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DPTI

### **Submission on the State Planning Policies**

I wish to provide comment on some high level aspects of the Vision and State Planning Policies

#### **Re: MESSAGE FROM THE STATE PLANNING COMMISSION**

The message talks about, "disparate state agency policy positions, not well defined in relation to the state planning system". This problem is not resolved in the draft State Planning Policies as presented.

One basic issue is the lack of a consistent state-wide commitment to Sustainable Development towards meeting the social, economic and environmental needs of current and future generations in an integrated and coordinated manner.

#### **Re: PART 2: OUR POPULATION**

As difficult as population related issues might be, they cannot be glossed over in a way that implies that continued population growth is sustainable. This Planning Vision is not about planning for a sustainable and stable future, it is about responding to population growth of 2 million by 2036. Beyond 2036, the same yet bigger problems will apply for the next generation to address, with continued reduction in biodiversity and wild places, continued city and regional expansion, continued urban densification and continued demand for more resources.

When 2 million people are reached, then population growth will not simply stop. How will South Australia maintain its liveability, its environment and its economy then and after, if it is not possible maintain our environment and ecosystems now?

Whilst there might not be easy solutions, and the population/sustainability challenge won't be solved in this process, there should at least be a caveat/acknowledgement in this Vision that responding to continued population growth is not sustainable.

**Re: PART 3: PRINCIPLES OF GOOD PLANNING**

The Principles of Good Planning sound very promising; however, these are meaningless as they sit outside a legislated SPP. By the time that the document gets to the SPP on Good Design, the meaning has been washed away and the Good Design principles are written as vague commentary to mean nothing as development the way it is currently undertaken, continues to change the landscape for the worse. Clearance to bare dirt will continue to be the preferred starting point for many or most new build structures, devoid of regard for canopy and biodiversity and placements and at the fringes, continuing into native vegetation, requiring yet more clearance to make them safe.

The sum of the SPPs does not currently add up to achieve or support the Principles of Good Planning. They don't get close to what is required to protect biodiversity, ecosystems or to achieve a green Adelaide.

**RECOMMENDATION:** the Principles of Good Planning should be elevated to be the key legislated policy with a development test that simply asks how planning and development projects are supporting those principles, and if not, why not (using evidence based answers).

**Re: STATE PLANNING POLICY 1: INTEGRATED PLANNING**

These policies talk about balancing economic, social and environmental policy “questions” which is entirely the wrong approach to address simultaneous needs. The current NRM Act talks about Ecologically Sustainable Development which also demonstrates a misunderstanding of the concept of Sustainable Development (as this incorporates the three core elements including the environment), and there is no clear commitment to Sustainable Development in the parallel NRM/Landscape Reform Discussion Paper. Either the South Australian Government has a commitment to sustainable development or it does not. If it does, it should be clearly and succinctly expressed in all relevant legislation and policy.

Kind regards

Ben Wells