

## DTI:Planning Review

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**From:** Clare Peddie <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, 16 December 2022 10:04 AM  
**To:** DTI:Planning Review  
**Subject:** Submission to Planning System Implementation Review - on Trees

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To the Expert Panel for the Planning System Implementation Review,

I am writing seeking better protection for trees on private property.

As a science journalist writing about the environment (formerly at The Advertiser 2006-22 and now with Cosmos Magazine), I understand the shortcomings of our state's tree regulations. It's time to fix them.

I have been very impressed with the work of the Conservation Council of South Australia, particularly dedicated volunteers Tom Morrison and Joanna Wells. They speak for the trees. Their reports are also packed with facts and evidence, which is surely impossible to ignore.

The landmark Comparison of Australia's Tree Laws (2021) revealed metropolitan Adelaide has the worst tree protections "compared with other jurisdictions that protect trees on private land". On every measure, South Australia's tree protections fell short.

The University of Adelaide Environmental Institute report, Urban Tree Protection in Australia (2022) takes this further, studying the tree protection laws of 101 local governments and capital cities rather than the 47 local governments in the earlier report.

The SA Government must adopt all of the recommendations in this report.

We have no time to lose. The climate is changing. Devoid of trees, Adelaide will be unlivable.

Just as every half a degree of warming matters, every tree matters. We can't continue to allow developers and other individuals motivated by self-interests to carve up our urban forest.

Imagine if someone invented a machine that could remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere while cooling and cleaning the air we breathe. A machine that could also provide food and shelter, prevent soil erosion and capture, then filter water. Trees do all of this and more. The sooner we recognise this, the better.

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