

Tree Protection Submission

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.

My key concerns include land clearing by both developers and private homeowners with little regard to tree conservation which is having detrimental effect on my local area as more and more tree canopy is removed. I am local resident of Hawthorndene near Belair National Park and there are numerous examples of blocks of lands where a house is demolished, and the block of land is completely cleared of trees to make way for new development.

A specific example of proposed land clearing for development is the proposal for 186 Upper Sturt Road, Hawthorndene 5051, application id 22012570, currently being reviewed by the Native Vegetation Council. A developer is proposing to build 11 detached dwellings (2 & 1 storey). This development requires the removal of a significant number of trees see pics below. This is an example of development that firstly contradicts the character of the area and secondly demonstrates the way land is being cleared with little or no regard to tree clearing.



Pic 1 186 Upper Sturt Road, Hawthorndene date 13/9/22

Pic 2 186 Upper Sturt Road, Hawthorndene date 13/9/22



Pic 3 186 Upper Sturt Road, Hawthorndene date 13/9/22



There is plenty of scientific evidence to show that given the climate crisis we are currently facing, the evidence shows that tree canopy is one of the best ways to mitigate against urban heat island effect. It only takes 25 sqm of clearance to generate a heat island. We need to move swiftly to ensure that we leave the best possible outcomes for our children and grand-children.

For these reasons I ask you to support the ten priorities for reform put together by the Conservation Council and partner organisations, see attachment 1, Top 10 – Urban Trees Law Reform Priorities. 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.

If you wish to discuss my submission in further detail please get in contact with me.

Kind regards,

Leanne Hurley



Hawthorndene, 5051