

DTI:Planning Review

From: Ian Seccafien [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 31 October 2022 2:32 PM
To: DTI:Planning Review
Subject: PDI Act Expert Panel Review submission

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Dear Expert Panel Members,

I was pleased to hear the SA Labor Party commit to a review of the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act and code, in particular the section which focuses on regulation of Regulated/Significant trees.

I am sure you are aware urban tree canopy is critical to reducing the effects of climate change, in particular urban heat island, provide shade and cooling thus reducing energy needs, oxygen and carbon storage to name a few of the benefits. It is an unfortunate fact that since the regulations were changed in 2009 to introduce the 2-tiered system this has resulted in the catastrophic loss of large trees particularly from private land.

As a local government Arborist and a member of the Local Government Urban Forest Alliance (LGUFA) I have witnessed firsthand these trees disappear from our landscape at an alarming rate to facilitate infill development. I and my colleagues have often felt frustration at the broad exemptions provided within the regulations and have born the brunt of community complaints when these trees are removed.

It is my view and the view of our LGUFA members that removing these broad exemptions is the most effective way to arrest the loss of these large-canopied trees and stabilise our urban tree canopy which will allow us to continue to plant more trees to try and achieve the canopy target set in the Greater Adelaide 30 year plan.

I therefore respectfully request the panel give consideration to the following

- Abolish the exempt species list including the 10m rule and 20m rule for high/medium bushfire areas
- Abolish SA Govt's & Department exemptions re major projects and make all state projects comply with tree protection legislation
- Abolish exemptions re development on school grounds
- Re-introduce the original regulations which Dr Bob Such legislated in 2000 with the circumference of a Significant tree being 1m when measured 1m above natural ground level.

I trust my submission will be given full consideration and I am happy to provide greater context to my submission if required.

Yours Sincerely
Ian Seccafien

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