



# BROOKLYN COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE GROUP

**OUR PURPOSE:** to facilitate community, industry, local government and EPA working together to ensure that public concerns and aspirations regarding odour, noise and dust in the general Brooklyn area are consistently understood and considered.

## MARCH 2016 MEETING SNAPSHOTS

### Community Update

Bruce Light, Yarraville On The Nose, commented on the reduction of odour that has occurred in the past 10 years thanks to the work of industries such as Cargill and the BCRG forum. However, dust and noise were still an issue for the region and there is still more to be done. After discussions with Hon Marsha Thomson, Member for Footscray, he has been advised that the Minister for Environment, Hon Lisa Neville has agreed to attend the next BCRG forum on July 20, 2016.

Nial Finegan, CEO EPA Victoria said that Minister Thomson was very keen to pick up where Minister Noonan left off in advocating for Brooklyn.

### Brooklyn Roads Update

Susan Fitton, Brimbank CC provided an update on the roads works being undertaken in Brooklyn to reduce dust.



#### Jones Road planting

The Council Urban Design officer has advised that the planting of ground cover plants is planned for Jones Rd in April/May to allow them to be established over the cooler months.

#### Old Geelong Road construction

The widening and sealing of the northern section of Old Geelong Road has been referred for consideration in Council's 10 Year Capital Works Program for 2016/17. The Capital Works Budget is required to be publicly advertised and submissions may be received from the community. The final approved program won't be known until mid-year.

#### Old Geelong Road swale

Council has made an application to Melbourne Water's Living Rivers Fund for a grant to share the cost to form a vegetated swale in order to improve the quality of stormwater from the roads that enters the drainage system. Council will know in a few weeks if the application is successful.



# Amendment C177 Brooklyn Industrial and Commercial Precinct

Susan Fitton, Brimbank CC said that on 9 February 2016, after the release of the Planning Panel report, Brimbank City Council considered Amendment C177 which proposes to:

- Amend Clause 21.09 Industrial Land Use of the Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS)
- Apply the Design and Development Overlay (DD011) to all land in the Brooklyn Industrial Precinct
- Rezone land along part of the Geelong Road, Brooklyn frontage from Industrial 1 to the Commercial 2 Zone
- Make minor changes to the Brooklyn Evolution Strategy 2012.

Brimbank City Council decided to uphold the officers' recommendation, make some minor wording changes to the Design and Development Overlay and adopt the modified amendment. The next step is for the amendment documentation to be sent to the Minister for Planning for approval. This could take 3 – 18 months before it is gazetted and becomes regulation.

The council report, panel report and assessment are available at Brimbank City Council website at:  
[http://www.brimbank.vic.gov.au/COUNCIL/Council\\_Meetings/2016\\_Council\\_Meeting\\_Agendas\\_and\\_Minutes](http://www.brimbank.vic.gov.au/COUNCIL/Council_Meetings/2016_Council_Meeting_Agendas_and_Minutes)

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## BCRG is on Facebook

The community is encouraged to 'like' it! Andrea and Jen are the administrators of the site – anyone wishing to contribute should message via Facebook or send an email to [eo.bcr@gmail.com](mailto:eo.bcr@gmail.com).



<https://www.facebook.com/BrooklynCommunityRepresentativeGroup>

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## EPA Victoria Update, Nial Finegan, CEO and Daniel Hunt, Manager, Metro



### Dust Updates

- Six exceedences have been recorded so far this financial year; note that one dust monitoring system was not operating during one potential exceedence day
- Dust Survey Action Plan has been prepared for the precinct and is to be undertaken in the first quarter of 2016
- Mobile Dust Monitoring has been undertaken

Despite the very dry year there have not been as many exceedences. It is thought that this due to the roads and sealing programs together with improvements on industry sites such as site sealing and wheel washes.



**Mobile particle monitoring**

The mobile monitoring device is mounted in a vehicle and used to monitor real time particle levels along the roads in Brooklyn. The results show significant improvements, particularly on Jones Rd and Bunting Rd in the past year.

**2015**



**2016**



*Mobile particle monitoring in Brooklyn. Green indicates low readings and red indicates high readings of dust particles.*





## Air Quality Update

- Sealing of roads has led to improvements in air quality
- It is easier to investigate and enforce dust tracked out from industry.
- EPA will be focusing on Jones and Bunting Roads precinct for compliance inspections over the next quarter.

## Odour Update

- Australian Tallow Prosecution – December 23 2015 – ATP was found guilty on all charges and ordered to pay \$200,000 to Hobsons Bay City Council to fund a community environmental project
- A Penalty Infringement Notice (PIN) was also issued and paid
- Investigation into new and returning odour sources continues

There continues to be concern expressed from community representatives regarding the EPA Call Centre processes and the investigation timing from EPA officers.

***EPA continues to urge everyone to call in any odour reports to make sure EPA has all the information needed to track odours and follow through with enforcement.***



1300 EPA VIC (1300 372 842)



[contact@epa.vic.gov.au](mailto:contact@epa.vic.gov.au)

Nial Finegan thanked the community for the feedback, saying that the EPA will continue to improve the call centre service. Weekend responses have been upgraded. The EPA Hotline is 24/7, 365 days per year. Community reports are very important to help the officers investigate and monitor odour exceedences.

A study on the Brooklyn Air quality and roads shows that the road sealing has achieved the expected positive impact. The focus now has to be how to ensure the roads are kept clean and the adjoining businesses continue to improve the off road sites in order to reduce dust. Nial congratulated those businesses already undertaking works on their sites.

EPA Victoria believes it has achieved change for the area and is committed to Brooklyn for the long term. The next phase is to increase the effort and improve Brooklyn so it no longer has the worst air quality in Melbourne.

## Fire Prevention

Due to some recent fire events at industrial sites, EPA is facilitating a fire prevention program including proactive work in collaboration with the EPA, MFB and various Councils to reduce the fire risk of various industries.



***EPA, MFB and council officers inspecting sites in Brooklyn.***



# Sunshine Groupe Site Improvements Update

(Christian Buxton, Manager)



Christian gave an overview of the Sunshine Groupe’s integrated recycling and waste management business operating in Bunting Rd, Brooklyn.

In order to minimise dust creation and the transfer of sediment offsite, Sunshine Groupe has spent almost \$800,000 on dust control measures including spray systems, covers at transfer points and conveyors plus site management systems using truck showers, water truck and dust monitors.

Since Jones and Bunting Roads were sealed there have been more significant works undertaken including sealing the entrance, internal roads, tipping points, creating spoon drains, building a new tipping shed, street sweeping and a water bath totalling over \$1.1M.

Further site improvement works are planned for the next 4 months including: sealing the un-tarpping area and tipping and stockpiling areas, water bath upgrade, completion of the recycling plant, drainage, fencing and better planning for traffic and dust management.

Christian stressed that Sunshine Groupe are dedicated to environmental improvements that foster a sustainable future and lead to social and economic improvements in the community where they do business.



*Site improvements at Sunshine Groupe*



## Stockpile fire

The fire at Sunshine Groupe started on January 26 2016 in a stockpile of carpets that had been removed from the waste and was first observed around 6.50 pm. Within 30 minutes the Operations Manager and the MFB fire trucks were in attendance. The fire was extinguished by 2am. During the fire the MFB were monitoring the air quality for the toxic fumes.

Overall, Sunshine Groupe was happy with the response and the procedures that were put into place. MFB were present quickly to extinguish the fire. EPA officers were onsite the next day to inspect. There has been no elevation in toxic levels since.

Christian apologised to the community for any ill effects from the fire. He stressed that the community does not deserve these incidents and Sunshine Groupe is working with EPA, Brimbank CC and MFB as part of a new program to assess risks and develop procedures for potential fire events.

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## Addressing Dust and Stockpile Heights in Brooklyn

The following issues were raised by the community:

- Having listened to different recycling industries report on their achievements - the bottom line is that we are still being inundated with dust.
- The issue of the growing stockpiles and the exemptions under the existing rights laws has been raised at BCRG since it began. The law is outdated and industries should be working to modern standards. The community doesn't know what else it can do to address this.
- In the last 3 years the stockpiles have got worse i.e. the height of the piles is tripled in size based on the allowed heights.
- When you drive in Geelong Rd you can't see through the dust coming from dust piles and no one acts on this.
- There a lot of young children in the new developments which are at risk from dust. It isn't right that children have to be kept indoors to protect their health.
- Local schools are losing student numbers due to the dust.

### ***Community members asked what can they do about the remaining dust issues affecting residents in Brooklyn?***

Nial Finegan, EPA responded by saying that the next step has to be to lobby government for change. Industries that are improving their sites should be putting pressure on other industries to improve. Don't stop bringing up this issue; the Minister for Environment is attending the next BCRG Forum so use that time to make your case.

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**The BCRG Community Forums for 2016 are :**

**20 July and 16 November.**

***Attendance by open invitation; contact [eo.bcr@gmail.com](mailto:eo.bcr@gmail.com)***

**See the meeting notes at <http://www.brooklynip.com.au/bcr-meeting-notes>  
for a full account of discussions at the meeting.**

