5 May 2020

Dr Jane Greacen and Dr David Campbell
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Dear Dr Greacen and Dr Campbell

Public Question Time – Reducing the Impacts of Climate Change

Thank you for your Public Question Time submission to Council’s Ordinary Council Meeting of 21 April 2020 regarding reducing the impacts of climate change.

Council unanimously adopted a five-part resolution that can be found at item 1.10.1 in the Council minutes. The report that accompanied this resolution identified a need to address Climate Change and outlined the way that Council is currently working on climate change issues at a strategic and project level and intends to recognise and work towards climate change mitigation and adaptation in the future. A declaration of a climate emergency in itself brings with it no commitment to do everything possible to mitigate the rapidly progressive impact of climate change on public health; infection rates; sanitation; poor air quality; impact on chronic diseases including lung; heart and autoimmune diseases and cancer; adequate and safe water supply. Therefore, the Commitment that Council has made through its resolution is a commitment of actual works, inclusion of consideration of climate change in all reports considered by Council, and a commitment to strong advocacy on behalf of the community on climate change matters.

Council uses a range of communication mechanisms to reach out to the community and let them know what Council is doing on important matters of environmental sustainability including use of media releases, social media, e-newsletters, functions and events. It is these mechanisms that will be used to communicate with the community on important matters of Council’s actions on climate change. It is recommended that Doctors’ Campbell and Greacen subscribe to Council’s free environmental newsletter Environmental Connect so they can keep abreast with these actions – subscription can be made through Council’s website.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Megan Dennett, Environmental sustainability Coordinator via email feedback@egipps.vic.gov.au or telephone 5153 9500.

Yours sincerely

FIONA WEIGALL
General Manager Assets and Environment