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**To:** [DPTI:Planning Reform Submissions](#)  
**Subject:** Rezoning submission  
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## Submission for new Planning Code

Hot, barren, soulless, depressing.

These are words used by a good friend of our family to describe her suburb where she was formerly so happy. Her suburb has been completely transformed, she would say destroyed, by the unbelievably rapid advance of in fill. It seems houses are no longer sold to new families, they are seemingly now all bought by developers. In fill has all but de-greened her suburb, almost all the substantial trees have been cut down, gardens no longer exist, it's fence to fence "dog box" housing, as she calls it, with little bits of fake lawn, paving and pebbles and the constant whine of heat generating air-conditioners. Street trees have been removed to make way for driveways, her street is now filled with parked cars. Birds no longer visit her bird bath, they no longer live in her suburb, no food sources, nowhere to shelter, nowhere to nest.

Unfortunately through financial circumstances she is trapped there, we feel very sorry for her circumstances, but now to our horror we discover, not from our government where you would expect to find out, but from a neighbour, that our suburb of Black Forest is to be sacrificed to this environmentally damaging trend of in fill!

Let me tell you about Black Forest and why our family moved here a dozen years ago.

In Adelaide's rapidly diminishing green belt Black Forest is a jewel, that despite only having one handkerchief sized public park, is home to a very large number of magnificent trees both along roadsides and in residents gardens. Gardens here are diverse and rich in shrubs, all of this provides for a cooler micro climate which is so important in our ever warming climate. It also provides habitat for a surprising amount of wildlife from the clouds of delicate New Holland Honey Eaters and White Plumed Honey Eaters through to the families of regal Kookaburra's which every year nest in a nearby tree. Ring tailed possums dart about the tree canopy and numerous species of lizards are in the undergrowth. Black Forest is providing so much bio-diversity in the heart of suburbia, thanks predominantly to the environmentally aware residents who use sustainable practices like composting, mulching, rainwater harvesting.

Black Forest has a wonderful community feel to it, we know most of our neighbours and frequently chat as we see them in front gardens or walking the shady streets, we help each other out, we share garden produce. These are people who love their suburb and it's environment, these are people who pick up litter they see in the street, on bin collection day you see them sweeping gutters and footpaths such is their pride in our suburb. We have absolutely no graffiti in our suburb thanks to a small but dedicated band of volunteers. This is the community of Black Forest and what it stands for.

Black Forest is home to a vast number of beautiful period homes from the first two decades of the 1900's. It is these homes and their life giving gardens that attracted all of us. Our roads are heavily tree lined with shady trees with few parked cars or significant traffic so they are generally safe for all of us, particularly our children. It is all these features and the overall environment of Black Forest that every real estate seller highlights in their sales pitch. It's what attracted our family here.

We note talk by many politicians of planting more trees. In fact the Premier, just a

month ago, in his “bold new agenda” for 2020 talked of planting more trees as a key measure to combat hotter and drier suburbs. However this is obviously completely at odds with what will happen to Black Forest's trees and gardens if it is re-zoned for more in fill. Every intelligent person knows big shady trees are a key to reducing heat in the environment, as well as their gift of oxygen, yet the obsession with in fill zoning will do the opposite, it removes most trees and that will raise temperatures significantly in an already over heating landscape.

We were alerted to an excellent proposed piece of legislation by the government that can be found on the Department of Environment's website called “Green Adelaide”. It is from this that I found the following words - “The state government is focusing its attention on metropolitan Adelaide through increased efforts to green and cool our backyards, streets and neighbourhoods, enhance biodiversity and create open and healthy green spaces for everyone. Green Adelaide recognises the importance of connecting community to nature..”

Now it seems to our family that the proposal to re-zone the already cool and green Black Forest thereby destroying it's greenery and biodiversity is diametrically opposed to what the government is trying to achieve in the Green Adelaide legislation. The government talks greening and cooling but proposes in Black Forest to do the opposite!

We ask then, what is the incentive and motivation for a government to sacrifice our suburb to money hungry developers, a suburb that is currently such a beautiful place to live? A suburb that already, through it's residents, conforms to the noble ambition of the Green Adelaide legislation.

From chatting to neighbours we get the feeling that quite a number were intending to send in a submission so we're sure we won't be the only Black Forest residents responding. We know from those chats that every one of them is confused why this is proposed for a suburb that should be seen as a jewel by the government and preserved for all the right reasons. We are all confused as to the motive behind re-zoning us for in fill when so many people and our environment will lose so much. We are all confused because the only winner we can see are property developers who, quite frankly have proved themselves, world wide, to be the worst of citizens with regard for no one or the environment. We are all confused as to why, why why is this happening?

The decision that will soon be made by the government is irreversible. Once houses are bulldozed, beautiful large trees chainsawed and gardens flattened to bare dirt, then buried under fence to fence building and hard surface, the environment and all it's biodiversity are lost forever. You can't replace fifty year old trees and their residents, they are gone forever. Think about that word, forever. An incorrect decision now by a person in government forever changes our landscape for the worse, much much worse, forever.

We have all invested heavily to live in Black Forest, we live wholesome lives caring for each other and our environment, we do not deserve to have our government abandon and hurt us with this proposed re-zoning that will forever change what Black Forest is. I go back to my opening line, hot, barren, soulless, depressing, that is what this decision will turn Black Forest into, forever.

On behalf of my family I plead with whoever the decision makers are to think about the Black Forest families, the future Black Forest families, the environment and the climate who will all be significant losers from this when they deserve to be protected. Please make the right decision to preserve the jewel of Black Forest, forever, thank you for reading.

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