

From: [Anne Wharton](#)
To: [DPTI:Planning Engagement](#)
Subject: Submission on how to improve the draft State Planning Policies
Date: Friday, 14 September 2018 9:23:19 PM

I write about the new Planning & Design Code. Despite all the well-stated intentions in the Greener Neighbourhoods policy, I do not have any hope that we are going to be able to turn around what's happening on the ground. I have been monitoring how many significant and regulated trees are being lost in the Unley Council area for a few years now. We are losing nearly 1 per week on private land. Its all very well to talk about street trees and planting new ones but these will take decades to give us decent canopy cover.

In the Unley Council area, our tree canopy cover dropped from 26% in 2013 to 22% in 2016. I suspect this is very similar in other council areas. If we don't do something about genuine protection for our existing healthy trees and mandating minimum tree cover for new development applications, Adelaide's liveability is going to drop dramatically. This will mean dramatic increases in such things as health costs and building energy costs.

Adelaide's tree canopy is the lowest of the state capitals and with the current planning laws, will continue to decline unless serious action is taken to change the system.

Yours faithfully
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"The tree which moves some to tears of joy is in the Eyes of others only a Green thing which stands in the way" - William Blake