

16 June 2020

Dear Appeal Donors and Supporters

**BREAKING NEWS:
Fire at Dobson Organ Builders Factory**

I deeply regret to have to inform you of some extremely bad news.

Mr John Panning, President of Dobson Organ Builders, contacted St James' on Wednesday morning (Sydney time) to inform us that fire has destroyed a major part of the Dobson factory in Lake City, Iowa, USA.

Mr Panning said that all staff were able to evacuate the factory safely. One worker suffered burns from the fire but is expected to make a full recovery. The building, on the other hand, has been destroyed.

It is too early at this stage to be able to say how this will affect the organ project at St James'. Dobson advises that they are fully insured and that their intention is to continue in business. They will therefore enter discussions with St James' once things are clearer and they have developed some plans for the future.

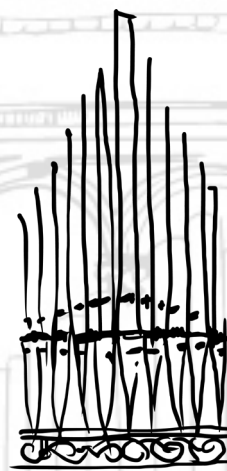
Likewise, on the St James' side, we are keen to complete our major Bicentenary organ project, even though it is now seems inevitable that its completion date will be delayed. We will therefore be exploring how this can be achieved.

I will keep you updated on developments once things become clearer.

In the meantime, we pray for John Panning and all the team at Dobson as they respond to this crisis.



Robert Marriott
Chair, St James' Organ Replacement & Restoration Appeal Committee



**ST JAMES'
ORGAN
APPEAL**

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