

DTI:Planning Review

From: Debra Hocking <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Tuesday, 25 October 2022 9:37 PM
To: DTI:Office of Minister Champion; Michelle Lensink; Peter Malinauskas; DTI:Planning Review
Subject: Stronger laws to protect our trees

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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.

Trees are often underrated. Environmentally they play a massive role, supplying 45%-50% of our oxygen, repairing air quality and capturing carbon dioxide and other harmful gases. They reduce urban temperatures and provide food and homes for our local wild life and so..... much more.

Research has shown that they improve mental health and wellbeing and stimulate children's mental, physical and social development. Patients in hospitals had quicker recovery rates with views of trees from their window, than those that had no view.

Significant and regulated tree laws have been drastically watered down of their protections, causing a variety of impacts. Suburban blocks are being cleared for land development and large trees are being removed for solar panels or they just make a mess.

I believe that we need to strengthen these laws to protect our trees for us and the generations to come.

Yours sincerely,
Debra Hocking

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