

## DIT:Planning Reform Submissions

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**From:** Lisa Carey  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 25 November 2020 1:16 PM  
**To:** DIT:Planning Reform Submissions  
**Subject:** FW: Character Area Overlay Blackwood

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Elizabeth Carey

I was supposed to attend a public meeting at the Mitcham council chambers, on Tuesday the 17<sup>th</sup> of November, to add my support for the proposed Special Residential Character Area DPA. This was subsequently cancelled in line with recent covid restrictions. I felt that as local resident, it was important to participate during the community consultation and planning regarding the revised planning and design code. As a resident of our Blackwood property for the last 21 years I would like to support this council proposal. However, I was both alarmed and devastated to find out that our property fell outside this character zone by a few houses, the proposed zone ending at Gulfview road. I would also ask to have the zone extended to Chapman St. There are many homes and block sizes and street frontage that reflect the unique character and heritage of our area. I don't see any difference in the streets. To try to support this proposal I would like to add that our neighbours home at 9 Playford Ave Blackwood was the original home of the family that owned all of the surrounding land. Neighbourhood history reports that she sold off a block of her land for a fridge. There was also a memory tree planted in our garden for her by her daughter. This home was preserved and extensively renovated by the new owners at great expense rather than bulldoze it down. I would also like to point out that many of the neighbours in our street renovate the original homes preserving the heritage, street scape, frontage and allotment size in the street. This is because we value the unique sense of spaciousness and native tree population that these block sizes allow. Number 26 Chapman street which is a huge spacious block has two trees of significance in the front garden. This is a striking feature of the street which many of the neighbouring properties enjoy and are invested in. Our current block sizes enable us to safely coexist with these magnificent trees.

I know from talking to my neighbours, and attending Chapman Street Christmas parties, that our neighbourhood feels strongly about preserving the character of our street and neighbourhood. We have been very alarmed by a recent development at number 25 Chapman street. Originally this was a very old home on a very large block. The subsequent development there has stripped every tree, shrub and blade of grass from the block to place three high density homes on the block leaving no room for any trees. I would like to point out that this is in stark contrast to the rest of the street creating an eyesore, being out of step and uncharacteristic in the street. These new houses dominate the landscape as opposed to blending in with the surrounding street landscape. I am very alarmed by this development and I have noticed more recently it seems to be a trend. The complete clearing of some other blocks in the adjacent streets. They are being stripped of all trees and scrub to maximize development potential, which I can only assume to maximize profit at the expense of the local residents, the neighbourhood character, birdlife flora and fauna.

I fully support This Special Character Area by Mitcham council but implore It to be extended by at least one street to include Chapman street. The Blackwood Hills area is characterized by large blocks and street frontage that allows for large trees, native scrub which creates habitat for our ever marginalized flora and fauna. I live on a 1200m large

block with abundant native vegetation which contributes to the sense of spaciousness which characterises our street and neighbourhood. The non-uniform nature of our block is not conducive to more housing. I, like many in the area, strongly feel that the native bush and wildlife form very much the character of our neighbourhood. Residents of our neighbourhood include; Kookaburras, Magpies, Koalas, Tawny frogged mouth owls, sleepy lizards and i am loath to see them disappear permanently from our neighbourhood for the sake of a quick dollar. Please come up and observe the bird boxes in our trees built by neighbours to accommodate and protect our birdlife. Please can you be mindful of the local fauna population. They are very very much a part of our local hills character and identity and give Blackwood, Chapman Street, its iconic character.

By way of example I would like to point out what has happened to the the kangaroo population from the recent Blackwood Park development in the neighbouring council zone. Onkaparinga Council permits much higher density housing. The Craighburn farm development is therefore very densely housed. Forcing the local kangaroos population to be driven out of this habitat onto our local streets. I have personally been impacted by traffic chaos on Shepards Hill road with the kangaroos' on the road. I imagine they will have to be destroyed and managed after an eventual, inevitable casualty.

Can I also highlight that the trees, that are native to the local area actually provide protection from ember attack during a bushfire. I would also like to highlight research that tree cover can cool down our houses down, reducing energy costs and pressure on the energy grid . Councils in eastern suburbs are proposing a reduction in rates for adding additional trees on to a property. Not to mention, the most significant issues of our times, climate change which trees help to mitigate.

I do implore our state government ministers and policy makers to seriously consider the proposed Special Residential Character Area for the Blackwood area. I implore the Mitcham council to extend the Special residential character area by one street to include Chapman street. I cannot see any dramatic difference in street character from the next street over. I have not petitioned my neighbours as I work and have a family but I will undertake this if it helps my submission.

Yours sincerely Elizabeth Carey