

DTI:Planning Review

From: Margaret Walker <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Monday, 21 November 2022 12:44 PM
To: DTI:Office of Minister Champion; Michelle Lensink; Peter Malinauskas; DTI:Planning Review
Subject: The critical importance of trees in our landscape

I have been a tree supporter for many years. I have grown hundreds of trees and shrubs through Trees for Life and have taken part in tree planting. It is extremely upsetting to find out that we are actually going backwards as a state in terms of protecting our existing trees and making provision for trees to be preserved in new developments. I hate to see old houses getting levelled and everything in the garden removed as urban infill continues, seemingly without protection for existing trees. It is possible to retain trees - we must do better. And street trees need protecting too. It is upsetting to see tree selection still prioritising non natives in the City of Port Adelaide Enfield. Also, not enough is done to educate the population about the value of street trees, and to encourage people to help to look after the trees in their immediate vicinity by watering during dry spells.

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.

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 liveable and mitigate the impacts of climate change for our children and grandchildren.

Yours sincerely,
Margaret Walker

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Please reply to Margaret Walker at [REDACTED].

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