



The Secretary – Keir Delaney
Environment and Planning Reference Committee
Legislative Council
Parliament House
Spring Street
Melbourne VIC 3002

By Email: keir.delaney@parliament.vic.gov.au

29 June 2010

Dear Mr Delaney,

Re: Submission to the Inquiry into Environmental Design and Public Health

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Victorian Government's Inquiry into Environmental Design and Public Health. I would like to bring to your attention research conducted by the CSIRO and its collaborators that may assist your Inquiry.

The CSIRO Flagship Collaboration Fund has established the multi-million dollar Climate and Health Cluster to bring together scientists and researchers from a range of disciplines to develop adaptation strategies for safeguarding the health of urban populations in the face of a variable and changing climate. The research team includes seven universities and CSIRO exploring the climate-related aspects of public health in relation to thermal stress, resilient urban food systems, urban transport systems and vector-borne diseases. Further information about the Cluster and its projects can be found at www.climatehealthcluster.org

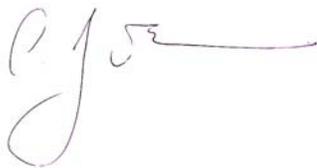
CSIRO has a significant investment in sustainable cities and coasts through the Climate Adaptation Flagship. Researchers in this area are developing planning, design, infrastructure and management solutions to help Australia's cities and coasts adapt to a changing climate. Our interests are focused around design for climate adaptation, namely the interaction and protection of people and the built environment to extreme climate-related events such as heat waves, fires, floods and winds. Further information can be found at <http://www.csiro.au/science/SustainableCitiesAndCoasts.html>

CSIRO has produced an 11-minute podcast that interviews the CSIRO's Sustainable Cities and Coasts Theme Leader, Mr Allen Kearns, about the health and wellbeing of the public under a changing climate. The podcast is available at: <http://www.csiro.au/multimedia/Staying-healthy-under-climate-change.html>

CSIRO has been awarded a grant as part of the National Adaptation Research Plan for Settlements & Infrastructure to research *Pathways to Climate Adapted and Healthy Low Income Housing*. The project will model the vulnerability of public housing assets and tenants to selected climate change impacts; identify and evaluate key engineering, behavioural and institutional climate adaptation pathways; and scope the potential co-benefits of climate adaptation action for human health and well-being.

If you have any queries or would like any further information regarding CSIRO research or this submission, please contact Mr Allen Kearns, Sustainable Cities and Coasts Theme Leader, Climate Adaptation Flagship at allen.kearns@csiro.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Johnson', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Andrew Johnson
Group Executive Environment