

DTI:Planning Review

From: Sandra Gill [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 12 December 2022 11:49 AM
To: DTI:Planning Review
Subject: Submission re Tree Policy in the Planning and Design Code

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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I would like to make a submission and provide my views to Expert Panel on how Tree Policy is addressed in the Planning and Design Code as follows.

I am concerned about the impact of both the current code and our poor regulations on tree canopy across Adelaide and for this reason I support the work published by the Conservation Council of SA and partner organisations.

I agree and support Conservation Council of SA 's following ten priorities for reform to help make the state's tree regulations best practice:

1. Remove exemptions from existing Regulated/Significant Tree Protections and Native Vegetation Regulations
 - a. 10m and 20m Rules – Planning, Development & Infrastructure Act Regulations covering Regulated and Significant Tree Protections
 - b. Review and modify the list of tree species exempt from being classified as regulated/significant to better reflect the South Australian environment
 - c. 10m and 5m fence Rules – Native Vegetation Act Regulations
2. Bring South Australia into line with Victoria and New South Wales by changing definition of regulated tree to one that:
 - a. Has a trunk circumference of 50cm or more measure 1m above the ground; or
 - b. Has a height of 6m or more; or
 - c. Has a canopy over 9sqm
3. Incorporate Vegetation Overlays into the Planning and Design Code, similar to those used in Victoria, to better reflect the expectations of local communities by allowing for the protection of significant urban vegetation
4. Implement new bushfire clearance allowances that reflect the Bushfire Attack Level rating for the property
5. Remove the ability to prune up to 30% of a regulated/significant tree without requiring council approval and implement a system that requires the use of the AS4373 Standard
6. Increase the use of arborists to assess applications affecting significant trees and allow for streamlined approval process for applications to remove regulated trees
7. 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
8. Modify the Urban Tree Canopy Offset Scheme to better reflect the value of trees to the community by;
 - a. Increasing the fees to match the costs incurred by Councils to plant, establish and maintain replacement trees; and
 - b. Increasing the number of trees to be planted

9. Introduce the following requirements where permission is granted to remove a protected tree:
 - a. Homeowners to replant or make a financial contribution for the loss of that tree at a set rate significantly higher than currently set
 - b. Developers to replant and make a financial contribution which will depend on the size and location of the tree they are seeking to remove
10. The removal of protected trees should not be allowed until all relevant planning and development approvals have been granted.

Yours sincerely

Sandra Gill

