



## ISSUE 6: BROOKLYN INDUSTRIAL AREA – IMPROVING ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

October 2010

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

### THE BROOKLYN INDUSTRIAL PRECINCT

The Brooklyn Industrial Precinct is the triangular industrial area bordered by Kororoit Creek and the major thoroughfares Geelong and Somerville roads.

The precinct houses more than 60 industries, including quarrying, former landfill, abattoirs, composting, material recycling, tallow producers, container storage, chemical manufacturing as well as numerous small businesses including light industrial, retail and manufacturing.

The precinct is under the management of Brimbank City Council. Hobsons Bay, Wyndham and Maribyrnong city councils border the precinct, with some industries on the fringe of the precinct falling within their boundaries.

### INTRODUCING CHRIS WEBB

Chris Webb joined EPA Victoria in August 2010 as Director of Environmental Services. Among other things, this area of EPA manages the delivery of all pollution response, environmental compliance checking, environmental monitoring and enforcement.

Chris was formerly Director, Construction and Utilities, for WorkSafe. In that role he was responsible for holding industries to account for their occupational health and safety performance and oversaw a significant increase in regulatory activity and improved performance. Chris's background includes qualifications in chemistry, 10 years in the oil industry – including responsibility for environmental performance – and five years at the Australian Grand Prix Corporation, responsible for risk, HR and strategy.

Chris is a local resident to the industrial precinct so he is well aware of the concerns of local people. He has already met a number of the local residents and will attend the Brooklyn Community Reference Group (BCRG) meetings as he settles into his new role.

### NEWS ON DUST AND ODOUR

#### Dust pollution abatement notices

Twenty-six pollution abatement notices (PANs) and three clean-up notices have been issued for dust mitigation.

Fourteen of these have passed the compliance date and EPA has received 13 dust reports, with one company closed. Received dust reports are being assessed by dust mitigation experts. So far, companies have committed to spend in excess of two million dollars on dust control measures

Eight additional PANs are due for compliance in the next two months.

#### Dust and mud on roads

EPA is working with VicRoads and councils to address issues of dust from roads. The agencies have agreed to run combined operations targeting specific roads in the Brooklyn area.

Paramount Road was the first road chosen for the operation in mid-September, targeting trucks and sites that are tracking dust and mud off-site. Ten officers from VicRoads, council and EPA monitored the road over three days to investigate compliance with the Road Safety, Litter and Environment Protection Acts. This was the initial phase of an ongoing operation over the coming months. Council and VicRoads have also agreed to increased sweeping and road maintenance activities.

#### Odour investigation and enforcement

- Charges laid against Australian Tallow for breach of licence and pollution (10 and 19 February 2010).
- Court mention of Swift on 25 October for breach of licence and environmental hazard for discharge of effluent.
- EPA assessing a proposal for an enforceable undertaking lodged by Cargill for series of odour incidents earlier this year.
- EPA currently investigating recently confirmed reports of offensive odour from Australian Tallow and Cargill.

- EPA has responded to a range of recent offensive odour reports but these could not be confirmed by the officers.

### Surveillance and investigation

EPA continues to undertake surveillance and investigations in the Brooklyn area.

We are reviewing current licence conditions of identified premises causing significant odour in Brooklyn. More prescriptive conditions may result.

EPA has issued to all businesses with PANs letters about dust and mud on roads. Additional premises that have been identified as offering a medium to high risk of generating dust or mud will receive notices.

### UPDATE ON DUST MONITORING

EPA started a dust monitoring program in late October 2009 to measure particle matter coming from the Brooklyn Industrial Precinct.

To date (up to 15 September 2010), the monitoring program has measured 38 days with dust levels above the national air quality objective. The national goal for air quality is less than five exceedances of the national air quality objective per annum.

Measurements in Brooklyn are well above those in other areas across Melbourne. The Department of Health has developed brochures on the health impacts of dust, which were presented at the September BCRG community Forum (for a copy, contact the BCRG Chair, Jen Lilburn).

EPA also presented initial results from the particle characterisation analysis (composition) at the September BCRG meeting. The characterisation analysis (composition) involves laboratory analysis for 20 to 25 different chemical elements by local and interstate laboratories. The analysis is complex and requires specialist laboratories, not all available in Victoria.

Air monitoring is also being undertaken for asbestos and respirable silica. Readings to date have not detected limits of health concern; however, a comprehensive health risk assessment cannot be made until about 12 months of data is collected.

### Molab 1, Brooklyn Reserve

Molab 1, set up in Brooklyn Reserve, measures particle levels (PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>) in air and also collects particle samples from the air for laboratory analysis to determine the components and composition of the particles.

### New Sunshine West monitor

The new dust monitoring station at Sunshine West is operational. This station will provide evidence of the movement and levels of dust in prevailing north-westerly and southerly winds.

### Brooklyn air quality data on the web

Particle monitoring data (measured as PM<sub>10</sub>) from the Brooklyn air monitoring station is now available live on EPA's website:

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

### BCRG COMMUNITY FORUM

The BCRG Community Forum is an opportunity for members of the community, industry, and local and state government to discuss issues about the air quality of the general Brooklyn area. It also enables the communication of plans and progress by individual industries, local government and EPA.

Meetings are held every four months with additional meetings scheduled as required.

RSVPs essential to: [jen@kismetforward.com.au](mailto:jen@kismetforward.com.au)

- 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](mailto: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](mailto:jen@kismetforward.com.au)).