

## Make a sea or tree change

Reporter: David Richardson  
Broadcast Date: June 23, 2011

Steve and Jayne McCarthy along with their two boys were full blooded-city slickers, until they made a change and became country-bumpkin, tree changes.

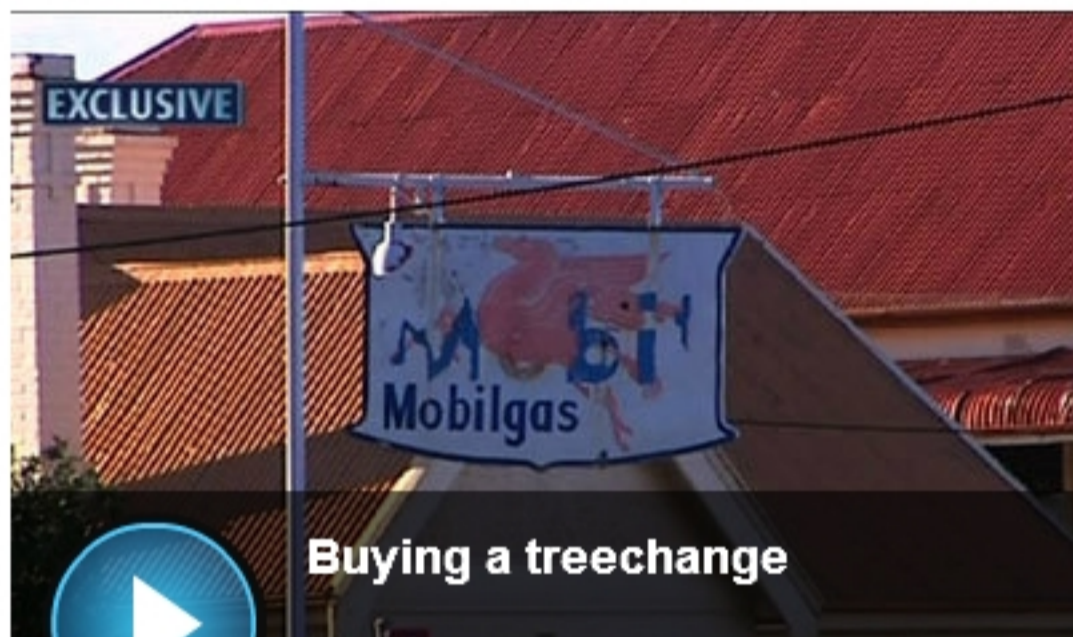
Revelling in their new life, Steve explains his urge to get out of the big smoke, leaving the hussle and bussle behind.

"I didn't want to raise my kids in the city and I liked the idea of travelling from one side of town to the other in 10 minutes and not paying any tolls," he said.

Steve bought a mobile cafe franchise in Tamworth, home of the Golden Guitar.

They are now saving a fortune, have an abundance of time and are enjoying life again.

"It was a snap decision. I mentioned it to my wife one minute and she agreed the next, and we have absolutely no regrets," Steve said.



Make a sea or tree change

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THE ICONIC CITY

What makes Sy

Sea change and tree changes are where people move from the city to idyllic coastal and rural areas for a slower pace of life.

Now one state government is offering money to do just that - to move to get people out of big cities.

New South Wales Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional Services, Andrew Stoner is trying to get people to move out of Sydney.

"Well the NSW government will provide families who make a sea change or tree change a \$7,000 relocation grant where they sell a property in the Sydney metropolitan area and buy a property in a regional community," Mr Stoner said.

Already a number of major regional cities have banded together to lure people to their areas.

EVO-cities are promoting their lifestyles and the campaign is working.

Hamish, Virginia and their daughter are packing up their inner Sydney home and are going bush.

They had been spending weekends at a rural retreat and finally decided to make it permanent.

"We just found every Sunday night driving back into Sydney was more and more difficult and we kept saying why are living here," Virginia said.

The architect builders sold their terrace house and bought a new one in Armidale and they move in a couple of weeks.

It's not the first time cities; even tiny towns have fought to attract fresh blood.

The hamlet of trundle in Central West New South Wales offered farm rents for \$1 a week to boost their population.

Other towns across the country have done similar things, but it's the first time a government has offered a hand out to get people to move.

Officially the \$7,000 offers starts on July 1st, with an allowance for 10 thousand families in the first year.

[Click here for details of the grant.](#)