



ISSUE 7: BROOKLYN INDUSTRIAL AREA – IMPROVING ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

January 2011

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

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 over 60 industries, including quarrying, former landfill, abattoirs, composting, material recycling, tallow producers, container storage and 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 City Council, Wyndham City council and Maribyrnong City Council border the Brooklyn Industrial Precinct, with some industries on the fringe of the precinct lying within their boundaries.

SWIFT AUSTRALIA PROSECUTION

Swift Australia (Southern) Pty Ltd was ordered to pay a fine by the Melbourne Magistrates' Court in December 2010 for its role in polluting the environment. The company pleaded guilty to charges of polluting Stony Creek with animal effluent via discharges into a stormwater drain; failing to comply with two EPA Victoria directions to prevent such discharges; and placing waste where it could gain access to waters under the *Environment Protection Act 1970*.

From the prosecution \$50,000 was awarded to Brooklyn Residents Action Group (BRAG) to develop a green open space area along the Brooklyn Federation Trail and DN Duane Reserve for use by all of the local community. The project will include tree planting, installing picnic facilities and a planting day celebration to help the local community and residents connect with their local environment. The project is being supported by the Friends of Kororoit Creek.

COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

EPA is holding another series of Community Open House events in March. Come along and meet local EPA staff and discuss your issues and concerns. Check your local paper or the EPA website for dates, times and venues.

LOG FUMIGATION, SLIDECROSS TRANSPORT

In response to community reports, EPA issued a pollution abatement notice (PAN) to Slidecross Transport (463a Sommerville Road, Brooklyn) to assess potential health impacts of its fumigation activities. The modelling was performed by a consultant recommended by EPA and was submitted to EPA for assessment in late December 2010.

EPA has advised the company that their activities meet the State Environment Protection Policy (Air Quality Management Criteria) (SEPP AQM), provided:

- they shift containers to the middle of the property
- there are no more than 20 containers fumigated per day
- they do not exceed the dose rates specified
- they adhere to operating hours (6am - 5pm).

EPA has advised Brimbank City Council of these findings. EPA cannot prevent a company from operating if they meet regulatory guidelines. The business must still meet Brimbank City Council's planning requirements.

NEWS ON DUST AND ODOUR

Dust pollution abatement notices

EPA has issued 27 pollution abatement notices (PANs) in the Brooklyn Area; 25 are currently in force. One new PAN was issued since the last newsletter. EPA has identified additional sites that may require PANs. These sites will be monitored and additional notices will be issued if required. EPA has issued three clean-up notices; two companies have vacated the premises.

EPA has dust reports from all companies required to provide them except one company, which is being addressed. EPA has conducted 15 detailed site inspections and continues surveillance activities of all notice-holders in the Brooklyn Industrial Precinct.

Surveillance and investigation

Surveillance is carried out on days when northerly winds are predicted for a set surveillance route which ensures all notices sites are included. Surveillance is

carried out on all notice and licence-holders that are a risk of generating dust in the Brooklyn Industrial Precinct. Surveillance is also aimed at identifying any additional dust-generating businesses that require action to ensure residents are not impacted.

Odour investigation and enforcement

- **Cargill** – a proposed enforceable undertaking for a series of incidents earlier this year is in the final stages of negotiation.
- **Australian Tallow** – EPA is progressing the pollution abatement notice (PAN). Australian Tallow has voluntarily restricted throughput, to assist reduction in odour events. The company has been cooperative in the drafting of a PAN and is continuing to address odour issues.

UPDATE ON DUST MONITORING

EPA commenced a dust monitoring program in late October 2009 to measure particle matter emanating from the Brooklyn industrial precinct.

To date (28/10/09 – 31/12/10) the monitoring program has measured 43 days when dust levels have been above the national air quality objective.

A range of actions are in place that require industry to significantly reduce dust emissions. Research to date suggests roads are a major vector and source of dust; however, stockpiles and site activities also contribute to total loads.

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

Molab 1, Brooklyn Reserve

Molab 1, deployed in Brooklyn Reserve, measures particle levels in air (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) and collects particle samples from the air for laboratory analysis to determine their components and composition.

Sunshine West monitor

A dust monitoring station at Sunshine West is operational. This monitoring station provides evidence of the movement and levels of dust in prevailing north-westerly and southerly winds. There have been no exceedances recorded on this monitor to date.

Brooklyn air quality data on the web

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

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

NEW BROOKLYN INDUSTRIAL PRECINCT WEBSITE

A website is being trialled 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, and further enhancements to the site will include maps of the industries in the precinct. Find it online at:

www.BrooklynIP.com.au.

BCRG COMMUNITY FORUM

The BCRG Community Forum (Brooklyn Community Reference Group) 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 Victoria.

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

RSVPs are essential, to Jen@KismetForward.com.au.

- BCRG community meeting – 16 February 2011, 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 onsite 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 Independent Chair is **Jen Lilburn, Kismet Forward** 0418 373 352, jen@kismetforward.com.au.