

DTI:Planning Review

From: Kip Fuller <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Tuesday, 11 October 2022 5:10 PM
To: DTI:Office of Minister Champion; Michelle Lensink; Peter Malinauskas; DTI:Planning Review
Subject: Improve Our Tree Protection Laws

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Our urban environment has suffered significant degradation since the implementation of the 2011 regulation exemptions. In my own immediate neighbourhood a huge 50 year old majestic Lemon scented eucalypt was removed because it was "de-classified as a eucalypt"! I live in the City of Charles Sturt which has one of the worst, barest tree canopies in the state. Trees are not just necessary for the aesthetics and mental health of people but also for habitat for birds, insects, reptiles, microbats.

With the climate crisis we need trees more than ever. With urban infill, trees are disappearing at an alarming rate, as no space is left for them. The regulatory code has a very narrow definition of features of protected trees. Some species never develop 2.5 metre girths no matter how old they are. eg extremely old, tall "Traveller Palms". Some trees are significant landmarks in their landscape, and should be valued for that characteristic alone.

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.

Yours sincerely,
Kip Fuller

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Please reply to Kip Fuller at [REDACTED].

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