

## DTI:Planning Review

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**From:** Anne Wharton <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, 17 October 2022 2:01 PM  
**To:** DPC:Premier; Planning Minister, Mr Nick Champion; DTI:Planning Review  
**Cc:** Michelle Lensink, Shadow Minister for Planning  
**Subject:** Implementation Review of the Planning and Design Code - Submission

Dear Premier, Minister and Planning Review Expert Panel

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Implementation Review of the Planning and Design Code (PDC).

I am particularly concerned about the loss of tree canopy throughout Adelaide – the impact of the PDC and our poor regulations has been enormous over the last few years. I live in the Unley Council area and have been devastated by the recent loss of 2 huge River red gums in the block behind mine. The trees would have been more than 150 years old and offered sanctuary to all kinds of wildlife, as well as giving us a myriad of environmental benefits. They were appreciated not only by my family, but by the wider community as they were a strong visual element in the landscape. These two trees were right near the owners' back fence and should never have been removed. Several top arborists in the state had declared the trees were healthy and had decades more life in them. The first one was removed in 2017, leading to the deterioration of the second and its removal a month ago. The reasons being unrestrained residential development, fear, ignorance and a lack of regulatory mechanisms to protect significant trees on private land.

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 the 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, as per Labor's 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 urge you to support these changes.

Trees are a critical component to healthy and thriving communities, particularly being aware of the effects that climate change is having on our communities. I urge you to heed the calls from individuals and organisations across Adelaide, to change the laws so that the loss of our tree canopy is halted. I sincerely hope that the expert panel will meet the community's expectations by genuine listening and responding to their calls for change.

Kind regards

Anne Wharton [REDACTED]

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"The tree which moves some to tears of joy is in the Eyes of others only a Green thing which stands in the way" - William Blake