

# FIRE AT THE DOBSON ORGAN FACTORY



We at St James' Church are greatly saddened to hear that a fire has destroyed a major part of the factory of Dobson Organ Builders at Lake City, Iowa, USA.

On Wednesday morning (Sydney time) Mr John Panning, President of the Company, contacted the Rector and others who are working on the St James organ project to inform us of this terrible news.

John told us that all the staff were able to evacuate the factory safely, including one worker who suffered burns from the fire but is expected to recover fully. The building, on the other hand, has been destroyed.

It is too early at this stage to be able to say how this will change the organ project at St James, but it will nevertheless have a big impact. Dobsons advise that they are fully insured and that their intention is to continue in business. They will enter discussions with us once things are clearer and they have developed plans for the future.

Likewise, on the Parish side, we are keen to complete this major Bicentenary project even though its finish date will now be delayed for some time. We will now explore how this can be achieved and provide updates as things become clearer.

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

The Reverend Andrew Sempell  
Rector of St James

16 Jun 21