27 March 2019

The Hon James Merlino MP
Minister for Education
Level 3
1 Treasury Place
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Dear Minister

ADVOCATE FOR AN INCREASE IN PLANTING TREES ON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING SITES IN MOONEE VALLEY

Our cities face a series of future challenges such as climate change, increasing populations and urban development. A well planned and managed urban forest can help cities face these challenges by becoming healthier, more vibrant and resilient.

In June 2018, Moonee Valley City Council endorsed MV2040 – its long-term plan for improving the health, vibrancy and resilience of our city over the next two decades. A key target in MV2040 to adapt to climate change is 'we achieve 30 per cent canopy cover by 2040 through enhancing our urban forest'.

Council has also designated an increase in tree canopy as one of its top priorities as part of its Advocacy Strategy 2018-21.

Enhancing our urban forest provides much needed shade and cooling and provides for a more pleasant place for people to live, shop and socialise, building a healthy city for our future generations.

Through MV2040, Council has made a significant investment of nearly $1 million a year to increase tree canopy and greening initiatives. In 2018/19 we increased investment in our street tree planting program by 20%. Tree planting has been increasing each year with a total of 6,823 streets trees planted between 2016-18. In total we have approximately 100,000 trees in our streets, parks and open spaces. In recognition of our work in this space, Council is proud to be the only Australian local government honoured with being a finalist in the upcoming international Wellbeing City Award, under the Sustainable Environment category.
However, 70% of Moonee Valley's canopy is within the private realm. As such, we need a significant contribution across all land tenures to achieve our target.

To support Council's target to increase the tree canopy across the city from 11% to 30% by 2040, I seek your support to advocate to the Department of Education and Training to increase the number of trees planted on Department of Education and Training sites within the City of Moonee Valley.

If you would like any further information, please contact Sarah Wigley, Coordinator, Sustainability on swigley@mvcc.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Cr Narelle Sharpe
Mayor