



Car carbon plan starts to take root

By **Jordaine Liddy**

What started as one man's dream has developed into a project that could potentially stop hundreds of thousands of tonnes of carbon dioxide entering the atmosphere.

Thanks to the forward-thinking of Hartley's Jono Osborne, his parents are now at the forefront of a carbon emission offsetting project that is the only one of its kind in SA.

The family has teamed up with an Adelaide-based Toyota dealership, CMI Toyota, carbon emission auditor Canopy and environment group Greening Australia to offer SA car buyers a unique opportunity.

Consumers can opt to offset their predicted volume of emissions by donating money to plant trees at the Osbornes' property. Trees naturally remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Bill and Norma Osborne were inspired to be part of the project after their son began

planting his own patch of native trees to try and help the environment.

"Our job is to provide the land and stick to the agreement," Mr Osborne said. The agreement means the trees cannot be removed, even if the property changes ownership.

"We wanted this paddock to be planted and we felt it was time to put something back into the environment," Mr Osborne said.

Each CMI Toyota customer has their carbon dioxide emissions calculated based on the car's expected use and how long they plan to keep it. They then buy trees accordingly.

A small car in the Toyota range would cost about \$60 to offset its emissions over 20,000km whereas a larger car, such as a Land Cruiser, would cost about \$400 for 60,000km.

The more emissions calculated, the more the customer is expected to pay to offset their emissions.

Canopy, with its planting partner Greening Australia, controls the planting site and audits it each year to make sure it is offsetting the correct amount of emissions.



Hartley couple Norma and Bill Osborne observe their 22ha of planted trees designed to offset carbon emissions while their border-collie Gemma has a run.