

PLANT HOPE WITH RED CEDAR TREES

DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The year 2025 marked the 10th anniversary of *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis' encyclical subtitled *On Care for Our Common Home*. In it, the Pope calls all people of the world to take "swift and unified global action" to protect God's creation, while lamenting the destruction of nature and climate, and criticising irresponsible economic development and the culture of consumerism.

THE INITIATIVE

To mark the 10th anniversary of *Laudato Si'*, Catholic Religious Australia launched the *10,000 for 10* initiative to encourage people to plant and/or protect 10,000 trees.

THE GOAL

[The Sisters of Saint Joseph, Lochinvar](#) supported this initiative by providing funds to purchase trees to be distributed to local schools, families, and community groups, in collaboration with The Terrace Community Garden of St Benedict's Inner Newcastle Parish who coordinated the project.

THE RESULTS

Over 635 cedar trees have been planted so far across the Diocese, with the aim of planting 1,000 by mid-2026, contributing to the preservation of vulnerable dry-rainforest areas and important koala habitat.

REFLECTION

Not merely an ecological initiative, the project also seeks to preserve the cultural and economic importance of the Red Cedar for future generations.