***Media Release <Insert date>***

**Make a big difference with a small action in <Community> for National Tree Day**

**<Insert MP Name>** and Planet Ark invites **<Electorate>** residents to make a difference and contribute to their natural environment this National Tree Day.

National Tree Day, Australia’s biggest tree planting and nature care event, is taking place in **<area>** at **<site address and directions>** on Sunday 28 July from **<time>**.

“National Tree Day is one of the best ways to connect with both nature and your local community, do something for your local environment and experience the many benefits of spending time outdoors,” said **<MP Title and Name>.**

Last year over 200,000 Australians participated in National Tree Day, planting more than 700,000 plants at almost 3,000 locations around the country. This brings the initiative’s overall tally to almost 25 million trees planted by almost five million volunteers over 24 years.

The theme for 2019 – *Living Cities* – looks at the benefits trees and green spaces bring to our urban environment in terms of our personal health and wellbeing, the liveability of our cities and dealing with the impacts of climate change. New research has found 70% of Australians believe individual actions have an impact on global environmental issues like climate change, and there’s no better way to act than planting a tree.

All these insights and more have been captured in Planet Ark’s *Tree Report,* entitled *Living Cities: Trees in the Urban Environment*. Planet Ark Deputy CEO Rebecca Gilling said that the report should inspire the community to participate in tree planting.

“It’s heartening to hear that Australians think that individual action can make a positive impact on our environment. National Tree Day is an excellent opportunity to work together on a local level to benefit your community and the environment at large.”

National Tree Day is organised by Planet Ark in partnership with Toyota Australia and its Dealer Network, which provides on-the-ground support at tree planting sites across Australia. This year’s Tree Day marks a major milestone with the partnership reaching its twentieth year.

To find out more visit **treeday.planetark.org**, call the **National Tree Day Hotline on 1300 88 5000** or contact your local participating Toyota Australia Dealership.

**-ENDS-**

**For interviews, images, or information about National Tree Day sites in your area, contact:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **<Insert name of MP media contact>** | Josh Cole |
| **<Insert contact’s title and MP’s office>** | Communications Manager, Planet Ark |
| **<Insert contact tel. number and email>** | 02 8484 7202 | josh@planetark.org |