

DTI:Planning Review

From: Abby Ward <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 21 October 2022 8:33 PM
To: DTI:Office of Minister Champion; Michelle Lensink; Peter Malinauskas; DTI:Planning Review
Subject: Saving trees is an urgent, unquestionable priority!

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the implementation review of the Planning and Design Code.

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.

Whilst the justifying jargon above is necessary, I believe there needs to be a humanitarian consideration to this matter. What would the felt experience be on a planet, or in a suburb, with less and less trees? If there are less trees it gets hotter and wildlife lose their habitat. If there are no trees we don't breathe. Trees are the inhale to our exhale. It doesn't get any more personal than that. Besides the utilitarian view of trees, please remember the experience of perceiving the beauty of a tree/s is a gift.

Yours sincerely,
Abby Ward
South Australia, 5024, Australia

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