



Carbon offset scheme drives greener dollar

STUART INNES

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

Car buyers will nominate their anticipated kilometres to be travelled per year and how many years of travelling they wish to pay for.

A formula established by

the Australian Greenhouse Office will be used to calculate the cost of planting the trees needed to offset the vehicle's carbon emissions.

CMI Toyota, the state's top Toyota dealer, will pass the buyer's 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 Toyota Yaris car over 40,000km can pay \$134, a medium-large, six-cylinder Aurion is rated at \$198 for that distance while a large,

fuel-thirsty LandCruiser will need \$322 worth 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 yesterday the target was to have 30 per cent of its new-car buyers join the program in its first year.



GROUNDING: Rebecca Osborn from CMI Toyota West Tce, with a Toyota Prius.
Picture: BRENTON EDWARDS

THE COSTS

One hectare of trees will cover 100 Yaris cars for one year of motoring.

Carbon emission offset costs for 40,000km:

■ Yaris:	\$134
■ Aurion:	\$198
■ LandCruiser:	\$322