



## ISSUE 4: BROOKLYN INDUSTRIAL AREA – IMPROVING ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

May 2010

This newsletter provides updates on progress of activities to reduce noise, dust and odour from the Brooklyn Industrial Precinct.

### THE BROOKLYN COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP

The Brooklyn Community Reference Group (BCRG) is a collaboration between community, industry and government, working towards ongoing clean air and reduced noise from the Brooklyn Industrial Precinct and other industries in the area.

BCRG works with industries and residents across the three local government areas of Hobsons Bay, Brimbank and Maribyrnong, covering the suburbs of Altona North, Brooklyn, Sunshine West, Sunshine, Braybrook, Tottenham, West Footscray, Kingsville, Seddon, Yarraville, Spotswood and South Kingsville.

### UPDATE ON DUST MONITORING

EPA commenced a dust monitoring program in late October 2009 to measure fine dust emanating from the Brooklyn industrial area.

To date (28/10/09 – 3/05/10) the monitoring program has measured 20 days when dust levels have been above the national air quality objective, which is unacceptable.

Additional monitoring stations are planned to collect further evidence on the spread and source of dust.

#### Dust composition

EPA's scientists have deployed the dust analysis equipment *Molab 1* in Brooklyn Reserve. Molab will measure dust levels ( $PM_{10}$  and  $PM_{2.5}$ ), as well as taking samples to be analysed for composition.

The characterisation analysis involves laboratory analysis for 20–25 different chemical elements. Once sufficient data is collected we will understand the dust's composition better.

#### Brooklyn air quality data on the web

Dust monitoring data (measured as  $PM_{10}$ ) from the Brooklyn air monitoring station is now available live on EPA's website:

[www.epa.vic.gov.au/air/bulletins/aqbhour.asp](http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/air/bulletins/aqbhour.asp)

### ACTIONS TO ADDRESS DUST

Councils and EPA are leading action to reduce dust.

- Six companies were issued with pollution abatement notices (PANs). The PANs gave industries 90 days (until 6 June) to identify and implement dust-mitigation activities. A further 12 PANs were issued on 10 May 2010.
- These sites have commenced dust-mitigation works, such as reducing stockpiles and implementing dust-control measures.
- A further round of PANs will be issued in coming weeks.
- An independent dust consultant has visited 15 companies and provided a report to industries on solutions to reduce dust.
- Brimbank City Council has commenced a review of planning permits in the precinct and undertaken a number of compliance inspections. The review has found both breaches of permits and non-permitted businesses. Three businesses that contribute to overall dust have already agreed to relocate from the area.
- EPA and the council have negotiated the lowering of stockpile heights at several of the larger properties in Brooklyn. These sites have also agreed to plant the fronts of their properties to improve the look of the area.
- An industry committee has been proposed, with representation from council, EPA and community (to be chaired by industry).
- EPA is continuing dust surveillance, which will enable collection of evidence to issue notices on companies found to be creating dust.
- Action is being taken at the government level to address dust on Bunting and Jones roads.

### HEALTH MESSAGES

The Department of Health has advised that people suffering from pre-existing conditions such as cardio-pulmonary disease, asthma or acute respiratory diseases should reduce their exposure to dust on days when the air quality is poor. Medication for these

conditions should be taken as prescribed by your doctor.

## CONTINUING TO REDUCING ODOUR

Odour still remains a top priority for action.

- There are seven separate instances of offensive odour for which the companies are currently under investigation
- The licence requirement for SITA to enclose operations by 1 September still remains. SITA is currently evaluating its options to enable compliance with this requirement.
- At Australian Tallow ducting is being installed for the third biofilter, which is aimed to be operational by June. Odour consultants are being engaged to review the complete odour control system once the biofilter is operational.
- In February 2009 SITA Australia Pty Ltd was found guilty of breaching its licence by allowing offensive odour to discharge beyond the boundary of its Brooklyn composting facility in September 2008. SITA was ordered to pay \$40,000 to fund a Brooklyn Environmental and Educational Sustainability Program run by Hobsons Bay City Council.

## NEW BROOKLYN INDUSTRIAL PRECINCT WEBSITE

A new website is under construction to provide a one-stop shop for information about improvements to the Brooklyn Industrial Precinct (BIP). Users will be able to access information on the latest news and improvements, as well as maps of industries in the precinct.

[www.BrooklynIP.com.au](http://www.BrooklynIP.com.au) will be launched in late June.

## NEWS

- Community representatives from BRAG and OTN and EPA have met with Brimbank City Council administrators and the Chief Executive of Hobsons Bay City Council. Members will meet with Maribyrnong City Council in coming months.
- BCRG Strategy Group – representatives from OTN and BRAG, Brimbank City Council, EPA and industry representatives met (on 22 April) to discuss the format of upcoming BCRG meetings.
- An inaugural meeting to set up a formal committee of senior representatives from councils, EPA, Department of Health and parliament, as well as the chair of BCRG, will be held on 31 May 2010.

## BCRG COMMUNITY MEETINGS

BCRG community meetings are held every six months, with additional meetings scheduled as required. The meetings are open for public attendance.

- Progress Update – 19 May 2010, 6.30 – 7.30 pm. Brooklyn Community hall, Cypress Avenue, Brooklyn.
- Biannual BCRG community meeting – 14 July 2010, 6.30 – 9.30 pm. Brooklyn Community hall, Cypress Avenue, Brooklyn.
- Biannual BCRG community meeting – 19 November 2010, 6.30 – 9.30 pm. Brooklyn Community hall, Cypress Avenue, Brooklyn.

## REPORTING POLLUTION

The community supports EPA by reporting pollution in its area to the Pollution Watch Line on 9695 2777.

EPA officers use information such as wind data, recent field investigations and information from the community to determine possible sources. Follow-up action may include on-site attendance after consideration of the extent, nature and severity of pollution reports from the community.

Local government can also respond to and prosecute complaints if companies are in breach of their planning permits:

- Brimbank City Council – 9249 4000.
- Maribyrnong City Council – 9688 0200.
- Hobson Bay City Council – 9932 1000.

## COMMUNITY CONTACTS

- **Yarraville On The Nose (YOTN)**  
Contact **Bruce** on **9332 2808** or email **coord.onthenose@gmail.com**  
(Yarraville and Kingsville area west of Williamstown Road.)
- **Brooklyn Residents Action Group (BRAG)**  
Contact **Bert** on **9314 1053 (AH)**  
(Based in the Brooklyn area bounded by Geelong Road and the West Gate Freeway.)
- The **BCRG Chair** is **Jen Lilburn**, Kismet Forward  
(**0418 373 352**, **jen@kismetforward.com.au**).