

Dust from Bunting Road

EPA has been informed by Tom Buxton that a date has been set in late November for the sealing of Bunting Road.

Brooklyn quarries

EPA is working to bring the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) into dust actions. DPI regulates quarry activities and has extensive experience in dust management.

SCIENTIFIC DUST MONITORING PROGRAM

EPA has begun a 10-month program to measure dust in the Brooklyn area and provide important information about local air quality. This program was initiated in response to community concerns about nuisance dust and the potential health impacts of fine dust emitted from the Brooklyn industrial estate.

Particulate matter, or PM, is made up of many sizes of particles, grouped into coarse particles (such as dust found near unsealed roads) and fine particles (dust found in smoke and haze). The monitoring program will measure fine dust particles with a diameter less than 10 micrometres in size, called PM₁₀, as well as measuring the total dust load.

In October 2009 monitoring equipment was installed at two sites in Brooklyn and at another in Yarraville. Monitoring instruments at the three sites measure particles continuously and will also provide wind direction and wind speed data to assist in identifying the areas producing dust.

All sites have been carefully chosen and the equipment used is the best available. All instruments are maintained and calibrated regularly by EPA scientists to ensure the ongoing collection of high-quality data.

The machines have taken several weeks to calibrate and EPA is beginning to receive data. The data collected through this program will be made available to the public once it has been properly validated and analysed. This may take up to two months to complete. EPA will publish preliminary results closer to Christmas.

EVOLVING THE PROJECT ENGAGEMENT

At the September Brooklyn dust subgroup meeting, feedback was sought on processes for engaging and providing information. EPA presented a model to participants in which the BCRG meetings will remain every six months and subgroups evolve to a more targeted industry, community and authority strategic action group.

On 12 November, EPA brought together a small selection of industry and community members to explore ways to develop a more focused action group.

Participants decided that they did not want to set up a formal group, but instead wished to schedule a series of industry visits to better understand site operations and to communicate residents' needs. EPA will assist in coordinating site visits with BRAG and YOTN representatives and local government to a selection of local industries over the next six months.

BROOKLYN COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP MEETINGS

BCRG meeting dates – **19 May 2010** and **17 November 2010**.

The meetings are open to the community to attend.

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

JOIN THE MAILING LIST

Would you like to know more? Join the mailing list by calling EPA on **9695 2722**.

COMMUNITY CONTACTS:

There are three community-based groups participating in the BCRG:

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 Jan on **0417 637 503**
(Based in the Brooklyn area bounded by Geelong Road and the West Gate Freeway.)

Sunshine Residents and Ratepayers Association (SunRRA)

Contact Darlene at secretary@sunshine.asn.au
(Based in the Sunshine area.)

The **BCRG Chair** is **Jen Lilburn (0418 373 352)**.