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The Secretary
Economy and Infrastructure Committee
Parliament House, Spring Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Via email: airpollutioninquiry@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

INQUIRY INTO IMPACTS OF AIR POLLUTION IN VICTORIA

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to this inquiry.

At its September 2020 meeting, it was resolved that Council:

1. Notes that the frequent toxic fires in the northern suburbs have an impact well beyond their location with the toxic smoke and the toxic water run-off affecting other municipalities including Moreland. The toxic fires endangering the health of residents and fire fighters have not stopped during the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Writes to the Environment Minister, Lily D'Ambrosio, and Premier Daniel Andrews:
 - a) Condemning the 12-month delay in implementing the *Environment Protection Act 2018* which would enable the Environmental Protection Authority to take tougher action against companies with dangerously flammable recycling stockpiles; and
 - b) Calling for stronger powers for the Environmental Protection Authority to be implemented urgently.

These matters should be considered as part of the enquiry.

More broadly, the Moreland Planning Scheme notes that '*Adapting and building resilience to climate change and reducing and responding to the urban heat island effect are key concerns for Council given their threat to liveability and sustainable neighbourhoods. Shifting towards zero net carbon emissions is part of creating a prosperous and resilient future for Moreland*'

Council has adopted the *Moreland Zero Carbon – 2040 Framework* which outlines the community vision and strategic directions for the transition to zero carbon in Moreland by 2040. This includes actions which support a shift away from internal combustion engines and

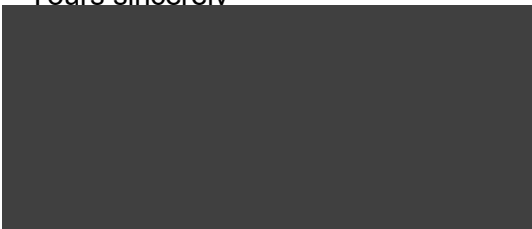
towards Electric Vehicles. In addition, the Moreland Planning Scheme supports modal shift and more sustainable forms of transport.

As Melbourne's population grows, stronger State-wide policy regarding adapting to and building resilience to climate change, including shifting towards zero carbon emissions and sustainable transport can positively influence (amongst other things) air quality.

Finally, although it is not a significant issue in Moreland, wood fire smoke is a matter that is raised by residents as impacting on air quality. In 2017 the EPA conducted a review of Victoria's policy on air quality impacts from wood heaters and that review should be considered as part of this inquiry.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to make a submission.

Yours sincerely



Narelle Jennings
GROUP MANAGER CITY DEVELOPMENT

1 / 4 / 2021