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2 July 2021

Mayor Kevin Knight  
City of Tea Tree Gully  
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MODBURY SA 5092  
**Emailed:** [kevin.knight@cttg.sa.gov.au](mailto:kevin.knight@cttg.sa.gov.au)

Dear Mayor Knight

### **Local Heritage and the Planning and Design Code**

Design, Planning and Placemaking remain a priority for GAROC. Our strategic objective is to advocate to the State Government and Parliament to ensure that South Australia's planning system reflects leading practice, facilitates better design outcomes and supports local decision making.

Advice provided to GAROC by metropolitan councils is that since the first draft of the Code, there has been a dilution of the former Development Plan policy controls, which have been replaced with a more disjointed and complex series of statutory and advisory planning documents. Heritage policy and guidelines now reside in around seven different places, which undermines the intent of a simpler and more streamlined planning system.

With the Code now in operation, and the recent release of Character and Historic Area Overlay Design Advisory Guidelines, and Style Identification Guidelines, there is also a concern that the policy as it stands, will not adequately protect suburbs and townships from the loss or damage of important historic character by demolition or poorly considered development.

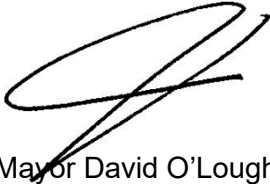
GAROC's role is to facilitate ongoing engagement between metropolitan councils and the State Planning Commission to identify opportunities to strengthen the Planning and Design Code in relation to heritage and historic character protection. With sufficient evidence and support from councils, this work may lead to a joint Heritage Code Amendment process.

I have recently written to the Chair of the State Planning Commission, Ms Helen Dyer, outlining the concerns that have been expressed by metropolitan councils, and issuing an invitation to a future meeting of GAROC to discuss these concerns and how they may be resolved in a collaborative manner.

We would welcome councils providing us with any specific examples of policy gaps or deficiencies within the Code that have impacted on the quality of development outcomes within your council area. These examples will assist us in our discussions with the Commission and help to shape GAROC's program of work for the next 12 months.

Should you or your staff require any further information please feel free to contact the LGA's Planning Reform Partner, Stephen Smith at [stephen.smith@lga.sa.gov.au](mailto:stephen.smith@lga.sa.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Mayor David O'Loughlin

**Chairperson - Greater Adelaide Regional Organisation of Councils (GAROC)**

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