



To whom it may concern

The City of Boroondara (Council) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the State Government's Environment and Planning Committee inquiry into the health impacts of air pollution in Victoria (the inquiry). Council broadly welcomes the aims and intent of the inquiry.

Council recognises that air quality is an issue of significant community concern and is important to the health and wellbeing of our community.

Significant community engagement was undertaken by Council to inform the development of the Boroondara Community Plan (2017 - 2027) (BCP). The BCP sets out themes identified by the community as important focus areas for Council. The environment and health both feature as priority themes of the BCP. Air quality is a key factor in good environmental and public health.

Council has recently given serious consideration to air quality and invested significant resources in response to the North East Link (NEL) project. This included investigating the projected air quality impacts of NEL and the preparation of expert witness statements for submission and presentation to the NEL Inquiry and Advisory Committee Panel Hearing in August 2019. Council's consideration of the NEL project highlighted the impacts of major transport routes on urban populations and in particular the air quality impacts. These issues continue to be a major concern to Council and community members who are impacted by the NEL. Council is willing to provide the expert air quality reports by Dr Graeme Lorimer (Biosphere Pty Ltd) and Dr Iain Cowan (ERM Australia Pty Ltd) in support of this submission. Issues noted through this work include:

- The importance of re-suspended dust from vehicular emissions in relation to public health
- The potential for exceedance of NO₂ pollutant standards in some locations and the difficulty in mitigating impacts on air quality
- The health risks posed by particulate pollution (PM_{2.5}) from internal combustion engines (traffic) (with this risk identified by numerous studies). The Lorimer report states that though vehicle emissions are declining generally, the opening of NEL will likely increase this pollutant locally and that the trend toward increasing fuel reduction burning and frequency of bushfires, heightens concern.

Council is currently working with our community to develop a Climate Action Plan, which aims to define the direction Council will take in response to the challenges of climate change and inform decisions regarding sustainability. Research undertaken to inform this reaffirms that the Boroondara community is very concerned about environmental issues, particularly those that affect our health and wellbeing. While this work did not specifically test concern about air pollution, 87% of a representative sample of the Boroondara community rate sustainable community transport as important or very important.

We note that legislation was introduced into the Victorian Parliament in March to impose a tax on electric vehicles and other zero-emissions vehicles. This may slow the uptake of electric vehicles with a corresponding impact on local air quality and greenhouse gas emissions.

Council looks forward to receiving further information in relation to the progress of the inquiry and its findings in due course.

Due to the timelines of the inquiry, this submission has not been formally endorsed by Council; this submission has been prepared by Council officers to be aligned with previously adopted Council policy and position.

Yours faithfully



Mathew Dixon
Coordinator Environmental Sustainability