



INQUIRY INTO

# THE URBAN FOREST

## INTERIM REPORT

2<sup>nd</sup> report of the

**ENVIRONMENT, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE**

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*Tabled in the House of Assembly and ordered to be published on 18 October 2023*

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**First Session, Fifty-fifth Parliament**



# 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 17 October 2022, the Environment, Resources and Development committee (the committee) resolved to conduct an inquiry into the urban forest with Terms of Reference developed and agreed on 14 November 2022.

This inquiry topic was developed in the context of the committee's concerns about the effect of residential subdivisions, urban infill and higher density living on the declining tree canopy in metropolitan Adelaide. A recent report from the Conservation Council of SA estimates that Greater Adelaide is losing 75,000 trees a year.<sup>1</sup> Declining tree canopy is a particular concern for urban areas given increasing temperatures associated with climate change. In order to preserve the liveability of Australian cities *increased* vegetation and tree canopy is needed to shade and cool urban areas. With declining tree canopy, urban areas are at risk of becoming less liveable, with some urban areas in Australian cities even becoming potentially uninhabitable due to increased temperatures.

A recent Aerometrex study into tree canopy for the whole of Adelaide (using LiDAR and based on 2018 data) estimates a tree canopy covers just 23.37% of the metropolitan area. Of the canopy that remains, 51.9% is on private land, 25.9% on state government land, and 10.9% on local government land.<sup>2</sup> In 2017, the 30-Year Plan target for tree canopy in Adelaide stated that council areas with less than 30% tree canopy need to increase urban tree canopy cover by 20% by 2045.<sup>3</sup>

The committee will explore best practice measures to increase the canopy and look to facilitate improved tree species selection so that trees have the best chance of surviving and thriving in our changing climate. The committee will also investigate legislative or regulatory options with potential to improve the resilience of (new and existing) trees in the urban forest.

Following advertising on social media, in *The Advertiser* and regional newspapers, the committee received 229 submissions. So far, the committee has heard from 21 witnesses, and witness hearings will continue over the course of the inquiry.

Based on the preliminary evidence received and heard by the committee to date, members have issued 13 interim recommendations (plus two sub-recommendations) that focus on regulatory change to better value and protect existing trees and to facilitate the planting of more trees. Further community education to raise awareness of the value of the urban canopy and investment in vital research, is also recommended.

From the evidence the committee has received, it is clear that trees have been undervalued for too long, and that this has led to many trees being needlessly removed.

While demand for housing increases, and so does the rate of urban infill, the canopy is threatened by development. The recommendations put together by the committee seek to ensure that established trees are appropriately valued and preserved and that new trees are planted to grow the existing urban canopy. This requires action by those who hold custody of trees on both private and public land.

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<sup>1</sup> M Ballantyne, P Croft, A Doolette, L Montero, T Morrison, D Peacock, K Sutcliffe, J Wells and C Wilkins, '[A Call to Action: Protecting Adelaide's Tree Canopy](#)', Conservation Council SA, 2021, accessed 2 June 2023.

<sup>2</sup> '[Working towards a greener, more resilient Adelaide](#)', Aerometrex, 2021, accessed 2 June 2023.

<sup>3</sup> '[Living Adelaide: The 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide 2017 Update](#)', Government of South Australia | Plan SA, 2021, accessed 2 June 2023.

This is the Inquiry's first tranche of recommendations. The committee will continue with the inquiry, and further discussion and recommendations will be contained in the Final Report in 2024.

In the committee's view, these recommendations are among the most salient, urgent and straightforward that the committee intends to make.

The committee makes these interim recommendations in the early stages of its inquiry into the Urban Forest to:

- respond to the clear community call for urgent action on arresting the decline of the urban tree canopy;
- provide timely feedback and recommendations to government, without further or unnecessary delay;
- provide transparency to the public about the committee's progress and thinking on key issues, and accountability to those people and organisations who've made submission to the inquiry so far; and
- stimulate community debate on this issue and specifically the topics covered by these interim recommendations.

The recommendations also serve as a foundation for further recommendations the committee intends and expects to make into the new year.

The committee welcomes feedback and engagement on these recommendations and urges the responsible Ministers to act on these interim recommendations without undue delay.

## 2. CHAIR'S FOREWORD

*"Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago."*

Investor and multi-billionaire Warren Buffett is widely credited with this quote and it is maybe one that encapsulates the ambitions of this committee.

Mr Buffett might not be known for his environmentalism, but the quote testifies to the importance of our actions in the present to our collective future – and that is sharply in focus when it comes to our environment.

However, the need for action to protect our threatened urban tree canopy is not simply necessary to ensure our future, but to secure our present and address past shortcomings.

There is a pressing need in the current moment to ensure the liveability of our suburban neighbourhoods as well as maintain habitat for our fauna, absorb heat generated by our built environment, and to combat the effects of climate change.

We also need to grapple with the action, or inaction, of those who went before us, in terms of the depletion of the urban canopy.

While it is easy, and maybe common, to write-off those who campaign for the preservation of trees as 'greenies' and 'tree huggers', increasingly our communities are demanding a more considered approach to tree protection and growth in the context of urban development.

Studies show the greatest tree loss in South Australia is occurring in our inner suburbs and CBD. While tree protection is important across our state, data shows that the inner urban area of greater Adelaide is the hot spot for tree loss.

Concurrently, the committee is continually turning its mind to other pressing challenges for our community – namely the shortage of affordable housing. As legislators, we need to be innovative and inventive to help address housing shortages as well as making sure those residential environments are not devoid of trees.

The committee has received an almost overwhelming, but not unexpected, response from the community to its calls for feedback on the issue of protection of the urban forest.

Many MPs in inner metropolitan Adelaide would have had constituents raise the issue of tree destruction with them. As an MP for the inner southwestern suburbs, I am no different. Throughout my time as an MP, tree removal has been raised with me very regularly – primarily in terms of the need for preservation.

I was particularly motivated to seek the support of the ERDC and establish this inquiry due to a particular tree removal at North Plympton. This instance appeared to me to be both unnecessary and a violation of the original intent of tree removal laws.

In the North Plympton instance, a very healthy, unobtrusive gum estimated to be about 80 years old was removed without any permit or consent required under law. The tree was on the edge of the corner block and redevelopment of the site could have been achieved without the removal of the healthy tree.

The developer was able to remove the tree on two fronts. Firstly, although native trees are generally provided some protection, as a lemon-scented gum, this specific species is not protected. Secondly, the developer relied on the presence of a dwelling within ten metres of the tree.

The dwelling had been in existence for as long as the tree and there was no evidence put forward that the tree was causing any damage to the house.

The developer had always intended to remove the existing dwelling and stated so in his development application to the council. The house ended up being removed before the tree. Yet the so-called 'ten-metre rule' was still applied, enabling the tree to be chopped down, legally.

It struck me that the original intent of the 'ten-metre rule' was to enable the removal of a tree on private land if that tree was causing damage to a dwelling or might potentially cause damage. However, that is plainly not a factor if the dwelling is removed. To me, this case showed a misuse and manipulation of the regulation to achieve an outcome that was not originally intended.

These issues have featured in the evidence to the committee so far, but the committee has also heard far broader feedback, with many witnesses expressing the need for swift action.

In recognition of the urgency to address excessive tree removal, the committee has decided to issue a series of interim recommendations.

It is intended that these interim recommendations are centred around key themes and will provide prompt direction to the Government and Parliament on this pressing issue, while also encouraging public conversation and ongoing feedback to the committee as it proceeds.

These 13 interim recommendations represent the 'low hanging fruit' or obvious changes needed from the evidence the committee has received so far. The committee hopes these recommendations will provide a launch point for government and the impetus for immediate action.

However, these 13 recommendations are not the committee's findings in total and our work will likely continue into 2024.

The committee is keen to further investigate the role of arborists, government powers and responsibilities, trees and bushfires, the interaction of utilities and the urban canopy, as well as several other key areas. We look forward to continuing our considered, consultative, and detailed work into these areas and reporting back to the community and Parliament.

The committee welcomes feedback and public debate on these 13 recommendations and will consider those views as we work towards a final comprehensive report.

I thank all who have already contributed to the process and these interim recommendations. I thank those who are patiently awaiting our further work.

We urge the government to take heed of these bipartisan recommendations and act with urgency in response.



**Jayne Stinson MP**

**CHAIR**

**18 October 2023**

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### **3. ENVIRONMENT, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

The Environment, Resources and Development Committee was established pursuant to the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991 on 3 December 2003.

Its membership is:

Ms Jayne Stinson MP (Presiding Member)

Hon Emily Bourke MLC

Hon Tammy Franks MLC

Hon Michelle Lensink MLC

Mr Nick McBride MP

Ms Erin Thompson MP

Parliamentary Officer to the Committee: Mr Patrick Dupont

Research Officer to the Committee: Dr Amy Mead

#### **3.1 FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE**

Pursuant to section 15L of the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991, the functions of the Committee are:

- (a) to inquire into, consider and report on such of the following matters as are referred to it under this Act:
  - (i) any matter concerned with the environment or how the quality of the environment might be protected or improved;
  - (ii) any matter concerned with the resources of the State or how they might be better conserved or utilised;
  - (iii) any matter concerned with planning, land use or transportation;
  - (iv) any matter concerned with the general development of the State;
- (b) to perform such other functions as are imposed on the Committee under this or any other Act or by resolution of both Houses.

#### **3.2 REFERRAL PROCESS**

Pursuant to section 16(1) of the Act, any matter that is relevant to the functions of the Committee may be referred to it in the following ways:

- (a) by resolution of the Committee's appointing House or Houses, or either of the Committee's appointing Houses;



(b) by the Governor, or by notice published in the Gazette;

or

(c) of the Committee's own motion.

### **3.3 TERMS OF REFERENCE**

On 17 October 2022, the Environment, Resources and Development committee resolved to conduct an inquiry into the urban forest with Terms of Reference to be developed and agreed.

On 14 November 2022, the Environment, Resources and Development Committee agreed to the following Terms of Reference:

1. Best practice and innovative measures to assist in the selection and maintenance of site appropriate tree species to improve the resilience of the urban forest, with a focus on trees for urban infill developments;
2. Legislative and regulatory options to improve the resilience and longevity of trees comprising the urban forest; and
3. Any other related matters

### **3.4 CONDUCT OF INQUIRY**

Advertisements calling for submissions featured in 3 December 2022 edition of *The Advertiser*, and a small number of other publications (Gawler Bunyip, Mount Barker Courier, Adelaide Hills Herald) around the same date. An example of one of the advertisements (describing the Terms of Reference) is provided in Appendix 8.1.

The inquiry was also promoted via the Parliament of South Australia's website and social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter/X). Some committee members also chose to share calls for submissions via their social media accounts.

The committee received 184 submissions via email (see Appendix 8.2 for list), and also made use of Microsoft Forms allowing respondents to make online short-form submissions quickly and easily. This avenue attracted 45 additional respondents (see Appendix 8.3 for list). The total number of submissions was 229.

Up to this point, the committee has undertaken 5 hearings, taking oral evidence from a total of 21 witnesses. All witness hearings were transcribed by Hansard. Corrected Hansard transcripts of the hearings are available on the committee website.

Face to face committee meetings and hearings were held in Old Parliament House, Adelaide. From time to time, witnesses and Members chose to attend meetings and hearings electronically via Microsoft Teams. A list of hearings is provided in Appendix 8.4.

## 4. INTERIM RECOMMENDATIONS

### Status of Interim Recommendations

This Urban Forest Inquiry Interim Report contains interim recommendations. These recommendations have the same status as recommendations contained within Inquiry Final Reports. Copies of this Interim Report together with these interim recommendations will be referred to relevant Ministers seeking a response within four months as per S19 (2) (a) of the Parliamentary Committees Act (1991). These recommendations are considered 'interim' as they are based on evidence received to date in the Inquiry. Further evidence will be sought beyond that presented in this Interim Report and it is anticipated that this evidence will result in further recommendations set out in the Urban Forest Inquiry Final Report.

### Summary list of Recommendations

The Environment, Resources and Development committee has devised 13 interim recommendations around the following themes:

- Exemption distances
- Species exemptions
- Trunk size
- Canopy cover
- Fee for legal tree removal
- Fee for illegal tree removal
- Tree removal fund
- Community-based tree protection

### Exemption distances

**Recommendation 1:** Remove the exemption to allow removal of any tree within ten metres of a residential dwelling or swimming pool within the Greater Adelaide area.

Applications for tree removal on this basis should be made to the relevant authority with a determination to be made based on merit. Reasonable grounds for removal may include:

- existing or imminent risk to property, infrastructure, or people
- the lack of any alternative, achievable solutions despite thorough investigation of such options (e.g. building around tree, pruning, tree replacement).

**Recommendation 1a:** If recommendation 1 is not adopted, it is recommended that exemption distances should:

1. only be applied where a dwelling or pool is in place at the time of the application for tree removal and will remain in place thereafter. That is, an applicant can't remove a tree if the dwelling/pool will be imminently removed or has already been removed.
2. only apply to the property on which the trunk is predominantly located, that is, neighbours cannot insist on tree removal on land that it not owned by them.

## Species exemptions

**Recommendation 2:** Form a specialist panel to review the current species exemption list and advise the Minister on:

- pest and dangerous species to remain on the list,
- the removal of unwarranted species from the list,
- the period of regular review of the list and method by which this review is conducted.

When providing advice, the panel should also consider local implications and the impact on total private canopy if common species are allowed to be destroyed easily.

The panel should include experts with specialist knowledge about tree species (such as those the fields of botany, environmental science, horticulture and arboriculture).

**Recommendation 3:** Provide adequate funding for increased research into identifying resilient future species for private and public land in metropolitan Adelaide.

## Trunk size

**Recommendation 4:** Tighten the definition of regulated and significant trees to better align with national standards, by significantly reducing the trunk circumference definition of both regulated and significant trees.

The Committee recommends reducing the trunk circumference for regulated trees to 1 metre (down from 2 metres) and the trunk circumference for significant trees to 2 metres (down from 3 metres).

*Note:* The same method of calculating the circumference should continue to apply.

## Canopy Cover

**Recommendation 5:** Strengthen the protection of urban trees by widening the definition of significant and regulated trees to include canopy cover measurement, as well as trunk circumference.

Introduce canopy cover criteria to the definition of regulated and significant trees, bringing SA into line with national standards.

A tree would be classified as regulated or protected based on fulfilling one or both of the criteria, that is, trunk circumference *or* canopy spread.

These canopy spread distances and the method of calculation should be based on expert advice to the Minister, drawing on interstate approaches.

## Fee for legal tree removal

**Recommendation 6:** Greatly increase the fee for legally removing a tree on a residential property within the Greater Adelaide metropolitan area:

- From \$326 per regulated tree to \$3000
- From \$489 per significant tree to \$4000

**Recommendation 6a:** That the Government further assess options allowing residents to enter an agreement with the relevant authority to replace the removed trees at a minimum 3:1 ratio on the land under strict conditions, in lieu of payment of the fee. If the agreement is not fulfilled, it is suggested a fine would apply of twice the above amounts.

## Fee for illegal tree removal

**Recommendation 7:** Introduce a new discrete penalty for illegally removing tree/s or conducting illegal tree damaging activities on a property within the greater Adelaide metropolitan area, with the penalty amount set ten times (10x) greater than the fee for legally removing a tree (as per Recommendation 6).

**Recommendation 7a:** The Local Government Minister reviews the tree removal and tree damaging laws under the *Local Government Act 1999*.

## Urban Forest Fund

**Recommendation 8:** A new Urban Forest Fund is set up (separate to the Planning and Development Fund) solely for money raised from legal and illegal tree removal.

**Recommendation 9:** That proceeds from the Urban Forest Fund are spent on initiatives to grow the urban canopy, proximate to the area where the tree removal has occurred.

**Recommendation 10:** An annual report is provided to both Houses of Parliament by the Planning Minister on the Urban Forest Fund including:

- how many trees are legally and illegally removed resulting in payment to the fund
- how many trees were replaced using funds from the Urban Forest Fund
- the localities from which trees were removed and replaced
- the total income and expenditure from the Fund
- any reported failures to pay into the Fund.

## Community-based tree protection

**Recommendation 11:** Boost funding for community-based tree planting and maintenance initiatives, and additional government funding for community-based initiatives that increase the urban canopy. Councils should be required to prove schemes are resulting in retention and/or new plantings. Such programs might include providing free or low-cost saplings, tree health reports and maintenance for residents seeking to preserve mature trees.

**Recommendation 12:** Allow community and non-government groups to bid for funds from the Planning and Development Fund for open green space and tree retention projects, not just councils.

**Recommendation 13:** Significantly fund Arbor Day across South Australia. Funding should be aimed at improving community awareness about the important role of trees to our environment and lifestyle and the dangers of tree loss. Funding should be available for community activities that promote these aims.

## **5. INTRODUCTION**

### **5.1 Acknowledgement of country**

This inquiry looks at urban forest of the Greater Adelaide area, on the lands of the Kaurna and Peramangk peoples. The Environment, Resources and Development Committee acknowledges their ongoing relationship to Country. The committee acknowledges and respects Aboriginal peoples as the state's first peoples and nations and recognises them as traditional owners, occupants and custodians of land and waters in South Australia.

### **5.2 The inquiry**

On 17 October 2022, the Environment, Resources and Development committee resolved to conduct an inquiry into the urban forest with Terms of Reference to be developed and agreed.

On 14 November 2022, the Environment, Resources and Development Committee agreed to the following Terms of Reference:

1. Best practice and innovative measures to assist in the selection and maintenance of site appropriate tree species to improve the resilience of the urban forest, with a focus on trees for urban infill developments;
2. Legislative and regulatory options to improve the resilience and longevity of trees comprising the urban forest; and
3. Any other related matters

This Interim Report examines the evidence taken thus far in the inquiry and provides interim recommendations. The committee will continue to hear from witnesses and a final report, containing further recommendations will be forthcoming.

### **5.3 The urban forest**

An urban forest encompasses all the trees in an urban area, including trees on private land such as gardens and businesses, trees on state government land such as public schools, state parks and reserves, and trees on local government land such as local parks, reserves and streets. This inquiry is looking at Adelaide's urban forest, namely, the trees that span the greater Adelaide metropolitan area.

### **5.4 Tree canopy and canopy loss**

Tree canopy in the Adelaide metropolitan area is declining significantly in many suburbs as subdivisions and urban infill replaces gardens, trees, and brownfield sites with hard surfaces such as buildings, paving, driveways, parking and roads to support higher density living.

A recent report from the Conservation Council of SA estimates that Greater Adelaide is losing 75,000 trees a year.<sup>4</sup> According to a March 2022 Nearmap study, 131 Adelaide suburbs (representing 47% of suburbs overall) experienced a relative residential tree canopy loss

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<sup>4</sup> M Ballantyne, et al, ['A Call to Action: Protecting Adelaide's Tree Canopy'](#).

exceeding 10% between 2011 and 2021.<sup>5</sup> A 2021 Aerometrex study into tree canopy coverage for the whole of Adelaide based on 2018 data estimates that 23.37% of the metro area had tree canopy coverage, with 51.9% of tree canopy cover on private land, 25.9% on state government land, and 10.9% on local government land.<sup>6</sup>

Reductions in tree canopy – which provides shading and cooling through evapotranspiration – results in increased temperatures locally, creating an urban “heat island” effect due to hard surfaces absorbing and re-radiating more heat than vegetation. This has implications for the liveability of urban areas as climate induced temperature rises combine with this greater urban heat island effect to render some locations inhospitable.

As the climate changes, urban areas need to prepare for more extreme drought and heat and the impact such extremes will have on urban trees and plants. Many of the current species of trees that comprise the urban forest (trees on private land, street trees and park and reserve trees) may be unable to thrive in a hotter, drier climate and will need to be progressively replaced with more resilient species and fitted with water sensitive urban design infrastructure to assist with tree health and survival. Tree management practices such as pruning/removal for powerline clearances also have potential for modification to benefit canopy and tree health overall.<sup>7</sup>

The recommendations contained within this report look to ameliorate Adelaide’s canopy loss and make tangible changes for the protection and growth of the urban forest. These recommendations look to simplify the regulations around tree retention, to be more consistent with other Australian jurisdictions. Additionally, based on the quality of submissions and witness statements received by the committee, the members believe that there are skilled people with expertise who can improve the urban forest, and recommends that their skills and knowledge are valued accordingly. Lastly, the committee considers that further community education is required to promote the value that trees provide to our residential neighbourhoods and recommends that this is explored further.

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<sup>5</sup> M Bewley, ['Tree cover changes in Adelaide, Part 1'](#), Nearmap, March 2022, accessed 7 June 2023.

<sup>6</sup> ['Working towards a greener, more resilient Adelaide'](#), Aerometrex.

<sup>7</sup> R Hill, ['Trees, Cities, Drought and Extreme Heat'](#), September 2022, accessed 2 June 2023.

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS AND RATIONALE

### 6.1 Exemption distances

**Recommendation 1:** Remove the exemption to allow removal of any tree within ten metres of a residential dwelling or swimming pool within the Greater Adelaide area.

Applications for tree removal on this basis should be made to the relevant authority with a determination to be made based on merit. Reasonable grounds for removal may include:

- existing or imminent risk to property, infrastructure or people
- the lack of any alternative, achievable solutions despite thorough investigation of such options (e.g. building around tree, pruning, tree replacement).

**Recommendation 1a:** If recommendation 1 is not adopted, it is recommended that exemption distances should:

1. only be applied where a dwelling or pool is in place at the time of the application for tree removal and will remain in place thereafter. That is, an applicant can't remove a tree if the dwelling/pool will be imminently removed or has already been removed.
2. only apply to the property on which the trunk is predominantly located, that is, neighbours cannot insist on tree removal on land that it not owned by them.

Currently, under the Planning and Design Code, development approval is not required to remove a significant or regulated tree if the tree is located within 10 metres of an existing dwelling or an existing in-ground swimming pool.

Many of the submissions received by the committee called for what is often called “the 10-metre rule” to be reconsidered or abolished and have pointed out that this rule is inconsistent with most other jurisdictions nationally.<sup>8</sup>

In their submission, the St Peters Residents Association observed that, “few trees on suburban allotments are more than 10 metres from dwellings or swimming pools”.<sup>9</sup> Mr Tom Morrison of tree advocacy group 20 Metre Trees argued in his submission that the 10-metre rule

*is a primary cause of the wholesale corner to corner block clearing that occurs for development across metropolitan Adelaide. Critically, there are no checks and balances to assess that the tree is causing damage to an asset of value before it is removed.*<sup>10</sup>

The committee have noted that the current exemption distance rules can be manipulated: developers may rely on the presence of a dwelling to remove a tree, despite their intention to clear the block and remove the dwelling immediately afterwards. This defeats the original purpose of the rule. The existing rule was designed to allow easy removal of trees in the event they threatened a home or swimming pool, but this purpose is void if the building (or pool) is

<sup>8</sup> Submissions that made explicit reference to the rule (other than those listed in the following footnotes) were received from Page, Callen, City of West Torrens, Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium, City of Onkaparinga, Morrison, Gardner, NCSSA, Community Alliance SA, Green Adelaide, City of Mitcham, Kensington Residents Association, Mount Barker and District Residents Association, Trees for Life.

<sup>9</sup> St Peters Residents Association submission, p. 4.

<sup>10</sup> Morrison submission, p. 9.



removed or intended to be removed. Indeed, the City of Marion cited an example of this in their submission, referring to a Regulated Tree being removed as it was within 10 metres of an abandoned, filled-in swimming pool.<sup>11</sup>

Likewise, the installation of a pool when a tree already exists within ten metres, should not necessitate the removal of the pre-existing tree.

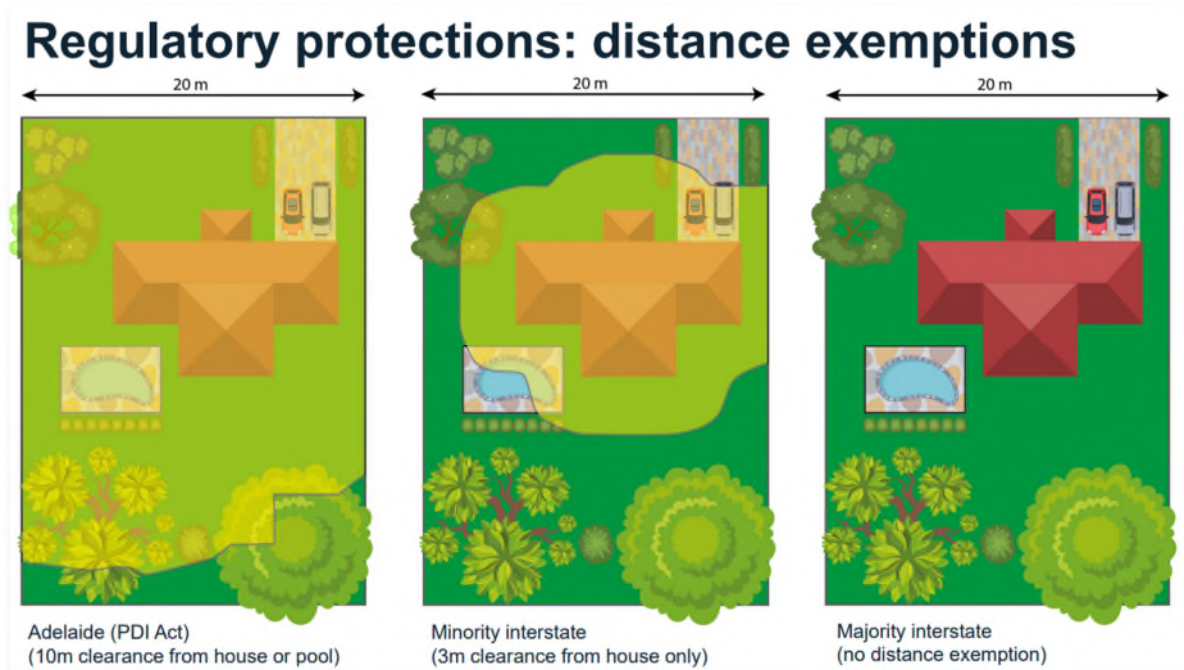


Figure 1 Slide from Dr Caddy-Retalic's presentation to the committee

In their submission, the South Australian Society of Arboriculture point out that if the 10-metre rule was to be abolished, that

*There are adequate provisions in Performance Outcome 1.3 in the Planning and Design Code currently in place for trees to be removed if and when they present an unacceptable problem, irrespective of their distance to a dwelling or inground swimming pool including:*

- *to remove a diseased tree where its life expectancy is short.*
- *to mitigate an unacceptable risk to public or private safety due to limb drop or the like.*
- *to rectify or prevent extensive damage to a building of value.<sup>12</sup>*

The committee recommends that if the rule was to be removed, applications for tree removal should be made to the decision-making authority and assessed based on merit.

Meritorious grounds for removal may include:

- existing or imminent risk to property, infrastructure, or people
- disease or critical structural failure

<sup>11</sup> City of Marion submission, p.21.

<sup>12</sup> South Australian Society of Arboriculture submission, p. 14-15. This is in reference to the PO 1.3 of the *Planning and Design Code Version 2023.13*, p. 4859.

- the lack of any alternative, achievable solutions despite thorough investigation of such options (e.g. building around tree, pruning, tree replacement).

Such determinations would be made by Council Assessment Panels (CAP) or State Commission Assessment Panel (SCAP) or any other body that makes decisions under the PDI Act, such as a court.

## 6.2 Species exemptions

**Recommendation 2:** Form a specialist panel to review the current species exemption list and advise the Minister on:

- pest and dangerous species to remain on the list,
- the removal of unwarranted species from the list,
- the period of regular review of the list and method by which this is achieved.

When providing advice, the panel should also consider local implications and the impact on total private canopy if common species are allowed to be destroyed easily.

The panel should include experts with specialist knowledge about tree species (such as those the fields of botany, environmental science, horticulture, and arboriculture).

The committee is concerned that the current species exemption list lacks nuance. Many of the trees that make up valuable canopy in Adelaide's suburbs are listed, and hence, vulnerable to destruction. The committee considers this list to be in need of review, and that this review should be conducted by a specialist panel.

The committee has received species specific advice and submissions, which an expert panel may wish to utilise. Unfortunately, the committee is not in a position to comprehensively review the list itself at this stage within its capabilities.

The committee was impressed by the work and expertise of TreeNet and Green Adelaide and highly recommends that these groups are involved in the review of species lists.

The work by the University of Adelaide to investigate and develop new species to tolerate climate change is also notable and should be part of the work examining appropriate species.

The committee recognises that the current exemption list does not take the changing needs of the urban forest into consideration, as Adelaide moves from a Mediterranean to a semi-arid climate. The committee recommends that revisions are made that account for the changing climate and the need for greater canopy to cool Adelaide's suburbs as the temperature rises.

The committee has heard a great deal about the value of species diversity in the urban forest and how this is key to a more resilient canopy.

Interestingly, it was also pointed out that the tendency to view native species as preferential to introduced species may not always be ideal, given the changing climate.

In a committee hearing, Dr Stefan Caddy-Retalic of the University of Adelaide spoke about the research he is doing with the Future Trees Project, and reminded members of the dangers of failing to prioritise diversity of species, stating,

*We need to rapidly diversify our urban forest. This is not just a question of planting native species—that is often put forward as a bit of a silver bullet. We are not going to be able to regain our pre-European plantings, and nor should we try. The requirements of our city today are very different from a native ecosystem. We have huge demands on our urban forest that aren't present in a woodland environment, and so we need to make sure that we are planting trees that perform well under the conditions that we have and provide the ecosystem services that we need, things like shade and hydrological control and health benefits. We shouldn't necessarily use pre-European vegetation as our guide—our needs are different. It's far harder for disease to establish and spread if a target has a low diversity and can't spread from one tree to its neighbour as well.<sup>13</sup>*

Dr Caddy-Retalic went on to explain the catastrophic effect that disease could have on Adelaide's canopy if it was to take hold, stating,

*Our low-diversity canopy is very vulnerable to pests and diseases. The less diverse our urban forest is the more vulnerable it is. If climate or disease knocks one species out, it could be nearly 10 per cent of our street trees. We could lose multiple species at once if a pest or disease targets a common group, like the eucalypts. [...] Some of the pests and diseases we have, like phytophthora and myrtle rust, can target a huge diversity of our trees. Imagine if we lost our jacarandas in Adelaide and how that might disproportionately impact some suburbs and the heritage values of those suburbs.<sup>14</sup>*

The need for species diversity is further highlighted by the Conservation Council in their submission as they make reference to avenue planting on Adelaide streets, where only one species of tree is planted along the nature strip along a street – a traditional choice that may look aesthetically pleasing but is “effectively [...] a mono-culture that is more susceptible to pests and diseases.”<sup>15</sup>

They succinctly posited that species selection also needs to be specific to the area: “right tree, right site, must be the focus”. They pointed out the variance in soil profiles across the Adelaide metropolitan area and employed the example of Black Ironbark (*Eucalyptus sideroxylon*), a tree that they report does not present problems in Mitcham Hills but causes issues in the Salisbury area like lifted footpaths and trip hazards.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Dr Stefan Caddy-Retalic hearing, p.9.

<sup>14</sup> p.9.

<sup>15</sup> Conservation Council submission, p. 9.

<sup>16</sup> Conservation Council submission, p. 8-9.



**Recommendation 3:** Provide adequate funding for increased research into identifying resilient future species for private and public land in metropolitan Adelaide.

The committee recommends that adequate funding is channelled to research to determine resilient future species suitable across Adelaide.

The committee believes that it is vital that research take into consideration South Australian conditions (such as soil and climate). In a committee hearing, Professor Robert Hill of the University of Adelaide discussed research that is being conducted interstate and explained that while the research is valuable, and can be taken advantage of in South Australia, it does focus on very different conditions – “very different climate with quite different problems.”<sup>17</sup>

It is apparent to the committee that many of the big questions about which species should be planted and where, are best answered by rigorous research, rather than guessing at site-suitable and resilient species.

The committee has heard of the legacy of previous inappropriate planting (in particular in relation to council street trees in some localities) and the changing climate necessitating a change in the species chosen.

The committee has been impressed with the work of experts such as Professor Hill and Dr Caddy-Retalic and believes that their extensive knowledge of Adelaide’s urban forest and its changing needs is essential to securing the canopy’s future. The committee considers the work that Prof Hill and Dr Caddy-Retalic are leading, to assess and develop new tree species that may better tolerate future conditions, is exciting and incredibly worthy of public and government support. The committee believes continuing and expanding this research is vital to securing the urban canopy.

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<sup>17</sup> Professor Robert Hill hearing, p. 36.

### 6.3 Trunk size

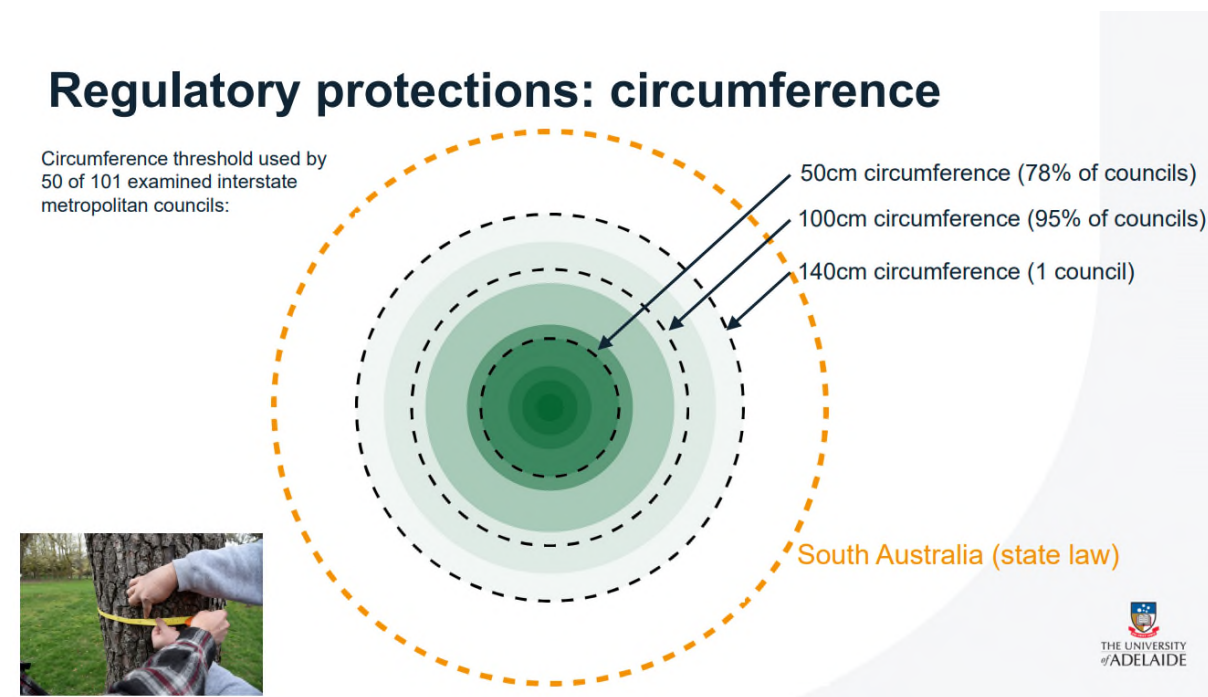
**Recommendation 4:** Tighten the definition of regulated and significant trees to better align with national standards, by significantly reducing the trunk circumference definition of both regulated and significant trees.

The committee suggests reducing the trunk circumference for regulated trees to 1 metre (down from 2 metres) and the trunk circumference for significant trees to 2 metres (down from 3 metres).

*Note:* The same method of calculating the circumference should continue to apply.

The committee recommends that trunk circumference definitions are tightened so as to be more consistent with the standards applied across Australia. The same method of calculating the circumference can be retained.

The below image from Dr Stefan Caddy-Retalic's presentation to the committee demonstrates the vast difference between South Australia's current circumference laws compared to interstate metropolitan councils.



**Figure 3** Slide from Dr Stefan Caddy-Retalic's presentation to the committee

In a committee hearing, Mr Marcus Lodge and Mr Michael Palamountain, Consulting Arborists from the South Australian Society of Arboriculture, echoed this recommendation, acknowledging that while some organisations may call for even smaller circumference definitions, "...one metre in circumference is a bit more workable and achievable. Given resources required by consultants and arborists as well as planning staff, this may be a more achievable and manageable size."<sup>18</sup>

<sup>18</sup> South Australian Society of Arboriculture hearing, p. 90.

This was also referenced in many submissions, including from the City of Burnside who explicitly sought an “overhaul of the definition of Regulated and Significant Trees”, “with a view to reduce the minimum circumference dimension to capture a broader range of narrow species”.<sup>19</sup>

Regard should also be given to reviewing the existing pruning limitations to ensure the integrity of the new measure of canopy spread. Property owners should not be able to severely prune a tree to circumvent the proper operation of the rule or kill the tree. The committee recommends the government reviews the 30% pruning limit to bring South Australian regulations into line with national standards, with reference to Australian Standard AS4373.

## 6.4 Canopy Cover

**Recommendation 5:** Strengthen the protection of urban trees by widening the definition of significant and regulated trees to include canopy cover measurement, as well as trunk circumference.

Introduce canopy cover criteria to the definition of regulated and significant trees, bringing SA into line with national standards.

A tree would be classified as regulated or protected based on fulfilling one or both of the criteria, that is, trunk circumference *or* canopy spread.

These canopy spread distances and the method of calculation should be based on expert advice to the Minister, drawing on interstate approaches.

In addition to the circumference changes in Recommendation 4, the committee also recommends that canopy cover measurement is taken into consideration when determining

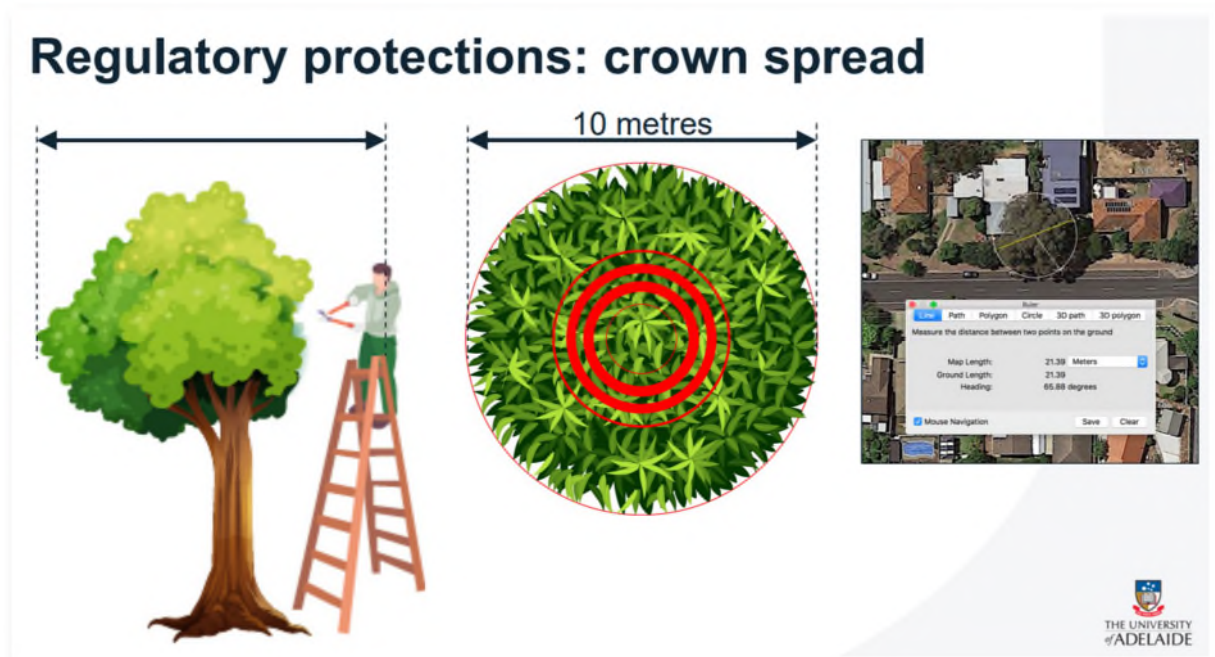


Figure 4 Slide from Dr Stefan Caddy-Retalic's presentation to the committee

<sup>19</sup> City of Burnside submission, p. 3.

the specifications of regulated and significant trees. This will bring South Australia into line with national standards, but also factors in that many trees (including many native species) have more slender trunks but are large trees by way of their canopy spread. Canopy, or crown spread, is used as a criterion in most other state and territories to evaluate the of trees.

By looking at canopy spread, the focus shifts to the urban forest – to Adelaide’s ecosystem rather than only individual trees.

This recommendation was called for in submissions by local government, namely, those from the City of Adelaide, City of Unley, City of Holdfast Bay, City of Mitcham and the City of West Torrens.

## 6.5 Fee for legal tree removal

**Recommendation 6:** Greatly increase the fee for legally removing a tree on a residential property within the Greater Adelaide metropolitan area:

- From \$326 per regulated tree to \$3000
- From \$489 per significant tree to \$4000

**Recommendation 6a:** That the Government further assess options allowing residents to enter an agreement with the relevant authority to replace the removed trees at a minimum 3:1 ratio on the land under strict conditions, in lieu of payment of the fee. If the agreement is not fulfilled, it is suggested a fine would apply of twice the above amounts.

The committee recommends increasing the fees for legal tree removal and considers that these higher amounts would:

- a) more accurately reflect the true replacement value of a removed tree
- b) deter unnecessary tree removal
- c) encourage thoughtful and creative approaches to ensure the preservation of trees
- d) provide sufficient funds for replacement trees and maintenance or growth of the urban forest
- e) signal the priority the community places on preserving mature trees in the first instance, and that their removal and replacement is a secondary option.

The committee acknowledges that there may be reservations regarding these higher amounts, due to concerns that they may drive up the costs of housing, as developers may transfer increased costs to buyers. However, the committee believes that incorporating tree retention in new builds may lead to more creative development and prove more attractive to prospective buyers due to the leafy, cool, and aesthetically pleasing features of the property.

The committee is willing and eager to hear from the development and housing sector on this recommendation in upcoming hearings.

In addition to tree removal ahead of new builds, the committee has heard concerns regarding property owners removing trees for renovations. Mr Tom Morrison, of advocacy group 20 Metre Trees, advised the committee that the metropolitan area is “also losing a surprising



amount of canopy cover just from people's building footprints getting larger on their existing blocks of land<sup>20</sup>."

The committee suggests it may be prudent to explore available tree valuation methods in order for ascribed value to act as a viable deterrent to unnecessary tree removal. Caution will need to be applied however to ensure that valuation methodologies do not materially impede the construction of necessary housing.

## 6.6 Fee for illegal tree removal

**Recommendation 7:** Introduce a new discrete penalty for illegally removing tree/s or conducting illegal tree damaging activities on a property within the greater Adelaide metropolitan area, with the penalty amount set ten times (10x) greater than the fee for legally removing a tree (as per Recommendation 6).

**Recommendation 7a:** The Local Government Minister reviews the tree removal and tree damaging laws under the *Local Government Act 1999*.

The committee has received submissions about instances of illegal tree removal and views that the current penalty regime is too weak, especially for developers who stand to financially profit from development of those sites.

The recommended ten-fold increase to the penalty should apply to both maximum fines imposed by a court as well as default amounts, which under the PDI Act, currently stand at \$120,000 and \$500 respectively.

Currently, the penalty for removing a regulated or significant tree, or engaging in activities with intent to damage a tree on private land, falls under Section 215 of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*, which reads:

### **Subdivision 1—General offences**

#### **215—General offences**

(1) *A person must not undertake development contrary to this Act.*

*Maximum penalty: \$120 000*

*Additional penalty.*

*Default penalty: \$500.*

(2) *A person must not undertake development contrary to a development authorisation under this Act.*

*Maximum penalty: \$120 000.*

*Additional penalty.*

*Default penalty: \$500.*

(3) *A person who has the benefit of a development must ensure that the development is used, maintained and operated in accordance with—*

*(a) any development authorisation under this Act; and*

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<sup>20</sup> 20 Metre Trees hearing, p. 55.

*(b) any plans, drawings, specifications or other documents submitted to a relevant authority for the purposes of this Act that are relevant to any such approval.*

*Maximum penalty: \$60 000.*

*(4) A person must not contravene, or fail to comply with, a condition imposed under this Act in relation to a development authorisation.*

*Maximum penalty: \$120 000.*

*Additional penalty.*

*Default penalty: \$500.*

The committee recommends amending the PDI Act to introduce an offence specifically directly relating to trees, separate to other violations of the PDI Act.

In imposing penalties, due regard should be given by decision-makers, including the courts, of the circumstances including intentional tree removal or damage (as opposed to ignorant or accidental destruction), any damage done to secure financial gain or resulting in financial gain, and the extent of damage or number of trees removed.

The penalties for illegal tree removal or damage should significantly exceed the fees paid by those who legally remove trees after making a successful application.

The committee considers the current penalties are not commensurate with the severity of the offence in the eyes of the community. The Member for Gibson, Sarah Andrews MP, wrote to the committee to draw their attention to the felling of trees “in a covert manner” on the privately-owned old Dover Gardens Primary School site, in her electorate. According to the correspondence, if the maximum penalty of \$120,000 applied, the developer of the site would pay roughly \$9000 penalty per tree, which the member pointed out, “would be considered nominal where a landowner is developing a site”, but “does not replace what is lost.”<sup>21</sup>

The current penalties do not correspond to the value of the urban canopy, and therefore, do not serve as an effective deterrent. This is especially true for developers who stand to gain high returns from fully cleared blocks that they intend to redevelop: the current penalties are trifling in comparison with the profit they stand to gain.

Illegal tree removal and tree damaging activity on council-owned land (as opposed to private land) is also addressed under the *Local Government Act 1999*. A penalty of \$1250 may apply for an action under this Act.

The illegal removal of trees on council land is discussed in the City of Burnside’s submission. This year, the council saw up to 50 mature indigenous trees illegally fell by chainsaw at Auldana North Reserve in July 2023. The council has sought assistance from the public to prosecute those responsible, who remain at large.<sup>22</sup>

The Planning Minister has stated that the Local Government Act should be reviewed to “improve deterrence through the fine regime” and calling for greater clarity in the Act. It appears unclear (for example) in the existing Act about whether the removal of multiple trees would be considered a single action attracting a total fine of just \$1250, or whether the removal

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<sup>21</sup> Member for Gibson, correspondence added to submission.

<sup>22</sup> City of Burnside, '[FOCUS On Burnside - the news hub / Call for information - Illegal Auldana tree cull](#)', 10 August 2023, accessed 16 October 2023.

of 50 trees on one occasion might be considered multiple separate actions potentially incurring a fine of up to \$62,500.<sup>23</sup>

The committee is also concerned that the penalty amount is proportionate to the increase in penalties for illegal tree removal on private land as recommended in Recommendation 7. The committee views the removal of trees in public spaces as more egregious than private land tree removal and believes the penalty regime should reflect this.

The committee recommends that the Local Government Minister review the Act in terms of,

- clarifying what constitutes a single action under the legislation, and
- reviewing the amount (\$) of the penalty to reflect the public's view of the seriousness of illegal tree removal in public spaces.

## 6.7 Urban Forest Fund

**Recommendation 8:** A new Urban Forest Fund is set up (separate to the Planning and Development Fund) solely for money raised from legal and illegal tree removal.

**Recommendation 9:** That proceeds from the Urban Forest Fund are spent on initiatives to grow the urban canopy, proximate to the area where the tree removal has occurred.

**Recommendation 10:** An annual report is provided to both Houses of Parliament by the Planning Minister on the Urban Forest Fund including:

- how many trees are legally and illegally removed resulting in payment to the fund
- how many trees were replaced using funds from the Urban Forest Fund
- the localities from which trees were removed and replaced
- the total income and expenditure from the Fund.
- any reported failures to pay into the Fund as required.

The committee recommends the implementation of an Urban Forest Fund, separate to the Planning and Development Fund, that holds the revenue raised from tree removal fees (from trees removed both legally and illegally).

The committee recommends that the money from this fund go to tree planting in the vicinity where the tree/s were removed. The Minister will need to turn its mind to how this area is defined. The committee suggests that the determination be made based on proximity. While the committee considered recommending a locality is defined as a council area, there were concerns that larger councils may invest funds in an area far distant from the areas experiencing tree removal.

The committee is recommending a separate and distinct fund focussed on growing the urban forest, as the purpose of the Planning and Development Fund is much broader. In the recent past the Planning and Development Fund has been used for the purchase of new open space, reserve upgrades and paying staff working on the Planning and Design Code. While some of

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<sup>23</sup> Minister Nick Champion interview [interview transcript], ABC Radio Adelaide, 16 October 2023, accessed 16 October 2023.

these uses have valuable environmental outcomes, they are not targeted to addressing the diminishing the urban canopy.

Income to the existing Planning and Development Fund is sourced from various payments incurred by developers and applicants, and there will remain sources of income to that fund even if tree removal activities are to be sequestered to a different fund.

The Committee believes that the public, and by extension the Parliament, has an interest in the removal of trees and to that end an annual report to the Parliament will aid public awareness and information. This is also a transparency measure.

The City of Holdfast Bay suggested that “the State Government works with councils and the Local Government Association to investigate the development of a private tree maintenance fund for high value trees”.<sup>24</sup>

## 6.8 Community-based tree protection

**Recommendation 12:** Allow community and non-government groups to access funds from the Planning and Development Fund for open green space and tree retention projects, not just councils.

**Recommendation 13:** Significantly fund Arbor Day across South Australia. Funding should be aimed at improving community awareness about the important role of trees to our environment and amenity and the dangers of tree loss. Funding should be available for community activities that promote these aims.

In their submission, the City of Marion pointed out that community attitudes to trees in that council area are mixed, citing several factors that discourage residents from retaining, or planting trees on their property. However, as they acknowledge, many of the reasons stated by residents for removing trees are incorrect or grounded in exaggerated risk (for example, that “trees increase fire risk”, or that “sudden limb drop” is common, particularly in eucalypts, and property and safety are at risk).<sup>25</sup> In May 2019, arborists Mark Hartley and Jessica Chalk, wrote about “tree failures” and fatalities, stating,

*A death rate per tree in Australia that is smaller than Britain’s may surprise many Australian arborists who consider Eucalypts to be ‘widow makers’. It would appear that Eucalypts may provide no greater risk and perhaps a lower risk than the average tree in Britain.*<sup>26</sup>

The Conservation Council of South Australia has also done work around what they call “myth busting our trees”, with a section on their website that counters these myths with scientific evidence “to encourage homeowners and government agencies to preserve our trees”.<sup>27</sup>

The committee appreciates this work but believes that further work would be valuable to provide accurate information about the risk posed by trees, to counter negative attitudes and raise community awareness of the importance of a healthy urban forest, primarily as trees on

<sup>24</sup> City of Holdfast Bay submission, p. 13.

<sup>25</sup> City of Marion submission, p. 23-24.

<sup>26</sup> MA Hartley and JJ Chalk, '[A review of deaths in Australia from accidental tree failures](#)', May 2019, accessed 10 October 2023.

<sup>27</sup> Conservation Council SA, '[Myth Busting Our Trees](#)', n.d., accessed 10 October 2023.

privately-owned land rather than public land make up a vast swathe of the metropolitan tree canopy. This was acknowledged in the City of Burnside's submission to the inquiry, that stated,

*It is widely understood that local government authorities are running out of land to accommodate new trees. If climate adaptation efforts are to be successful, private land holders will be required to do more in this space. The City of Burnside are dedicated to supporting residents to increase urban forest and habitat through the following measures:*

- *nursery giveaway, to build up the floor of the urban forest;*
- *tree giveaways; and*
- *tree assistance fund which reimburses landowners up to 75% of the value of work, capped at a maximum of \$2000, required for the maintenance of Regulated and Significant Trees on private land.<sup>28</sup>*

The committee sees value in programs like those mentioned in the submission, run by local councils empowering residents to further green their property.

The committee recommends that more funding be supplied to programs like these (but not limited to), which serve as both a practical way to build and maintain the urban forest, but also raise community awareness of the value of the trees in residential gardens, not just in public spaces like parks and reserves.

In the evidence received by the committee, and through engaging with volunteer groups in their electorates, the committee has also seen first-hand the valuable work done by community groups greening their local area. The committee recommends that more funding is made available to these groups, made up largely by volunteers, so that they can continue, and build on, their hard work. The committee sees the Planning and Development Fund as an opportunity to provide this. The committee's objective in this instance is to see the Fund being more competitive and innovative, inviting a larger pool of submissions so that funding can target areas that require further investment to address green space or tree loss.

The committee also sees merit in coinciding some of these initiatives with Arbor Day in South Australia, which in 2023, fell on 18 June in this state.<sup>29</sup> As it stands, groups like Greening Australia conduct community events on this day (in 2023, they worked with the City of West Torrens to plant 3000 native seedlings along Karrawirra Parri/the River Torrens), however, the committee would like to see more work done with schools. In Brisbane, for example, Brisbane City schools celebrated Arbor Day on Tuesday 10 October this year, and the City Council offered free plants to schools in their jurisdiction.<sup>30</sup> The committee would like to see South Australia follow suit, and foster an appreciation of trees in young people and further educate them on the value of a healthy urban canopy.

The committee can see a role for Green Adelaide in promoting and administering future grant rounds in relation to the Urban Forest Fund and Arbor Day grants. The organisation is well-placed to make decisions about the environmental value of grant proposals and take a strategic approach across the metropolitan area.

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<sup>28</sup> City of Burnside submission, p. 6.

<sup>29</sup> Greening Australia, '[Event: Arbor Day planting by the River Torrens](#)', n.d., accessed 10 October 2023.

<sup>30</sup> Brisbane City Council, '[Celebrate Arbor Day](#)', n.d., accessed 10 October 2023.

## 7. REFERENCES

**All submissions and Hansard transcripts are available on the Parliament of SA website.**

M Ballantyne, P Croft, A Doolette, L Montero, T Morrison, D Peacock, K Sutcliffe, J Wells and C Wilkins, '[A Call to Action: Protecting Adelaide's Tree Canopy](#)', Conservation Council SA, 2021, accessed 2 June 2023.

M Bewley, '[Tree cover changes in Adelaide, Part 1](#)', Nearmap, March 2022, accessed 7 June 2023.

Brisbane City Council, '[Celebrate Arbor Day](#)', n.d., accessed 10 October 2023.

Conservation Council SA, '[Myth Busting Our Trees](#)', n.d., accessed 10 October 2023.

Greening Australia, '[Event: Arbor Day planting by the River Torrens](#)', n.d., accessed 10 October 2023.

MA Hartley and JJ Chalk, '[A review of deaths in Australia from accidental tree failures](#)', May 2019, accessed 10 October 2023.

R Hill, '[Trees, Cities, Drought and Extreme Heat](#)', September 2022, accessed 2 June 2023.

['Living Adelaide: The 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide 2017 Update'](#), Government of South Australia | Plan SA, 2021, accessed 2 June 2023.

['Working towards a greener, more resilient Adelaide'](#), Aerometrex, 2021, accessed 2 June 2023.

## 8. APPENDIX

### 8.1 Call for submissions advertisement



Parliament of South Australia

#### **ENVIRONMENT, RESOURCES & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

#### **INQUIRY INTO THE URBAN FOREST**

The Environment, Resources and Development Committee is calling for submissions to its inquiry into the urban forest. The ERDC will inquire into and report on:

1. Best practice and innovative measures to assist in the selection and maintenance of site-appropriate tree species to improve the resilience of the urban forest, with a focus on trees for urban infill developments;
2. Legislative and regulatory options to improve the resilience and longevity of trees comprising the urban forest; and
3. Any other related matters.

The Committee is seeking written submissions and expressions of interest to appear before the Committee from interested individuals and organisations by 24 February 2023.

Submissions addressing the terms of reference above should be sent to: [erdc.assembly@parliament.sa.gov.au](mailto:erdc.assembly@parliament.sa.gov.au) or Environment, Resources & Development Committee, GPO Box 572, ADELAIDE SA 5001.

For further information, phone **8237 9284** or visit:

**[www.parliament.sa.gov.au/en/committees/committees-detail](http://www.parliament.sa.gov.au/en/committees/committees-detail)**

W115168

## 8.2 Submissions received via email

1	Jennifer and Ken Grundy
2	John Peek
3	Janice and Ian Sutherland
4	Nick Anargyros
5	Ashleigh Younger
6	Dr Phil Bagust
7	Penelope Hackett-Jones
8	Colin Campbell
9	Kate Denton
10	CONFIDENTIAL
11	State Planning Commission
12	Samuel Bourne, Project Manager Landscape, Whyalla City Council
13	Ian Murphy, Naturespace Consulting
14	Heath Hunter
15	Liz Ahern
16	Kyla Young - 5031 Community Facilities and Greenspaces Action Group
17	Dr Peter Del Fante
18	Dr Wayne Harvey, President, Friends of the Waite Arboretum Inc
19	Brett Loughlin, Chief Officer, South Australian Country Fire Service
20	Ian Smailes
21	Karin Nyfort-Hansen
22	Ash Taylor
23	Jane Preston, Conservation Council SA member
24	Nigel Charman
25	John Boland and Christine Bryant
26	Shane Sody, President, Adelaide Park Lands Association
27	Victoria Wade
28	Jean / John
29	Diane Campbell
30	Werner Langer
31	Mary Jose
32	Rose Ashton and Paul Johnston
33	Fred Mann
34	Gillian Hunter
35	Robert Bowering
36	Dorothy Dunne
37	Ian and Jeanette Hordacre
38	Gunta Groves
39	Lyn Phillips
40	Tania Webster
41	Matt Farrell, Sellicks Woodlands and Wetlands Action Network (SWWAN)
42	Paula York
43	Eileen Connor
44	Mark Drilling



45	Christine Hunter
46	Janice Lewis
47	Michael Hewitson, Mayor, City of Unley
48	Janett Jackson
49	Rowena Edwards
50	Tracey Gleeson
51	Doug McEvoy
52	Marjon Martin
53	City of Holdfast Bay
54	Meredith Bogisch
55	Christopher Colhoun
56	Oliver Frank
57	Pat Wundersitz
58	Chi Nguyen
59	Anne Tan KC Seager
60	Pam Nicholson
61	John Schutz, Chief Executive, Department for Environment and Water
62	Western Adelaide Coastal Residents' Association (WACRA)
63	Marian F McDuie
64	Tim McBeath
65	Jane Osborne
66	Douglas Nelson
67	City of Burnside
68	Sayujya Sharp
69	City of Marion
70	Gordon Drennan
71	Joanne Hendrikx
72	Mandi Whitten
73	Geoff Yeates
74	Nicky Page
75	Margaret Merrilees
76	Gavin and Robyn Trott
77	Sharon Kelley
78	Rose Dow
79	Chris Braham
80	Peter Raine
81	Janet Callen
82	Leanne Hurley
83	City of West Torrens
84	Amanda Tilley
85	Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium
86	Horticultural Media Association of South Australia
87	CONFIDENTIAL
88	Howard Jones
89	Matt Palinski
90	Lisa Farquhar
91	City of Onkaparinga

92	Hannah Richards
93	Gerald Thompson
94	Lynda Yates
95	Professor Robert Hill
96	Tom Morrison
97	Ian Stalls
98	Samantha Catford
99	Carol Faulkner
100	Jan Arnold
101	Simone Hunter
102	Jessie MacGillivray
103	Dr Kenneth Fisher
104	Janet Cashmore
105	Dr Jennifer Gardner OAM
106	Dr Ian Moffat
107	Dr Beverley Rainford
108	Mount Barker District Council
109	Department for Infrastructure and Transport
110	Doug Richards
111	City of Charles Sturt
112	Elisa Toome
113	Caroline Goodwin
114	Elizabeth Ho
115	Nature Conservation Society of South Australia
116	Port Augusta City Council
117	Water Sensitive South Australia
118	St Peters Residents Association
119	Josephine Johnston
120	Nicola McGunnigle
121	Ann Doolette
122	Jackie Ayre, consulting arborist
123	Marion Living Smarties
124	Vicky Dennison
125	Sarah Thomas
126	South Australian Society of Arboriculture
127	Community Alliance South Australia
128	Birds SA
129	Sarah Andrews MP, Member for Gibson
130	Angela Stephenson
131	Green Adelaide
132	Debbie Ayre
133	City of Mitcham
134	Andrea Baas
135	Resilient East
136	Local Government Association of South Australia
137	Dr Kathryn Hill and Mr Matthew DeBoo, DeBill Environmental
138	John Hicks

139	Climate Matters Group
140	Sandy Ahmed
141	SA Power Networks
142	Murray Watch
143	Glenn Giles
144	The North Adelaide Society
145	Kensington Residents' Association
146	Resilient Hills and Coasts
147	Urban Development Institute of Australia (SA)
148	Angie Bignell
149	Julie Hockey
150	Amanda Phillips
151	Yvette Booth
152	Meredith Harrison
153	Nadia Clancy MP, Member for Elder
154	Sara Slayman
155	Dr Tim Johnson, Director, Treenet
156	Angela Paul
157	Katerina Grypma
158	Kerry Gore
159	Iain Waddell-Smith
160	R J and C D Bailey
161	Melissa Ballantyne
162	Sue Fiedler
163	Catherine Hutchesson MP, Member for Waite
164	Andrew Crouch
165	Frank Banks
166	Fay Patterson
167	Andrew Hillier
168	Clive Huggan
169	Hero Weston
170	Jane Bange
171	Mount Barker and District Residents' Association
172	Kate Barrett
173	Trees for Life
174	Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board
175	Australian Institute of Landscape Architects
176	City of Unley
177	Conservation Council SA
178	Joanna Wells
179	Native Vegetation Council
180	Rosanne Tucker
181	Yuri Poetzi
182	Gianni Pavia
183	City of Adelaide
184	Planning Institute of Australia (SA Division)

### 8.3 Submissions received via Forms

1	Jayden Harding
2	Kristina Barnett, City of Prospect Councillor
3	Robyn Wood
4	James Maybank
5	Mary Gordon
6	Andrea Louise, Australian Parents for Climate Action
7	Gregory Westlake, Labor Environment Action Network
8	Terry Dolman
9	Alexia Esposito-Alaia
10	Hugh Phillips
11	Carmella Chiappetta
12	Violaine Buyer
13	Rita Martucci
14	Marion Ferguson
15	Rob Squire
16	Margaret-Ann Copeland
17	Jasper Lee
18	Steven Raine
19	Laura Carrington
20	Stef Rozitis
21	Genna Murakami
22	Alice Clanachan
23	Dylan Santich
24	Elizabeth Gourlay
25	Shannon Harrison
26	Jody Moate
27	Leith Mudge, Adelaide Hills Council Councillor
28	Adrienne Stoker, Australian Parents for Climate Action
29	Christopher Stoker, Australian Parents for Climate Action
30	John Fulbrook MP, Member for Playford
31	Georgie Hart, City of Unley Councillor
32	Matthew Forte
33	Martin Schumacher
34	Anique Renwood
35	Chi Nguyen
36	Angus Thompson, Pasadena and St Marys Action Group
37	Jane Marr
38	Chris Murfitt
39	Grace Brooks
40	Sandra Brown
41	Sandra Brown
42	Enken Hagge

43	Suzanne Moss
44	Kate Randell
45	Julie Tunstill

## 8.4 Hearings

All held in Old Parliament House, Adelaide.

Date	Witness
20 February 2023	Professor Chris Daniels, Presiding Member Mr Brenton Grear, Director <i>Green Adelaide Landscape Board</i>  Dr Stefan Caddy-Retalic <i>University of Adelaide</i>
6 March 2023	Professor Robert S Hill <i>School of Biological Sciences, University of Adelaide</i>  Dr Tim Johnson, Director <i>Treenet</i>
20 March 2023	Mr Tom Morrison <i>20 Metre Trees</i>
7 June 2023	Ms Alex Gaut, Team Leader Environment & Coast Mr James Mitchell, Acting General Manager Assets and Delivery <i>City of Holdfast Bay</i>  Mr Andrew Lamb, Director Advocacy Mr Andrew Nesbitt, Central Coordinator – Regional Climate Partnerships Dr Kwaku Dankwah, Policy Officer <i>Local Government Association</i>
21 June 2023	Mr Ben Willsmore, Manager City Design Ms Di Salvi, Climate and Sustainability Lead <i>City of Unley</i>  Mr Matthew Lawrence, Manager Development Services Mr Jonathan Luke, Team Leader Development Policy <i>City of Onkaparinga</i>  Dr Heather Holmes-Ross, Mayor Mr Craig Harrison, General Manager Development and Community Safety Mr Alex Mackenzie, Manager Development Services City of Mitcham  Mr Michael Palamountain, Consulting Arborist, Life Member Mr Marcus Lodge, Consulting Arborist, Life Member South Australian Society of Arboriculture  Mr Michael Ramsden, CEO & Principal Lecturer <i>Tree Systems</i>