

Hon. Nick Champion MP  
Minister for Planning,  
Parliament House,  
North Terrace,  
Adelaide,  
SA 5000.

22 August 2022

Email: MinisterChampion@sa.gov.au

Dear Minister,

Re: Expert Review of SA Planning System

We are writing to you concerning the expert review of the Planning System (including the Planning and Design Code) that you announced on 5 August 2022. This follows your commitment in the 2022 election campaign viz to review the Planning and Design Code to enable “**planning decisions that encourage a more liveable, competitive and sustainable long-term growth strategy**”.

We have a particular interest in the issues of tree canopy and local heritage, and the impact of the Planning and Design Code on the liveability of our communities.

As we understand it, one of the goals of the Planning System is for urban green cover to be increased by 20% in metropolitan Adelaide by 2045 (refer to

[https://livingadelaide.sa.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0003/278265/Target-5.pdf](https://livingadelaide.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/278265/Target-5.pdf)).

The importance of this goal in helping the community to adapt to climate change is well understood. Unley Council's Tree Strategy is an excellent example of a Council making plans which support this goal (refer to <https://www.unley.sa.gov.au/files/assets/public/council/about-the-council/city-of-unley-tree-strategy-2020.pdf>)

Our concern is that the Planning and Design Code is not fit for purpose to achieve this goal. In new developments – often associated with demolishing an existing property and building two or more dwellings in its place – the requirement in the Code for tree canopy represents, in most cases, a substantial reduction in tree canopy.

There is no possibility that the overall goal of increasing tree canopy can be achieved under the current rules. Refer to PO 13.2 and DTS/DPF 13.2 under Design in Urban Areas in the Code where minimum coverage is only between 2 and 10%, depending on the size of the block.

We urge you to amend the Code to ensure that the important goal of increasing tree canopy in Adelaide can be met. It's vital for the future liveability of our community.

We can be contacted at [REDACTED] or on [REDACTED] to discuss our proposal further.

Yours sincerely

Unley Tree Action Group  
Anne Wharton  
Anne Wilson  
Warren Jones  
Peter Croft  
Ros Islip  
Phil Henschke

and

Grow Grow Grow Your Own  
Chris Adams  
Nolda Beynon  
Ashley Campbell  
Peter Croft  
Jan McClelland  
Pauline Muir  
Russell Talbot  
Abby Ward  
Anne Wharton  
Anne Wilson  
Pat Wundersitz

With the support of FOCUS (Friends of City of Unley Society Inc.)