

DTI:Planning Review

From: Fabian Folghera <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Saturday, 10 December 2022 6:44 PM
To: DTI:Office of Minister Champion; Michelle Lensink; Peter Malinauskas; DTI:Planning Review
Subject: *trees in Adelaide *

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.

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.

Today is a very sad day for us 🥹❤️🌳

Two Ironbarks (*Eucalyptus sideroxylon*) that we can see and feel from our backyard were crushed, pulled and cut down with chainsaws.

Why? Because South Australia has the worst tree protection (planning) laws in Australia.

We bought this house because the land is full of green 🌳🌴 and we could see big trees over this fence and across the road from our backyard. There are so many birds that call this patch home.

However, a few weeks later we learnt that two blocks nearby would become 8 and all the trees would be felled.

Every day since, I have checked with anxiety to see if they're still alive. I've researched the laws and written to Council and state Ministers, but the current planning laws don't protect trees like these. They are under 2m circumference so they are not "regulated". They are well under 3m so they are "not significant".

But these trees ARE significant. They should be protected. These two trees were maturing to be trees that typically grow to a height of 25–35m. It will take a decade or two to replace what these trees provided, and 3-4 decades to replace what they would have provided.

Please let's bring SA into line with VIC and NSW by changing the definition of regulated tree to one that:

- has a trunk circumference of 50cm or more (measured 1m above the ground) or
- has a height of 6m or more or
- has canopy over 9sqm

Also, please ask that councils can have more say in their tree protection and planning laws, as councils like City of PAE with a tree canopy of less than 10% need to protect trees a lot more than councils with 40-50%. 30% minimum is ideal for a healthy environment for us humans and the flora and fauna we depend on.

I hope this personal story, helps explain why I harp on about trees so much. Have your say so that "developers" don't get their way for another decade because at this rate (where we're losing 75,000 trees per year across Adelaide), Adelaide won't be a nice place to live for much longer ❤️🌳

Yours sincerely,
Fabian Folghera
South Australia, 5016, Australia

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