



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, TRANSPORT, AND CITY SERVICES
Ms Jo Clay MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Mark Parton MLA

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into Urban Forest Bill 2022

Submission Number: 7

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To: [LA Committee - PTCS](#)
Subject: Urban Forest Bill inquiry submission
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Dear committee members,

I believe my submission relates more to subordinate legislation rather than the Urban Forest Bill itself, however I wanted to put forward my view on an important element of the tree protection arrangements.

Specifically, I have been concerned with the rigidity of the rules applied under the current legislation relating to remnant eucalypts. Currently, a tree can be in an inappropriate location for its potential size and growth habit or substantially affect solar access in the winter months but nothing can be done if it is a remnant eucalypt. This applies even in locations where there are a large number of remnant eucalypts.

I believe the new legislation (or subordinate legislation) should provide a greater level of flexibility so where there is a genuinely problematic tree that happens to be a remnant eucalypt, sensible action is still possible. It should be possible to balance competing environmental concerns relating to the urban canopy as a whole, access to solar energy (both through solar panels and passive solar heating) and the amenity of urban and suburban spaces. By all means let's protect (and plant a whole lot more of!) big native trees where they are appropriate, but the current rigid approach does not strike the right balance.

Please note, I am happy for my submission to be published but please do not include my name or other personal details.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

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