

Here's a blooming good idea for can-do kids

Ainslie Parklands Primary School pupils and budding green thumbs Mia, 8, and Evelyn, 10. Picture: Rebecca Michael



Phoebe Griffiths

Primary schoolers are rolling up their sleeves and digging in for the chance to win a share of \$100,000 to turn their green ideas into sustainability action.

Twenty schools will each get \$5000 to bring their

Ideas to life with the Coles & Planet Ark Sustainable Schools Competition funding program.

Already watching their efforts bloom are Ainslie Parklands Primary School pupils Amber, 11, Hugo, 11, and Kai, 7, who are among the young green thumbs to

have secured a grant for their school.

Ainslie Parklands teacher Chantal Cornelious said pupils at the Croydon school were using the funds to transform an under-utilised area into a native tree corridor and green space. "As the project takes

shape, students are learning about the importance of green spaces, native plants and wildlife habitat, while being part of a project they watch grow around them," Ms Cornelious said.

"It's exciting to see how engaged they are and how much ownership they take."

Coles chief commercial and sustainability officer Anna Croft said: "Since launching the competition in 2024, Coles has awarded \$200,000 to 40 schools to bring students' ideas to life."

Schools and preschools can apply via the Coles website until September 30.