



7 August 2015

Dear Francis,

I write to thank you for your input to our *Strathbogrie Voices - on the road to the Paris climate conference*. As you know, this is an organic community group which is working around issues associated with the environment, climate change and democracy. We are very excited about the “people’s submission” which we hope to be presenting at a climate change side event in Paris this year, and we want to acknowledge the work you did in helping us shape it.

Clearly, the decades of Vox Bandicoot work with people throughout Victoria, and beyond, have given you a unique capacity to guide and bring the best out of people. Your understanding of the evolving environmental debate, its science and implications imbue confidence. Moreover, your “invitational” style of presentation is entertaining and eventful. It is laden with community respect which creates an “audience centred and participant led” energy in the room. The resulting conversations foster a strong sense of “local people power” and consequent strong belief in a successful, enjoyable, sustainable and proudly owned future.

I especially acknowledge the Sustainability Street Approach technique you employed, *hands up names down*, in response to a great question from the floor about our little town becoming a zero emissions exemplar. We now have our committee on renewable energy up and running, a month later. Thanks!

Yours sincerely,

Professor Kate Auty
Vice Chancellor’s Fellow (University of Melbourne)