

Save our Trees is a grassroots community based organisation, with a growing numbers of followers, concerned about the loss of tree canopy across Adelaide.

We are ordinary people, concerned by the loss of trees on suburban blocks. These are often removed to allow for ad hoc 1 into 2 in-fill development that shows little or no regard for the existing character of the area.

We have noticed a significant change over the last 12 months or so; where talk about the character of an area was predominantly about the built character, we are increasingly hearing people talk about trees as being a- if not the! - quintessential part of an area's character.

We are very aware that trees, climate change and the very future of Adelaide's liveability are inextricably linked. A poor response on one front will have significant impacts on the others. There is no getting away from this. Trees aren't going to fix all of our climate related problems, but they are probably the closest thing we have to a silver bullet, in so far as their contribution to our lives is overwhelmingly positive; there is no doubt amongst the community that we must do more to protect what we have and to plant new. The reason for this is two-fold. Firstly, we can't afford to lose something that takes decades to replace. Secondly, existing canopy is proven to make the establishment of new trees significantly easier.

Save our Trees supports the top ten priorities of the Conservation Council, the National Trust and their other partner organisations.

We ask that you too support these recommendations. The QR code at the right of the attached document will take you to an expanded version of the top ten, where you can see further detail about the priorities, to enable you to fully understand the benefits of enacting these priorities.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

We wish you well in your work and look forward to recommendations being made that ensure that Adelaide remains a beautiful liveable city for future generations.

Save our Trees



Urban Trees / Native Vegetation Recommendations for SA Law Reform



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- 1 Remove exemptions from existing Regulated / Significant Tree Protections and Native Vegetation Regulations**
 - a. 10m and 20m Rules – Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act Regulations covering Regulated and Significant Tree Protections
 - b. Review and modify the list of tree species exempt from being classified as regulated / significant to better reflect the South Australian environment
 - c. 10m and 5m fence Rules – Native Vegetation Act Regulations
- 2 Bring SA into line with VIC and NSW by changing definition of regulated tree to one that:**
 - a. has a trunk circumference of 50cm or more measured 1m above the ground or
 - b. has a height of 6m or more or
 - c. has canopy over 9sqm
- 3 Incorporate Vegetation Overlays into the Planning and Design Code, similar to those used in Victoria, to better reflect the expectations of local communities by allowing for the protection of significant urban vegetation**
- 4 Implement new bushfire clearance allowances that reflect the Bushfire Attack Level rating for the property**
- 5 Remove the ability to prune up to 30% of a regulated / significant tree without requiring council approval and implement a system that requires the use of the AS4373 Standard**
- 6 Increase the use of arborists to assess applications affecting significant trees and allow for streamlined approval process for applications to remove regulated trees**
- 7 Restore the requirement for the Department of Infrastructure and Transport and the Department of Education to publicly consult and gain planning approval to remove regulated trees**
- 8 Modify the Urban Tree Canopy Offset Scheme to better reflect the value of trees to the community by;**
 - a. Increasing the fees to match the costs incurred by Councils to plant, establish and maintain replacement trees; and
 - b. increasing the number of trees to be planted
- 9 Introduce the following requirements where permission is granted to remove a protected tree:**
 - a. Homeowners to replant or make a financial contribution for the loss of that tree at a set rate significantly higher than currently set
 - b. Developers to replant and make a financial contribution which will depend on the size and location of the tree they are seeking to remove
- 10 The removal of protected trees should not be allowed until all relevant planning and development approvals have been granted**



For further details, go to: conservationsa.org.au/trees



Australian Institute of
Landscape Architects



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