

DTI:Planning Review

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 12 December 2022 7:41 PM
To: DTI:Planning Review
Subject: Submission re Planning Review

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To the members of the Expert Panel conducting the South Australian Planning System Implementation Review,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the abovementioned Review.

My submission focuses on the subject of tree loss, namely the estimated loss of 75,000 trees per year in Adelaide due to infill development and the watering down of tree protection laws.

Infill development was a key component of the 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide which was launched in 2009/2010. Tree protection laws were amended in 2011 to accommodate development under the 30-Year Plan via the following legislation:

No 237 of 2011 published in Gazette 17.11.2011 p 4620 South Australia ***Development (Regulated Trees) Variation Regulations 2011 under the Development Act 1993.***

Critical functions and benefits of mature trees in the urban environment include:

- canopy cover providing shade and relief from the urban heat island effect,
- habitat for biodiversity including birds and other wildlife
- increased public amenity
- human connection to nature which is conducive to good mental health
- carbon sequestration which is critical to abatement of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change

To illustrate how detrimental the removal of legislative tree protection has been, I bring to your attention a specific example that has occurred in my local community, namely the wholesale destruction of dozens of mature trees as part of Port Adelaide Football Club's redevelopment of Alberton Oval (approved by Port Adelaide Enfield Council).

As part of the development application process, a qualified arborist's report identified many of the trees on site as significant and many others worthy of retention when assessed against the provisions of the ***Planning Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 (PDI Act 2016)***. Despite the arborist's report, each and every tree in the development area was axed.

This is nothing short of a social and environmental tragedy, given that (a) the particular area in question at the northern end of the Alberton Oval complex was known to locals as the "people's park" and appreciated as a green oasis in a densely populated area, and (b) the felled mature gum trees provided habitat to hundreds if not thousands of native rainbow lorikeets and other birds. I would often walk my dog to the "people's park" in the early morning and you could hear the glorious sound of lorikeet-chatter from two blocks away.

I submit to you, nay, implore you as members of the Expert Panel to recommend stronger legislative protection to halt the destruction of Adelaide's trees.

Yours sincerely,

Carol Faulkner, concerned citizen

