

DTI:Planning Review

From: P Bagust <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Thursday, 13 October 2022 8:29 PM
To: DTI:Office of Minister Champion; Michelle Lensink; Peter Malinauskas; DTI:Planning Review
Subject: *Urban Trees - they need recognition before its too late*

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 including its peri-urban areas. 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.

I had a singular experience last year that drove this impoverishment home in a very personal way. A huge, old and beautiful River Red Gum on Third Creek only a few hundred metres from my house 'mysteriously' and suddenly got sick. I called the council (Norwood, Payneham and St Peters) and they proposed it was merely insect attack. However every other River Red nearby was healthy. The tree continued to sicken and finally the council admitted that it had been drilled and filled with poison, presumably by the adjoining landowner. The tree died and its dead hulk was left for months before it was finally demolished. Surprise surprise, the adjoining owner then started redevelopment on the block. This development has now stalled. Resulting in no tree and no construction, a terrible outcome and as far as I know the guilty party has never been held to account.

My fear is that this situation is being repeated every day across Adelaide, resulting in the death of a thousand cuts for Adelaide's Trees, both old and big and new and little. Urban consolidation has resulted in the suburb that I have lived in for 16 years turning into little more than a patchwork of roofs separated by small squares of 'green' lawn mostly consisting of astroturf. This is a disastrous outcome and so obviously at odds with real sustainable development my head spins. These ten Conservation SA recommendations are a sound start, but only a start, towards a situation where the greenery that supports life itself is taken into account BEFORE all other development imperatives. This involves not just stopping clearing, but seriously addressing the increasing lack of even small trees on small private blocks and seriously getting to work on offset planting on public lands (including the provision of more public land on which to conduct this plating!). Adopting them will will make developers both big and small work for their outcomes, and result in better neighborhoods in so many ways. How South Australia dropped the ball on this one is a sad historical mystery wrapped up, I suspect in the self-interest and greed of powerful players - but what is done is done. it is high time we collectively lifted our aspirations, saved our remaining trees, and seriously started to think about rebuilding an urban forest on public AND private land - not just talking about one by issuing endless glossy pdfs and then calling it job done.

Support of these improvements will help make our state's tree regulations best practice, a Labor election promise. 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,
P Bagust

South Australia, 5070, Australia

This email was sent by P Bagust via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however P provided an email address [REDACTED] which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to P Bagust at [REDACTED]

To learn more about Do Gooder visit

<https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.dogooder.co%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cdti.planningreview%40sa.gov.au%7C5691df9e387a40ee77a308daad0185ac%7Cbda528f7fca9432fbc98bd7e90d40906%7C1%7C0%7C638012519299176854%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=vglMybMtFzqLVSbZmsee%2BTE8pjKkM1jwqWEF0RclrfM%3D&reserved=0>

To learn more about web protocol RFC 3834 visit:

<https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftools.ietf.org%2Fhtml%2Frfc3834&data=05%7C01%7Cdti.planningreview%40sa.gov.au%7C5691df9e387a40ee77a308daad0185ac%7Cbda528f7fca9432fbc98bd7e90d40906%7C1%7C0%7C638012519299176854%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ZwEo7G251NeJrsipCA7RSJrRC5Dtu5Avyh96bRmf6go%3D&reserved=0>