

DTI:Planning Review

From: Joan Vandewerdt <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 21 October 2022 7:40 PM
To: DTI:Office of Minister Champion; Michelle Lensink; Peter Malinauskas; DTI:Planning Review
Subject: Urban tree canopy - support and protection

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.

I have seen multiple trees formerly protected by their significant status, girth, removed because of a drawing on a piece of paper. The property wasn't being built on, but the drawing said the significant trees had to be removed rather than accommodated. I was appalled. Tree canopy is no longer desirable because people have air conditioned cars. Urban heat islands and numerous benefits for road lifespan et al.

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,
Joan Vandewerdt
South Australia, 5048, Australia

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Please reply to Joan Vandewerdt at [REDACTED]

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