

## DTI:Planning Review

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**From:** Grace Brooks <campaigns@good.do>  
**Sent:** Monday, 24 October 2022 6:34 PM  
**To:** DTI:Office of Minister Champion; Michelle Lensink; Peter Malinauskas; DTI:Planning Review  
**Subject:** YOU need to save our trees, for us and the planet!

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We desperately need changes to tree protection laws in South Australia and Adelaide. We are the hottest, driest capital city of Australia and yet we have the lowest percentage of tree canopy! Our suburbs are heat sinks and generating more and more heat as councils continue to allow developers to buy a house on a suburban block, remove every single tree and build several houses, townhouses or units on the one block, covering it with concrete and not one square cm of space for trees or even greenery. I contacted my local council many times asking for more trees on our street. Eventually they put a letter in each letterbox saying that if residents would like a tree on their verge they could go to a certain website and request it. How is this helping when elderly people are often unable to access websites, and tenants often won't take the initiative to request a tree for a property that isn't theirs? Trees should be planted everywhere there isn't one, by our councils. A house near us was just purchased and the new owners moved in and within a week had removed two 20m mature trees on their property; they were the tallest trees on the whole streets, and the only trees on their property. This should NOT be allowed! The Port Adelaide football club has been given permission recently to bulldoze our local park and dog park (that is council and public land), which included cutting down tens and tens of huge, mature native trees that are absolutely filled with native birds and insects. They will be building a three story building full of air conditioning units. It is disgraceful that at this stage, with all we know from clear, measurable data on climate change and the drastic situation we are in, that you allow these things to be happening.

Even if councils cut down mature trees and replace them, the ten or so years before the new trees are mature and sizeable enough for wildlife to benefit from them, and us to benefit from the shade created by their canopy, has already caused serious damage.

This is an emergency and needs to be treated as such.

Change the laws to tree protection now! Look to the other states that actually have effective tree protection laws!

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the implementation review of the Planning and Design Code. I am hopeful that the expert panel will meet community expectations by listening attentively and acting on the feedback given.

I am concerned about the impact of both the code and our poor regulations on tree canopy right across Adelaide. You are no doubt familiar with the significant body of work published by the Conservation Council of SA and partner organisations over the last 2 years. Using an evidence-based approach, these reports highlighted how impoverished our laws have become since 2011 when significant exemptions were added to them, despite protests from both the community and experts.

The Conservation Council and partner organisations have compiled a list of their top ten priorities for reform. Support of these improvements will help make our state's tree regulations best practice, a Labor election practice. Many of the changes are backed up not only by the CCSA reports but also by the independent report commissioned by the State Planning Commission - I ask you to support these changes.

We cannot underestimate the important role that trees play in our daily lives. We need them more than they need us. By doing so you will improve our mental & physical health, clean the air that we breathe, remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, help cool our homes and streets, make our city more livable and mitigate the impacts of climate change for our children and grandchildren.

Yours sincerely,  
Grace Brooks  
South Australia, 5014, Australia

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