

From: Kyla Young  
[REDACTED]

To the Expert Review Panel,

Via email: [DTI.PlanningReview@sa.gov.au](mailto:DTI.PlanningReview@sa.gov.au)

Dear Panel Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to address you on my concerns re our new Planning and Design Code.

My key concerns are that current parameters under which mature trees can be removed are grossly inadequate. In particular the way the tree protection laws are written favors development over trees. It also favors the right of developer over rights over trees and community. It sets it up to have either trees OR development when in fact we can be both and can benefit both. It doesn't have to be an either or. Interstate they have a minimum standard for the state's best practice and then councils can improve on this. Interstate they have BOTH development AND tree protection.

Current protections for mature trees has had a detrimental impact on my local area, resulting in our local council powering ahead to sign an MOA with the Adelaide Football club and this is will result in 343 mature trees being removed. Most of these trees are over 40 years old and under current protection the council need only replace them with a net gain of saplings.

What has not been considered is the benefits in community health and enjoyment the current canopy provides. There is much current research, in fact South Australian, that measures the enormous economic, social and health benefits that come from connecting with nature that mature trees are the hub of environmental habitats for animals and birds. These should be measured in your economic analysis.

There is plenty of scientific evidence to show that given the climate crisis we are currently facing, the evidence shows that tree canopy is one of the best ways to mitigate against urban heat island effect. This should be measured in your economic analysis. We need to move swiftly to ensure that we leave the best possible outcomes for our children and grand-children.

Please consider these recommendations for SA Law reform:

1. Remove exemptions from existing Regulated/significant tree protections and Native Vegetation Regulations.
2. Bring SA in line with Vic and NSW by changing definition of regulated tree to one that
  - Has a trunk circumference of 50cms or more measured 1m above the ground
  - Has a height of 6m or more
  - Has a canopy over 9sqm
3. Incorporate Vegetation overlays into Planning and Design Code, similar to those used in Vic, to better reflect the expectations of local communities by allowing for the protection of significant urban vegetation.

I encourage you to build a better Planning and Design code that will protect what other states and our community already recognises as one of our biggest assets to our community – Adelaide's Tree Canopy. I look forward to the panel making recommendations that match interstate best practice. Having a contemporary base line of best practice protected with law, would meet community expectations for our local area.

Your sincerely,

Kyla Young