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27 Nov 2018

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#### **Further submissions re Planning & Design code: Natural Resources and Environment**

In addition to the submissions I made on 12 October which highlighted the importance of three newly-released reports – the IPCC's, *Global Warming of 1.5°C*, the Climate Council's *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: Limiting Temperature Rise to 1.5° C*, and DEWNR's *Tracking Changes in South Australia's Environment* – I make the following submissions about what needs to be included in the Planning and Design Code to protect our natural resources and the environment.

#### Significant Tree legislation

I note that section 68 (yet to commence) of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* prescribes the conditions under which the Planning and Design Code can declare a tree to be significant, and that such declarations must satisfy criteria prescribed by regulations which do not yet exist.

Thus the current consultation process provides an opportunity to suggest what criteria should be prescribed by legislation to protect significant and regulated trees. Broadly, I submit that the prescribed criteria should strengthen the current protections that exist, and at the very least should restore the protection (in relation to species, trunk size etc) that existed prior to detrimental changes brought in by the previous government in 2012.

Providing more protection for trees would be consistent with advice given by Planning Minister Stephan Knoll and State Planning Commissioner Michael Lennon when they were guest speakers at the Annual General Meeting of Community Alliance SA on 22 November 2018:-

Question from the floor – *Can the tree protection laws be reviewed to become more effective as many trees have been removed despite the intent of the significant tree legislation?*

Response from Minister Knoll and Commissioner Lennon – *Yes, this is being considered given the need for additional landscaped open spaces and trees both on private and public land.*

It is important to acknowledge that protection for trees is synonymous with protecting biodiversity. Trees provide habitat and food source for many native birds and animals in the metropolitan area.

Most importantly, trees can mitigate the risks associated with climate change. Trees absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store the carbon for as long as they retain their physical form thus acting as a carbon sink. Trees also provide valuable shade and cooler air temperature to combat the heat island effect in built up areas.

#### Protecting Adelaide's trees and gardens – Residential Character Zones

I'm glad Minister Knoll and Commissioner Lennon acknowledged the need for additional open space and trees on private and public land. I submit there is one thing that will effectively counter the loss of tree cover and biodiversity, and mitigate the effects of climate change, and it will require absolutely no effort and no public resources – leave Historic Conservation Areas and Residential Character Zones as they are. The collective Residential Character Zones across metropolitan Adelaide, with their trees, lawns and gardens on larger blocks, perform a valuable function as a carbon sink, contribute significantly to the metro area's tree canopy cover, and provide a network of green corridors to support biodiversity.

Incorporating the existing Historic Conservation Areas and Residential Character Zones in the Planning and Design Code will;

- Significantly contribute to carbon dioxide sequestration by trees, lawns and shrubs
- Significantly contribute to tree canopy cover
- Significantly reduce heat island effect
- Provide biodiversity corridors for native wildlife (birds, bees, butterflies, lizards, frogs etc)
- Enhance people's wellbeing and quality of life
- Provide housing choice for a style of home that is still widely sought after

Yours sincerely,



Carol Faulkner, concerned citizen.