

## DTI:Planning Review

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**From:** Lynda Yates <campaigns@good.do>  
**Sent:** Monday, 24 October 2022 6:53 PM  
**To:** DTI:Office of Minister Champion; Michelle Lensink; Peter Malinauskas; DTI:Planning Review  
**Subject:** Large trees need time to grow but we need them

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

My council area, Holdfast Bay, has one of the lowest tree canopy coverages in Adelaide, which itself has the lowest state capital tree canopy cover and SA is one of the least treed states so we are lowest of the low!

We need large trees for their ecosystem services - cleaning polluted air, adding oxygen to it, moving stormwater quickly underground to save flooding, shading streets and cooling urban heat islands plus they look beautiful and the greenery reduces stress and mental illness. Our urban wildlife needs old native trees with hollows and they take several hundred years to grow! Please help save them - for all our sakes.  
Yet SA has the weakest tree protection laws in Australia!

Councils cannot get to a basic 30% tree canopy cover with only their streets and reserves - we need private gardens with trees to reach that aim but they are being subdivided and totally cleared to build huge houses on very small blocks with no room for any size of tree. Tree canopy cover is reducing not increasing!

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.

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,  
Lynda Yates  
South Australia, 5049, Australia

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Please reply to Lynda Yates at [REDACTED]

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