

From: [Bunty Parsons](#)
To: [DPTI:Planning Reform Submissions](#)
Subject: Planning & Design Code public consultation
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To Whom it May Concern

SUBMISSION ON PLANNING & DESIGN CODE — PHASE 3

I am most concerned about a number of elements in the draft Planning and Design Code – Phase 3.

I believe local councils are losing control over developments in their areas and the rights of residents to query or object to new developments and changed land use are being curtailed. While I respect the need for uniform laws and regulations to avoid bureaucracy, it is essential that we do not allow our suburbs to be ruined by over-development and that we sensibly plan for a hotter, dryer future.

While I have borrowed arguments from people whose opinions I respect, this is my own submission – not a carbon copy of someone else's.

My chief concerns are:

Non-Residential land use: Currently in our council's residential areas, shops, offices and educational establishments are non-complying. Under the new Code, these types of development would be allowed and the result would be adverse impacts on traffic, parking, noise, neighbours' amenity and the character of suburbs. I and many others find this unacceptable.

Siting and Setbacks: Under the Code, building setbacks from side and rear boundaries will noticeably decrease, particularly at upper levels. This is absolutely unacceptable because it would severely impact amenity and privacy. Existing siting, setback and floor area criteria should be maintained throughout all our residential areas.

Density and Allotment Sizes: It is important that current minimum allotment sizes, heights and frontage widths match existing.

Tree Canopy and Climate Resilience

The 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide calls for an increase in tree canopy cover – and the State Government is talking about 'cooling' our suburbs to reduce power consumption. Yet the draft Code works directly against this by enabling larger developments and the increased removal of trees on both private and public land. There is a real danger that this will result in a significant reduction in canopy cover, habitat loss and climate resilience, due the increased infill development opportunities, reduction in minimum site areas, site coverage, setbacks and increased number of street crossovers.

Public Notification

The Code should reflect our council's current Development Plan policy with respect to the notification of neighbours and the public. The Code should include notification for all development that increases development intensity, including

additional dwellings on the site, two-storey development, earthworks where new dwelling is located 600mm above ground level, and change of use from residential to non-residential.

Impact on Infrastructure and Essential Services

The potential rate and intensity of new development which will be facilitated through the proposed Code policies, could place existing local infrastructure, especially roads and stormwater systems, under stress, particularly in our older established areas

Neighbourhood Zone and Housing Diversity Zone:

The draft Code places some areas in the General Neighbourhood Zone and the Housing Diversity Zone. The policy in these new zones is at odds with current zone policy and allows for a greater intensity of development than existing. The current zones focus on preserving character rather than accommodating change and infill and do not envisage a greater range and intensity of development than currently exists. I request that you move all residential areas to the Suburban Neighbourhood Zone with TNVs to match existing conditions.

Historic Area Overlay

The lack of identification of Contributory Items in the Code, by either a map or list of addresses, will create uncertainty and confusion for owners, neighbours and prospective buyers. Existing protections and identification of Contributory Items should be maintained.

The proposed demolition control wording is much weaker than what currently exists in Historic Conservation Zones. I request that the Code adopts the wording in the previous SA Planning Policy Library, and does not place inappropriate emphasis on front elevations, visibility of building facades and economic viability.

Commercial Centres

The Code places large scale centres in the same zone as small local shops, allowing large scale development and more intensive land uses throughout all these areas. This is inappropriate. A hierarchy of centres should be maintained. Additional zone(s) are needed to cater for the lower intensity local centres, particularly in older established areas.

I believe the loss of local character and amenity in my neighbourhood – and many others – is at risk if this Code is not reviewed and significantly improved.

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