

## DTI:Planning Review

---

**From:** david [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 13 December 2022 7:55 AM  
**To:** Principal Kath McGuigan; Rosette de los Reyes; Mary MacKillop Admin; catholic Education SA; DPC:Premier; Office of the Deputy Premier; DTI:Office of Minister Champion; DTI:Plan SA; DTI:Planning Review; SA Planning Commission; DTI:SPC Applications  
**Cc:** Dunstan EO; DEW:GreenAdelaide; NPSP\_Dev; Councillor Christel Lorraine Mex; Joanna Wells; Save Our Trees  
**Subject:** Tree is Love  
**Attachments:** Love the Tree.pdf

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]



*"How is it possible that the most intellectual being that ever walked the planet is destroying its only home?"*

Doctor Jane Goodall - [Plea for the Planet](#).

Principal McGuigan I wrote to you November 30 2021. I was worried that the tree had already been annexed for an extended period. I worried why it was demonised rather than maintained. I was concerned that perhaps MMV intended to remove it. Principal McGuigan you replied to me assuring me that "The tree is not in danger".

Now my neighbours are all come to me saying that that is not the case and that they have received note saying the tree is to be removed.

This tree is the most beautiful, most magnificent, valuable item inside the MMC boundaries. It is an exalted, life giving and life sustaining treasure. The tree should be treated with utmost reverence.

It is a mortal error to believe that that which saves is harmful.

Believing vaccination is poison, disseminating that view will not only harm oneself but endanger many others. Treating it as a villain and it is an unredeemable transgression to believe, proselytise or label it otherwise.

Many rare protected native mammals and birds live in this tree. They have raised many generations of their young here. It is their home. Ringtail Possum families, Brushtail Possum, Koala, Laughing Kookaburras, Wood Ducks, Lorikeet and many other protected native birds and mammals live in the tree. The protected Grey headed flying foxes visit the tree every evening swirling around it at twilight before landing and feasting on its flowers.

I have personally rescued Koala from high street in front of MMC Office. Koala was looking for the large gum that once graced the lawn in front of the office building. However, he could not find it as it had been removed. I was all that stood between him and Portrush Road. I have also seen Koala crawl under the MMC side gate and race up this glorious River Red.

When a tree is taken down the residents do not just flitter and flutter away to a new home. They don't just scamper off to the next nearest tree. They die, their babies die and their family line is extinguished for all eternity.

Make no mistake, they die! - They all die. They die horribly and alone.

Some will be cut in half in their dens. Mother and baby sawn in half in front of their siblings, father his left hip, leg and tail are gone and he will die. Some will die immediately from the stress. Some will die in the chipper. Others will die days or weeks later from myopathy, the permanent damage to their organs from the stress of the event and subsequent loss of their universe. They will die trapped in our stormwater drains, roasted on our engine blocks, diced by our fans and roller doors, decapitated by our fan belts, mutated by our dogs, torn apart by our cats, flattened by our cars, fried and blown apart by our power network, poisoned, terrorised, bashed and left for dead by our fellow humans. They die of grief, homelessness, exposure and hopelessness. The inns are fully booked and all stables are the domain of ignorant, selfish, men, averse to all but their own personal stupidity. Do not deceive oneself, if you nuke their universe, they have absolutely no where to go and will die.

This winter and spring saw seemingly endless severe weather warnings. Wave after wave of damaging winds were reported. Yet despite its lack of maintenance these last two years the MMC tree did not drop so much as a dry twig.

The looming peril to MMC students, to their lives, to their futures, to the families they may raise is Climate Change. Climate, Heart Disease, Skin-Cancer, Bowel Cancer, Suicide, Asthma, Pandemic, these are the real threats to MMV Students.

Sport is what injured us at school. Basketball, football, soccer, softball, lacrosse etc. For some of us the damage was for life. Basketball put me in hospital three times for surgery and that was after we finally got off the stinking freezing asphalt and swapped blood and gravel for boards that melted our nylon shorts to our bodies.

No doubt you each have a memory of the tragedy that happened in your final years... gum tree fell on a kid in your class? ... For me it was the twin of the girl in my class. Reached for her bag driving down Brighton Road, smashed into parked car, her head went through the side window, she lost her eye and had her face permanently cleaved. I have no recollection of any harmed by a tree they hadn't fallen out of. The daily commute to and from MMC is quite possibly the most dangerous activity students, staff and parents engage in but we cannot tape off the outside world.

Trip in gumbies on a paver brick, somersault then impale head on Mary's praying hands is possible. Sharknado in the southern goal square is more likely than injury, disfigurement or death by gumtree. The students are safer once at school. It is the commute to and from that is most dangerous.

A culture of aversion & fear of eucalypts exists in the Josephite community. A culture whose primary concern is the growth of Jesus in children's hearts rather than the growth of environment in which those hearts will beat, face endless challenges and raise their children. A culture that elevates its species above all others. That has no respect, past, present or emerging for country they have conquered or been gifted. Josephites have been removing the pre-Josephite trees from the banks and surrounds of Second Creek since 1941.

[SJMS-History.pdf](#) by Hilary Raimondo 1992

p7) note from

8) Minutes of St Joseph's Memorial School Board 1968-1974

p8) St Ignatius Calendar, February 1941 from

9) Guide for School Board Members Pt 1 Catholic Schools Handbook SACCS

p15) *"At the intersection of Portrush Road and William Street were the monkey bars. Towering over these were two gum trees all that remained of the magnificent stand of gum trees that had once lined Second Creek. The last remaining gum tree was eventually cut down at the cost of £100."*

Saint Joseph's have no trees remaining, Saint Ignatius Junior has managed to retain just three, the convent has removed all eucalypts. But for MMC this is the last one standing. This significant tree would have been significantly present in 1963 when they obtained the Philips Street property.

I have lived next to the college since 1999. Google Earth Pro has satellite imagery back to March 2000. It shows many trees have been taken from MMC. In 2002 they cleared the trees from their fence line with the pool, another disappears in 2006. In 2010 a significant tree is removed from the courtyard/cloister. This building had originally been designed to incorporate around it in the first place. By 2012 they have removed all trees from between the transportables and the library. The remaining old growth River Red had two others beside it still existent in 2010 but gone in 2012. Earlier shots show 3 or four trees to the south of the tennis courts. These were removed to put the water tank and shed. The same tank and shed that MMC will now remove. The magnificent eucalyptus disappears from MMC front office on High Street by 2016 endangering the Koala featured above. Their last remaining tree on Philips Street side is removed in 2021. One can still see this tree in 3D google maps and on google earth pro.

This document shows large trees and classrooms together p4 & p16 & p23  
[better-placed-environmental-design-in-schools-2018-10-29.pdf](#)

I have rescued Possums, Koalas, Echidna and Birds from schools from Brownhill Creek to the South to Fourth Creek to the North East. It is common to find large trees over playgrounds, on ovals, and close to buildings in schools in SA as most schools recognise the value, they give reverence and do their best to protect the 'asset' and its inhabitants.

Covet not the neighbouring Girls College's facilities. With eleven single gendered schools for girls Adelaide suffers a major oversupply. Annual growth rate of enrolments in SA high schools is 0.6%. Single gender, high schools attract just a fraction of that or are in decline. The number of children in the area is in decline, the number of Catholics in the area is in decline, and the number of students seeking single gender tuition is in decline.

*"We live in a strange world where we think  
we can buy or build our way out of a crisis  
that has been created by buying and building things."*

Greta Thunberg - [2019 Golden Kamera Awards](#)

A high school catering to an ultra-niche group on a tiny footprint can never compete for enrolments with the likes of Saint Aloysius, Saint Peters Girls and Loretto they just do not have the footprint. The one thing MMC has that SAC will never is a glorious and magnificent tree. Eleven schools for girls in Adelaide is unsustainable. The clever organisations will switch to aged care before they miss that boat.

Removing this old growth tree is antithesis of responsible, ethical development. A decision to remove it defies the very science technology & engineering MMC will teach. Somewhere along the line a person conjured this unethical plan. Violating all science and principals this iniquitous plan has passed through the school board, the

stooge arborist, the amoral department of structures, the negligent, rubber stamping, complicit planning department and the impotent environment protectors.

Arrest this historic decision from these clowns. Entrust it to those whose lives the consequences will impact most significantly. Hand it to MMC STEM students to solve. Place science at their feet. Have them assess the threat level the tree poses to Students Staff and Parents. Have MMC STEM students determine the tree's Value. Have the STEM Students engineer the solutions. They will reassure MMC that the tree will not damage the proposed rectangular cuboid and that they have solutions to mitigate the high ultra violet radiation and impact levels students are exposed to on the highly dangerous outdoor multi-sport courts.

*"Is this how our story is due to end? A tale of the  
smartest species doomed by that all too human characteristic  
of failing to see the bigger picture in pursuit of short term goals.  
Perhaps the fact that the people most affected by climate change  
are no longer some imagined future generation,  
but young people alive today,  
perhaps that will give us the impetus we need to rewrite our story,  
to turn this tragedy into a triumph."*

Sir David Attenborough - [Plea for the Planet](#).

David Revell

