

From: [Sarah McKenzie](#)
To: [DPTI:Planning Engagement](#)
Subject: Vision for South Australia's planning system: State Planning Policies
Date: Wednesday, 8 August 2018 8:33:50 PM

I wish to comment on the following policy:

STATE PLANNING POLICY 15: NATURAL HAZARDS

I listened to the Planning Commissioners comments in your online video about your policy review. The Commissioner indicated that you need to protect and safeguard communities from the severe impacts of bushfires and you need to plan for bushfire management and consequences...to create framework to optimise natural hazard management. Your policy documents also indicate It is therefore vital for us to anticipate hazards and risk; plan for the protection of lives and the economy; increase the resilience of people, buildings and infrastructure; and reduce the infrastructure and social costs when incidents do occur.

One of the most frustrating elements of your planning system, in relation to Personal Bushfire Shelters, is your technical advisory note. This note requires concurrence from the Building Committee as part of the approval process. In and of its own, that would not be so bad, but the biggest problem is that you will not allow the Victorian Certificate of Accreditation to be used as evidence of suitability in the building approval process. This makes it almost impossible for the certifier to approve a personal bushfire shelter. The result is that too many of us are installing shelters illegally, as "sheds". I trust that your review of the policies and the PDI will address this issue.

The solution is that you allow South Australians to use the Victorian Certificate of Accreditation to be used as evidence of suitability. It would require that you trust the Victorian assessment process, and that you change the technical advisory note, to make it clear that certifiers can use this assessment. Obviously, your Building Committee would be allowed to use the Victorian assessment too.

This would still enable you to manage the risk by permitting the Building Committee to undertake site inspections (in addition to the Council's inspections). Fixing this perverse outcome would help South Australians to manage risk, and it would reduce the risks by dodgy DIY bushfire shelters, which have been installed without your approval.

This change would also create economic opportunities for SA business to supply, install and perhaps build personal bushfire shelters.

Thanks, Sarah