

DTI:Planning Review

From: Graham Sporn <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Wednesday, 7 December 2022 7:43 PM
To: DTI:Office of Minister Champion; Michelle Lensink; Peter Malinauskas; DTI:Planning Review
Subject: Support for trees - old and new

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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.

I live in the Marion Council area, and having moved from Stirling in 2017, I was disappointed with the amount of trees in the area. I lobbied the Council to have Jacarandas planted in my street (Jacaranda Grove - what else would you have???) and pointed out that Elm Grove should be renamed "Desolation Boulevard" and suggested that trees in the Elm family be planted, which they were.

I am currently suggesting that Oak trees be planted in the centre of Oaklands Road, and other main roads. What still disappointed me was the lack of tree maintenance the Council carried out on new and recent tree plantings. Lack of staff was the reason given. So I offered to do the maintenance myself, with the Council's permission and if it was official. The Council created a program entitled "Urban Tree Warriors". The Marion Council now has volunteers carrying out maintenance on street trees. That covers new trees in my Council area. But laws need to be changed to protect old trees. With urban infill being commonplace on the Adelaide Plains, many mature trees are lost. Plans for new developments need to consider existing trees. My thoughts are that "everywhere there could be a tree, should have one (or more) and trees with large canopies.

Yours sincerely,
Graham Sporn
South Australia, 5064, Australia

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