

DTI:Planning Review

From: john hicks [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 15 December 2022 11:53 PM
To: DTI:Planning Review
Subject: Submission to implementation review of planning and design code
Attachments: Submission to implementation review of planning and design code HICKS.pdf

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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 deeply concerned about the impact of the Planning and Design Code and the poor tree canopy regulations across Adelaide. Currently, there is ongoing and sustained loss of tree canopy across our suburbs with resultant impact on the livability and sustainability of our city.

In my own block in Black Forest I have watched the landscape change over the last 10 years as multiple established trees (including the lemon scented gum in the image below) are cut down by landowners on their properties, and the ongoing loss of tree cover and benefits of these trees to people and birds.



Fig. 1: A view of the Lemon Scented Gum, cut down in 2021, from my backyard in Black Forest where it was the most prominent visual feature. The property where the tree stood, 11 Addison Road Black Forest, has been an empty vacant block for over a year with no development occurring. The longer the block stays vacant, the more it feels like the tree was cut down for no reason.

I call on you to make changes including:

- Bring SA into line with Vic and NSW by changing the definition of a regulated tree; trunk circumference of 50cm or more measured 1m above the ground, height of 6m or more or canopy over 9sqm.

- Removal of the 10m rule near a dwelling or swimming pool, in my local area too often a mature tree has a new pool or building extension installed near it and then the tree is cut out within a year or so of the pool being installed. This is a loophole that will allow continuous removal of trees as our suburbs become denser with infill and other house improvements.
- Increasing financial penalties for removal of a regulated tree to be commensurate with the actual impact and loss of the tree for the whole community, or the cost of the council to purchase land at market value to replace a tree.
- Implement a register of council approved arborists as the only approved people to provide a report on a regulated tree health and the removal of a tree. This would ensure that recognized experts were making decisions which have decades of lasting impacts on our city.
- Allow councils more agency in the management of trees in their area, each council area is different and with different needs requiring decisions at a local area to benefit that community.
- Restore the requirement for the Department of Infrastructure and Transport and the Department of Education to publicly consult and gain planning approval to remove regulated trees. There have been numerous examples recently where alternative solutions have not been considered by DTI to retain tree canopy (e.g. [Lot 14 Frome Road trees](#), [Old Belair Road/James Road intersection](#))

With the growing body of evidence about the importance of trees and tree canopy on people and place, wellbeing and health, as well as mitigating heat effects in summers, it is vitally important that appropriate changes are made to the Planning and Design Code to bring SA into a nation leading position on the protection of our trees, truly leading to Adelaide to be considered a city of trees.

Kind Regards,

John Hicks

