

DTI:Planning Review

From: Kendall Laffey [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 16 December 2022 12:20 PM
To: DTI:Planning Review
Subject: Feedback submission on Planning and Design Code

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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Dear Panel Members,

Southern Koala and Echidna Rescue are a registered charity in Southern Adelaide which deliver 4 key functions to our community:

- **Rescue:** responding to calls from the public for assistance with injured, unwell, displaced or orphaned koalas and echidnas.
- **Rehabilitation:** providing specialized care for koalas and echidnas under our permit from the Department of Environment and Water.
- **Research:** we provide feet on the ground to support approved research projects to collect greater quantities of samples and data to improve research outcomes.
- **Revegetation:** we undertake revegetation activities in the Onkaparinga region to improve the habitat for koalas and echidnas in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to address our concerns regarding the new Planning and Design Code. Our broad areas of interest in Tree protection reform encompass:

- **Rescue:** habitat fragmentation is the leading factor for vehicle strikes and dog attack rescues.
- **Rehabilitation:** we rely on landholders to allow us to cut stems from their trees to provide adequate feed for the koalas in our care.
- **Research:** there is little research or documentation on the seasonal food preferences of koalas and our observations have led us to have concerns for genetic diversity loss in our habitats.
- **Revegetation:** reliance on commercial seedling stock is reducing genetic diversity and that the impact has not yet been researched.

We would like you to consider the following factors in your review.

Species based tree protections

Climate change is going to reduce the suitability for many koala food species to survive in existing koala populations across Australia. In the future we may need to use species non-indigenous to the area to support koala populations in South Australia. The value of a tree cannot be directly correlated to its species as this doesn't acknowledge high biodiversity value.

The research we reference does indicate that climate change will have a greater impact on the Eucalyptus genus in other states, however in a greater context, the South Australian koala populations may be relied on to repopulate eastern state koalas. As such a loss of suitable browse in the eastern states is also a South Australian koala problem which in turn is a South Australian tree protection problem.

Source: <https://doi.org/10.1038/nclimate3126> and <https://koalalife.asn.au/>

Reduction of the minimum trunk circumference

A model that relies on fines does not protect tree genetic diversity and does not reduce tree loss in the locations where tree loss is most problematic. We have heard several firsthand accounts of fines being factored into the

cost of tree removal and this being an acceptable expense to landholders in locations where real estate is expensive. The two locations we have come across are inner metropolitan properties and agricultural properties. Our recommendation is to regulate tree removal services (including but not limited to arborists and earthworks professionals) and to add a criminal offence for tree removal as a service without a license.

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Kind Regards,

Kendall Laffey

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I acknowledge the Kurna people as traditional custodians of the lands where I live & work, and pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

