

## DTI:Planning Review

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**From:** Sara Slayman <campaigns@good.do>  
**Sent:** Friday, 16 December 2022 4:02 PM  
**To:** DTI:Office of Minister Champion; Michelle Lensink; Peter Malinauskas; DTI:Planning Review  
**Subject:** Please change policy to better protect our trees and nature for our future

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

I am writing to express my sincere concern about the future of our trees. It is too common to see new developments and cleared blocks for housing that once had beautiful, tall eucalyptus trees that provided shade for all, and habitat for fauna.

Policy needs to be changed so that developers are less likely to rip down trees to start a new slate. Policy should include incentives for them to keep the trees or heavier penalties should apply if they remove or damage any native trees. Current policy makes it too easy for them to find loopholes and ways to rid properties of trees. The value of a native tree is more than just the size of its trunk.

I also believe that if native trees are removed for whatever reason, they should only be replaced with another suitable native tree. Blocks are being decorated with exotic tree species that do not provide the same shade, habitat or food sources for our native fauna. We must protect our native landscape and cultural heritage.

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,  
Sara Slayman  
South Australia, 5014, Australia

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Please reply to Sara Slayman at [REDACTED].

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