



ISSUE 5: BROOKLYN INDUSTRIAL AREA – IMPROVING ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

July 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.

BROOKLYN BLITZ

On Monday 21 June, 52 officers from EPA Victoria, Victoria Police, the Sheriff's Department, VicRoads, WorkSafe and Brimbank City Council were involved in a blitz on individual and company compliance against road safety, environmental, workplace safety and planning legislation.

Agencies participating in the blitz were very pleased with the success of the operation and plan to repeat the exercise in the future.

Three hundred vehicles in total were pulled over in the blitz, with the following fines issued:

- EPA – one truck determined to be totally defective (unregistered, unroadworthy, no waste transport certificates), 12 found to be non-compliant with waste transport requirements and four exceeded noise levels, totalling more than \$4500 in fines.
- Sheriff's Department – 37 warrants paid in full, 12 defendants (individuals) – money collected: \$14,132.70.
Court arrangements: 76 warrants, 10 defendants valued at \$24,486.70.
Licence suspensions: 104 warrants, 8 defendants valued at \$27,585.60.
Total: 36 defendants, 228 warrants valued at \$71,525.20.
- VicRoads – 32 offences (unregistered, unroadworthy, unsecure loads), totalling \$4500 in on-the-spot fines.

- VicPol – 13 offences (unregistered vehicles, no seatbelt, using mobile phones), totalling \$6000 on-the-spot fines.

Site inspections were also undertaken by WorkSafe and EPA:

- EPA – Identified three licence breaches. Four new investigations are now under way as a result of the inspections.
- WorkSafe – nine offending sites – 11 notices issued.

NEWS ON DUST AND ODOUR

- Three further clean-up notices have been issued to dust-producing companies with a compliance date of 1 October 2010. EPA has now issued 24 pollution abatement notices for dust mitigation.
- Due date for action on the first round of notices (six in total) has passed. EPA has received dust action plans for all of the businesses issued with a notice in this round. These businesses, amongst others, will present their plans to the July BCRG meeting.
- EPA is continuing dust surveillance, which will enable collection of evidence to issue notices on companies found to be creating dust.
- There are seven separate instances of offensive odour at various stages of investigation and legal negotiation. One of these cases is listed for court in early July.

OTHER NEWS

A meeting to set up a formal committee of senior representatives from councils, EPA, Department of Health and parliament, as well as the independent chair of BCRG, was held on 31 May 2010.

The committee adopted the name of Brooklyn Industrial Precinct Steering Committee and will enable a coordinated response to issues around the industrial precinct. The group will meet again in late August.

Brooklyn air quality data on the web

Dust monitoring data (measured as PM₁₀) from the Brooklyn air monitoring station is now available live on EPA's website:

www.epa.vic.gov.au/air/bulletins/aqbhour.asp

UPDATE ON DUST MONITORING

EPA started a dust monitoring program in late October 2009 to gain evidence on the extent and impact of dust emanating from the Brooklyn Industrial Precinct.

To date (28/10/09 – 24/06/10) the monitoring program has measured 26 days when dust levels were above the national air quality objective.

In autumn and winter months low temperatures combined with low winds can produce poor dispersion of urban air pollution. Urban pollutants are typically from combustion sources, such as motor vehicles, industry and solid-fuel heating. The build-up of these particles is likely to account for recent exceedances of the national objective at Brooklyn; however, the levels measured in Brooklyn are still higher than in surrounding areas.

Molab 1, Brooklyn Reserve

The dust monitoring program measures the quantity of fine dust (PM₁₀) at several stations surrounding the industrial precinct. The monitoring program has been expanded to analyse the elements in the dust.

Molab 1, deployed in Brooklyn Reserve, measures fine dust levels (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) and will also take samples to be analysed for composition.

The characterisation analysis (composition) involves laboratory analysis for 20–25 different chemical elements by local and interstate laboratories. The analysis is complex and requires specialist laboratories, not all available in Victoria.

EPA will be able to provide some interim findings at the September BCRG meeting, but it takes around 12 months of sampling to collect sufficient data to make a statistically sound 'air quality risk assessment'.

Sampling began in July. The monitoring station at the Brooklyn school site will be decommissioned once Molab 1 is operational.

Note that the PM₁₀ dust measurements already demonstrate dust levels beyond acceptable standards and EPA will continue to take action, regardless of the dust composition.

New Sunshine West monitor

Installation of a new dust monitoring station at Sunshine West is progressing. Fencing and underground services (power and phone) have been completed. Power connection to the site is anticipated to take several weeks.

This monitoring station will provide evidence of the movement and levels of dust in prevailing northwesterly and southerly winds.

BCRG COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Brooklyn Community Reference Group (BCRG) community meetings are held every six months, with additional meetings scheduled as required. The meetings are open for public attendance. RSVPs essential to Jen@KismetForward.com.au.

- Biannual BCRG community meeting – 14 July 2010, 6.30 – 9.30 pm. Brooklyn Community hall, Cypress Avenue, Brooklyn.
- Progress update – 15 September 2010, 6.30 – 9.30 pm. Brooklyn Community hall, Cypress Avenue, Brooklyn.
- Biannual BCRG community meeting – 17 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).