



MEDIA RELEASE
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**MY PARK RULES, CHILDREN ACROSS AUSTRALIA RE-IMAGINE
THEIR LOCAL PARKS FOR A GREENER FUTURE**

From Sydney to Brisbane to Perth, school communities across Australia will re-imagine their local parks and green spaces in the hope of leaving a green legacy for future generations.

Launching Today (Oct 14), *My Park Rules*, a national competition created in collaboration with [2020 Vision](#) and [Australian Institute of Landscape Architects](#) (AILA) will encourage school groups and community clubs to submit their under-loved park to be transformed for a greener future.

My Park Rules competition will allow student's imaginations to flourish and grow with the best parks and green spaces to be designed by a Landscape Architect. State finalists will be announced by a panel of high-profile [judges](#), including Lucy Turnbull AO, on December 10, 2015 with one lucky finalist to see their dream park designed and built.

Lucy Turnbull AO, when asked about the importance of green spaces in schools and communities said, "I am very happy to participate in the My Park Rules project. Encouraging school children to use their creativity and passion to imagine a better place is as fun and exciting as it is empowering. It teaches kids that they have the ability to imagine, shape and create their own futures".

Shahana McKenzie CEO of AILA says, "This competition is not just about transforming one space in one school - its about getting schools and communities in Australia to rally together and seriously consider the importance of well-designed outdoor spaces for their wellbeing, today and in the future".

Australian kids spend, on average, 20% of their time at school outside, yet there is nowhere near this amount of investment going into outdoor spaces. Research shows, giving kids access to nature promotes their mental and emotional wellbeing and can have a positive effect on their behaviour¹.

"Well-designed green spaces in schools are a vital resource - giving kids a real connection to the environment they live in and the community that supports their learning. My Park Rules is a great opportunity for a school and its community to work together and create a lasting legacy for their school" says Phillip Spratt, President of Australian Council of State School Organisations (ACSSO).

Investing in green spaces is essential in the prevention and reduction of some of Australia's biggest issues, including escalating health costs, climate change and workplace productivity.

My Park Rules will launch nationally on **October 14**. The competition will see schools and communities from across Australia submitting their dream park plans to be judged by an all-star panel of experts who will help make their park come to life.

For more information or to submit a design, visit: myparkrules.com.au

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For all media enquiries: Olivia Sydney Heidrich | 0418 268 235 | olivia@thebraveryishere.com

¹ (London Sustainable Development Commission, 2011, londoncdc.org/documents/Sowing%20the%20Seeds%20-%20Full%20Report.pdf)



Available for Interview:

- **Shahana McKenzie**, CEO of the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects
- **Peter Vaughan**, CEO of the Nursery and Garden Industry Australia
- **Josh Byrne**, is an environmental scientist with a unique and integrated approach to both landscape and broader environmental design that combines his academic background with over 15 years hands on experience as a sustainability practitioner. Also an Advocate for the 2020 Vision, Josh is well known for his media work with ABC television as the WA presenter on Gardening Australia, and is the author of two books on sustainable gardening
- **Sacha Coles**, is the lead designer of The Goods Line and the Director of the award-winning ASPECT Studios. Sacha is an internationally recognised Landscape Architect, who is known for his work, which focuses on the design of highly active public places. Sacha is the inaugural Landscape Architecture Adjunct Professor at UTS and an Advocate for the 2020 Vision

About AILA and 2020 Vision:

About AILA:

The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) is the growing national advocacy body representing 2,500 active and engaged landscape architects – a profession who are committed to designing and creating a better Australia by reimagining and transforming the outside world. Learn more about AILA and the profession of Landscape Architecture at: aila.org.au

About the 2020 Vision:

Our cities need more plants and trees. They are good for our health and productivity, keep cities cool and reduce pollution. People even heal faster when they're around them. Yet so often, plants and trees are overlooked when plans are drawn and concrete poured. The 2020 Vision is a national initiative to change this, by increasing our urban green space by 20 per cent by 2020 and is funded through levy by the sale of plants and trees.

Our mission is to:

- Map and showcase Australia's most innovative and inspiring urban green spaces
- Profile the individuals and organisations leading the way to green our cities
- Quantify the value and positive impacts of urban green space
- Use these to inspire governments, developers and communities to increase the green space
- Keep inspiring and improving so that we can all see 20 per cent more green spaces in our cities by 2020

Learn more about the 2020 Vision at: 2020Vision.com.au