

DTI:Planning Review

From: Georgie Hart <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 16 December 2022 10:25 PM
To: DTI:Office of Minister Champion; Michelle Lensink; Peter Malinauskas; DTI:Planning Review
Subject: Planning and Design Code Urban Trees

Thank for the opportunity to make a submission to the Review of the Planning and Design Code. There is growing community concerns regarding our urban deforestation in South Australia and I am pleased that we have an expert panel that will be taking note of these concerns and recommendations for solutions.

We have a unique opportunity to stop the removal of approximately 75,000 trees per annum in greater Adelaide, and actually start to retain trees (& wildlife that so many trees support). We are in a climate emergency and also a biodiversity crisis so we need to make necessary urgent changes.

This can happen by adopting the top ten priorities for reform as found in the Conservation Council of SA and partner organisations, "A Call to Action Report."

Changes to the definition of a significant tree, to allow for a smaller trunk circumference for example, and removing exemptions that allow for trees to be removed, will save thousands of trees in new developments. It is crucial that we retain trees not simply allow for trees to be removed in new developments and replaced with saplings, as they will likely take several decades to compensate & risk the further displacement of native animals that may depend upon them. Nor should State government and/or Councils penalise new home owners if developers haven't, at best retained (at worst planted), 15% canopy.

Trees are essential for climate mitigation and fighting biodiversity loss (including high rates of species extinction). They are essential for our physical and mental well-being and it is imperative that we address issues such as risk aversion and misinformation regarding trees (especially eucalypts).

In hope,

Georgie Hart
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South Australia, 5063, Australia

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Please reply to Georgie Hart at [REDACTED]

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