

DTI:Planning Review

From: Emma Sandery <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 16 December 2022 9:18 AM
To: DTI:Office of Minister Champion; Michelle Lensink; Peter Malinauskas; DTI:Planning Review
Subject: We urgently need to protect our trees - they are being cut down throughout our suburbs!

Over the last week I have witnessed all the trees on the block next to our being cut down. It has been really upsetting to see, as I know how much these big trees mean to the suburban birds. They have provided homes, food and shelter. Plus they've provided shade, privacy, fresh air and beauty to us.

These trees weren't considered 'significant' but they should have been. They were very tall (some of the only tall trees in our area) and old, and so, so loved.

However new owners meant a fresh start for that block. Even though they aren't developing the site, they came in ready to clean up and start a new garden from scratch. How many years will it be before there are trees again on that block? And I can almost guarantee there will never be trees of that height again, as people replant smaller shrubs and bushes instead.

As a family with young children we have been in tears this week. Crying for the losses around us.

We need much greater protection for trees. Criteria for what is protected needs to be expanded. Once lost, trees are so hard to replace. Large trees will probably never be properly replaced. With climate change, the role of trees are even more important. We need shade, we need cooling, we need biodiversity, we need green. For the sake of our children, we urge you to make tree protection a priority.

I have long been an admirer of the conservation council 'who speaks for the trees' work. They are bringing together experts, to create really powerful and effective policy solutions. People everywhere are so upset by the loss of our trees.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the implementation review of the Planning and Design Code. I am hopeful that the expert panel will meet community expectations by listening attentively and acting on the feedback given.

I am concerned about the impact of both the code and our poor regulations on tree canopy right across Adelaide. 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.

Yours sincerely,

Emma - a very concerned parent - for the future of trees in Adelaide and the future of our kids in our HOT, BARE, suburbs.
South Australia, 5049, Australia

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