

DTI:Planning Review

From: Claire Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 16 December 2022 12:45 PM
To: DTI:Planning Review
Subject: Planning and Design Code - Urban Trees

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Good afternoon,
Thank you for the opportunity to submit my personal views regarding Urban Trees.

I have lived in Craighburn Farm for more than ten years and feel fortunate to do so. The recent storm experienced in this area was incredibly damaging to many trees in gardens, parks and street trees, causing great distress and damage. The interesting point to note is that ALMOST exclusively those trees were Eucalypts, many NOT endemic to this region.

Even the very damaged and dangerous Gum trees in our vicinity were not permitted to be removed but rather hideously pruned by arborists...

Of course the precursor to this issue is lack of proper planning and consultation with the original developers of Craighburn Farm and local council approving building plans that were not sympathetic to the very old and large Eucalypts in the original "Farm" area previously owned by the Minda Corporation. To allow homes to be built SO close to these majestic specimens was/is totally inappropriate. We are now seeing the negative outcomes from those decisions, and must face up to ongoing effects of climate change that will cause many further issues with these species, in our area and beyond.

The endemic Gums should be revered and planted in our open space park settings. As canopy cover it appears that the non-endemic species do a brilliant job of protecting people and property from the harsh sun and heat, while allowing winter warmth and light to flood in during the winter months. In addition, living in a bush fire hazard area gives great pause for thought regarding the use of gum trees planted in close proximity to residents.

An interesting side issue would be to ascertain the cost to the council for the clean up operation in this area alone, with chain saws and chippers in full swing for the last month or more. Many dried gum leaves have been left on our footpaths creating a potential fire hazard also. I believe the cost to plant more suitable species in the first instance and going forward into the future, would have saved council and rate payers many thousands of dollars. Other concerns include using very large (up to 30metres) Gum trees as *our street trees*, causing the paved footpaths to become very dangerous for all users, especially for many older residents in this area who use walking aids. We want trees YES, and have many on our property, but surely the correct ones should be selected, given urging by Governments and Environmentalists, to instal Solar panels. We did this...in good faith and now find that those street trees render the panels far less effective as a result.

I believe that my concerns would fall on deaf ears if I were to approach the Mitcham council and I have chosen this platform to express my desire for open minded and intelligent panel members to consider.

Thank you most sincerely, Claire Smith, [REDACTED]