

## BHS March 2021 Meeting PLANNING & HERITAGE PROTECTION

Just 4 days before the new SA Planning and Design Code became operational, **Melissa Ballantyne** from the Environmental Defenders Office (a legal centre dedicated to protecting the environment) and **Dr Darren Peacock**, CEO of the National Trust, addressed the March meeting of BHS. Their focus was on the impact this may have on heritage.

The [saplanningportal.sa.gov.au](http://saplanningportal.sa.gov.au) website states the Code *“is now the single reference point for state planning. It consolidates South Australia’s previous 72 Development Plans into one clear planning rulebook for the state”*.

Melissa outlined that there will be new zones, sub-zones and a new neighbourhood overlay. The latter



Melissa Ballantyne, Liz Silz, Darren Peacock

deals with new home development and covers requirements for tree planting, landscape, stormwater catchment and storage and carparking. She pointed out that council local policy, which currently protects structures and features of local importance, would be lost. She believed that the demolition controls lack strength and that developers stood to benefit.

Darren stated that the *“new planning laws undermine heritage protection”*, *“developers have got the system they wanted”*, *“Local heritage places you see every day is what people value”* and *“Only 3% have heritage protection and they must be kept”*. Anne Monceaux, Mayor of Burnside, voiced at the meeting it was *“not the system that councils wanted”*.

Darren reminded us that heritage connects us to our past, to nature and community. He asked us what we love about Burnside as he believed 40 years of heritage protection is under threat. He encouraged us all to find out what’s at risk in our own street, neighbourhood and suburb, to talk to neighbours and friends, keep informed, write to our local member with our concerns before it’s too late, join a campaign to fix the Code and sign up for updates with [protectourheritage.nationbuilder.com](http://protectourheritage.nationbuilder.com).

Both Melissa and Darren agreed the Code is complex change – not reform. Reform implies better.