

DTI:Planning Review

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Sent: Friday, 9 December 2022 11:26 AM
To: DPC:Premier; taylor@parliament.sa.gov.au; DTI:Planning Review
Cc: michelle.lensink@parliament.sa.gov.au
Subject: Implementation Review of the Planning & Design Code

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I take this opportunity to make a submission to the Implementation Review of the Planning and Design Code (PDC). Since 2011 when the Government made changes to the PDC there has been a significant increase in the loss of tree cover across the greater Adelaide region. The introduced changes gave rise to a weakening of the protection for old trees. This is best demonstrated by the dramatic increase in tree felling and removal services that have arisen since that time. Clearly tree removal is a growth industry in SA.

It is important that these old trees be retained. They play a vital role in providing a habitat for animals and birds, they absorb large amounts of water which is then returned to the atmosphere and they have a cooling effect on the urban environment. As the climate rapidly warms it becomes increasingly important that we preserve trees to shade and cool our houses and public spaces. In addition trees remove harmful carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and the trees that do this best are the large mature trees.

The planting of new trees is not an adequate solution to the effects of climate change as the benefits are some years away. It is essential that mature trees are protected and preserved.

A recent media report highlighted the problem when it stated ***"Most Adelaide residential suburbs have significantly less tree cover than they did 10 years ago, a new study has shown" ABC 7 March 2022***

So it could be said that the weakening of tree protection is contributing to a deterioration in living conditions. Recently UniSA in its ***"Energy & Building Report"*** called for an increase in the tree canopy. This cannot be achieved by continuing to permit the removal of mature trees.

I urge the expert panel to listen to the expectations of the community and to provide greatly increased protection for trees across the greater Adelaide metropolitan region .

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