

## DTI:Planning Review

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**From:** Laura Falls <campaigns@good.do>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 8 December 2022 9:22 PM  
**To:** DTI:Office of Minister Champion; Michelle Lensink; Peter Malinauskas; DTI:Planning Review  
**Subject:** Planning and Design Code - Changes to protect our trees

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

My main concern regarding the current planning and design code is the lack of protection for trees. We both know our tree canopy is reducing, and although trees are planted we continue to lose large trees everyday - we are not sustaining what we have.

Frankly, the laws aren't good enough for what we need today.

I understand this review is to ensure planning decisions encourage a more liveable, competitive and sustainable future. This will not be achieved if tree protections are not changed.

For a more sustainable future, we also need space for more large trees in urban areas. Unfortunately, seeing large blocks in my area replaced with two smaller homes and no backyards means a large tree will never be present on that site again.

In addition to the protection of trees (which is of utmost importance) developments in general need to be more sustainable i.e. all blocks should be designed so that someone can build a home with access to northern light (for natural heating) which is not the case in some developments, and gas should not be mandated through developer's encumbrances.

I am hopeful that the expert panel will meet community expectations by listening attentively and acting on the feedback given.

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.

Thank you. You have the power to make changes to protect trees. I hope you place high importance on trees, our environment and our children in your recommendations.

Yours sincerely,  
Laura Falls

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