

DTI:Planning Review

From: Rachel Murchland <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Monday, 5 December 2022 8:43 PM
To: DTI:Office of Minister Champion; Michelle Lensink; Peter Malinauskas; DTI:Planning Review
Subject: Please protect the future of our trees, and climate

For years I have worked towards protecting and improving the greening, cooling and climate resilience of our urban environments but for all the progress we have made in the public realm, the private realm and urban infill has continued to work away from protecting the one thing we need above all else to protect our health in so many ways and that is the protection of trees in the urban environment.

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 addressing the issues and concerns raised with action in the planning and design code.

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.

Further to this I would add that we need to aim to increase our urban canopy goals regardless of current % canopy coverage. There needs to be more community education and tree loppers/arborists regarding the requirements for tree protection in all parts of the state. And to protect our existing trees it would be best if we can increase localised passive stormwater infiltration on new properties or extensions.

Yours sincerely,
Rachel Murchland
South Australia, 5039, Australia

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Please reply to Rachel Murchland at [REDACTED]

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