forest" will be registered so it will be illegal for any to be cut down. The trees will absorb carbon dioxide from the air.

A buyer wanting to offset carbon emissions from a small Yaris over 40,000km can pay \$134, a medium-large six-cylinder Aurion is rated at \$198 for that distance while a fuel-thirsty large LandCruiser will need \$322 of tree planting to offset its emissions over 40,000km.

Paul Crawford, joint managing director of the CMV Group which includes CMI Toyota dealers, said today the target was to have 30 per cent of its new-car buyers join the program in its first year. The voluntary payments would be tax deductible.

"The community has been crying out for government and business to act," he said of the climate problem.

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