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Guy Barnett, Minister for Resources

Students plant for the future

Tasmania grows trees as well as anywhere else in the world, and on Friday 29 July school children around the State helped to do just that as part of Planet Ark's Schools Tree Day.

This year, 76 schools planted 6000 seedlings from 12 different species, specifically propagated at Forestry Tasmania's Perth nursery for the event.

At Cressy District High School, I was pleased to join Year 7 and 8 students and Forestry Tasmania staff to plant some of the donated trees to provide shelter around the school farm.

Schools Tree Day is a great hands-on opportunity for students to experience planting and caring for seedlings as they grow and, in doing so, to help beautify or provide more shade or shelter at their school.

This activity also teaches about the importance of trees to our environment and the value of wood as a natural, renewable and beautiful resource.

Half of Tasmania – or almost 3.4 million hectares – is forested, and half of those forests, including more than 80 per cent of old growth, are protected in reserves.

Our production forests, meanwhile, provide wood that is strong and durable, efficient and economical to build with, and a very effective insulator.

That's why the Government is developing a policy to encourage the use of wood as a building product of choice.

I commend all schools involved in this year's Schools Tree Day and Forestry Tasmania for its ongoing support of the event.

To find out more about Schools Tree Day or National Tree Day, which was held on Sunday, visit www.treeday.planetark.org