

DTI:Planning Review

From: Pete Wincott <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Saturday, 10 December 2022 5:27 PM
To: DTI:Office of Minister Champion; Michelle Lensink; Peter Malinauskas; DTI:Planning Review
Subject: Since the start of modern human civilisation, about 11, 700 years ago, the total number of trees on Earth has fallen by around 46%!

Does a well known progressive state such as SA wish to emulate other Australian states (think QLD, NSW, VIC and TAS) and continue to allow old growth trees to be removed from our suburbs?

Why can't SA and in particular the City of Adelaide be outliers in refusing wealthy property developers and individual home owners the permission to take healthy trees down.

One of the things that struck me and my wife when we recently moved from mid-north coast of NSW to Adelaide to live was how green the city is. What foresight the town planners and govt departments had is greening the city with your gorgeous parkland and tree-lined streets in the numerous suburbs Adelaide has.

How disappointing then to discover that our state protections for tree canopy has been previously substantially weakened and the result is a significant decline in tree canopy over our over city area. Given climate change is bringing hotter summers and trees are know to cool the immediate area around them, allowing trees to be systematically removed is dumb by any standard of judgement.

Singapore is steadily greening its city. It is now a very green and lush environment. We are doing the reverse. Who is getting it right then? I'm sure other cities are doing the same and leading the way.

Adelaide has been voted as one of the most liveable cities in the world. Part of that is the environmental amenity that we experience. All the trees. shrubs, kerbside gardens, median strip gardens, etc. Not to mention to heat reducing and therefore the dollar cost impact of a cooler urban landscape because it has a dense canopy.

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.

We cannot underestimate the important role that trees play in our daily lives. We need them more than they need us. By doing so you will improve our mental & physical health, clean the air that we breathe, remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, help cool our homes and streets, make our city more livable and mitigate the impacts of climate change for our children and grandchildren.

Yours sincerely,
Pete & Sue Wincott

BELLEVUE HEIGHT
South Australia, 5050

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