

BCRG COMMUNITY FORUM 1/2016

02 March, 2016

6:00pm for 6:30 – 9:05 pm

Brooklyn Community Centre, Cypress Avenue, Brooklyn



Meeting Purpose:

- To provide an update on progress towards resolution of dust, noise and odour issues

Chair: Jen Lilburn

Agenda Items and Actions from meeting

Light Refreshments
1. Welcome, Jen Lilburn
2. Community Update regarding major dust issues/initiatives, Bruce Light
3. Brimbank Works Update (Susan Fitton, Brimbank CC) <i>Action 020316_1: Brimbank to provide a further update on the roadworks program at the July BCRG forum.</i> <i>Action 020316_2: Susan Fitton and Carmen to meet after the forum and potentially meet with the Principal planner at Brimbank to discuss the Design and Development Overlay amendments.</i>
4. EPA Victoria Update on dust, noise and odour program (Nial Finegan, CEO and Daniel Hunt, Unit Manager Metro) <i>Action 020316_3: EPA to get feedback from the MFB regarding notification systems for residents in the event of a fire.</i>
5. Sunshine Groupe Update -dust mitigation measures & recent minor incident (Christian Buxton, Manager) <i>Action 020316_4: Christian to investigate dieldrin risks and report back through the meeting notes.</i> <i>Action 020316_5: Sunshine Groupe to provide their dust measurement data and demonstrate the measurements of dust from ppt to ppm³.</i>
6. Targets for BCRG to end 2018 (Jen Lilburn) <i>Action 020316_6: Jen to coordinate reporting on the 2016, 2017 and 2018 targets at the end of each year.</i> <i>Action 020316_7: Susan Fitton to respond to the additional suggestions made during the targets discussion.</i>
7. Panel - Malcolm Ramsay (Hobsons Bay CC), Stephen Wall (Maribyrnong CC), Susan Fitton (Brimbank CC), Daniel Hunt (EPA), Christian Buxton (Sunshine Groupe) <i>Action 020316_8: Jen to liaise with BCRG members and invite the community to make a presentation for Hon Lisa Neville's attendance at the July 2016 BCRG forum.</i> <i>Action 020316_9: Brimbank staff to investigate the stockpiles visible from Geelong Rd with the resident.</i>
8. Wrap up & Close.

The intent of these meeting notes is to promote open communication between local business, local and state government, community and the EPA. They are not to be used in a manner that compromises this objective.

Notes from this meeting will be posted on the Brooklyn Industrial Precinct website and will be available to the general public. Meeting participants should advise Andrea Mason or Jen Lilburn if they would like their name removed from this public document.

Item 1. Welcome, (Jen Lilburn)

Jen Lilburn (Convenor) welcomed everyone to the BCRG forum, especially Nial Finegan, CEO EPA Victoria, Stephen Wall, CEO and Sunil Bhalla, Maribyrnong Council, community representatives from Yarraville on the Nose YOTN, Brooklyn Residents Action Group (BRAG), industry representatives and new meeting attendees. Jen noted that the community forum is now in its ninth year.

The final notes from the November 2015 meeting are available from the [Brooklynip website](#).

Christian Buxton, Sunshine Groupe was welcomed and Jen thanked the forum for its ongoing support of the BCRG values and respect which encouraged industry representatives to present to the group.

Wade Noonan, MP has been a long-time supporter and advocate for Brooklyn and BCRG. The group wished him all the best and a quick return to work.

Apologies included Jane Nathan, Administrator Brimbank CC, Cr Sandra Wilson, Hobsons Bay CC and Cr Michael Clarke.

Item 2. Community Update regarding major dust issues/initiatives, (Bruce Light and Bert Boere)

Bruce Light, Yarraville On The Nose, commented on the reduction of odour that have 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. After 10 years there still needs to more done in relation to waste disposal. Bruce noted that substantial funding had been allocated for the monitoring of the health and environment in the Latrobe Valley since the Hazelwood fire and that the issues in Brooklyn were sufficient to attract the same level of attention. After discussions with Hon Marsha Thomson, Member for Footscray, he has been given an assurance that the Minister for Environment, Hon Lisa Neville has agreed to attend the next BCRG forum on July 20, 2016. This is a significant milestone which will hopefully make a change to west Melbourne.

Nial Finegan said that Marsha was very keen to pick up where Wade left off in advocating for Brooklyn. He suggested a site tour for the Minister before the forum would be beneficial.

Bert Boere had nothing to report from the Brooklyn Resident's Action Group.

Item 3. Brimbank CC Works Update and Planning permit update, (Susan Fitton, Strategic Sites Officer)

Susan Fitton gave a brief report on the roadworks program for Brooklyn on behalf of Ray Martin Infrastructure Development Coordinator.

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. The works are proposed to be funded in the 2016/17 financial year. As with all Council budgets, 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

There is a drainage channel along parts of the northern side of Old Geelong Road. 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. These works are proposed to be undertaken with the road works or shortly after. Council will know in a few weeks if the application is successful.

Action 020316_1: Brimbank to provide a further update on the roadworks program at the July BCRG forum.

Amendment C177 Brooklyn Industrial and Commercial Precinct

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 2012.

Brimbank City Council at this meeting 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 from 3 – 18 months before it is gazetted and becomes regulation.

The council report, panel report and assessment is available at Brimbank City Council website at the following link: [Brimbank City Council - 2016 Council Meeting Agendas and Minutes](#)

Question: There appears to be a lot of deletions in the overlay document as a result of the modifications which seem to favour the existing use rights laws and reduce its effectiveness.

Response: Susan Fitton, BCC The document was reformatted in line with the recommendations of the Planning Panel. The intent of the wording was not altered during this process. Many of the points were simply moved to another more appropriate heading.

Action 020316_2: Susan Fitton and Carmen to meet after the forum and potentially meet with the Principal planner at Brimbank to discuss the Design and Development Overlay amendments.

After the meeting: Susan replied that Carmen was satisfied and no longer requires a meeting to discuss the formatting changes.

Item 4. EPA Victoria Update on dust, noise and odour program (Nial Finegan, CEO and Daniel Hunt, Unit Manager Metro)

Daniel's presentation can be seen in full in [Attachment 1](#). Daniel gave an update on odour, dust, mobile monitoring of dust, air quality and fire prevention.

Odour Update

- Australian Tallow Prosecution – December 23 2015 - Guilty on all charges and ordered to pay \$200,000 to Hobsons Bay City Council to fund a community environmental project
- Penalty Infringement Notice (PIN) also issued and paid
- Investigation into new and returning odour sources
- Western Suburbs Odour Event in January

Daniel commented that there has been a change in management at Australian Tallow Producers (ATP) and that they hope to work closely with them to improve performance.

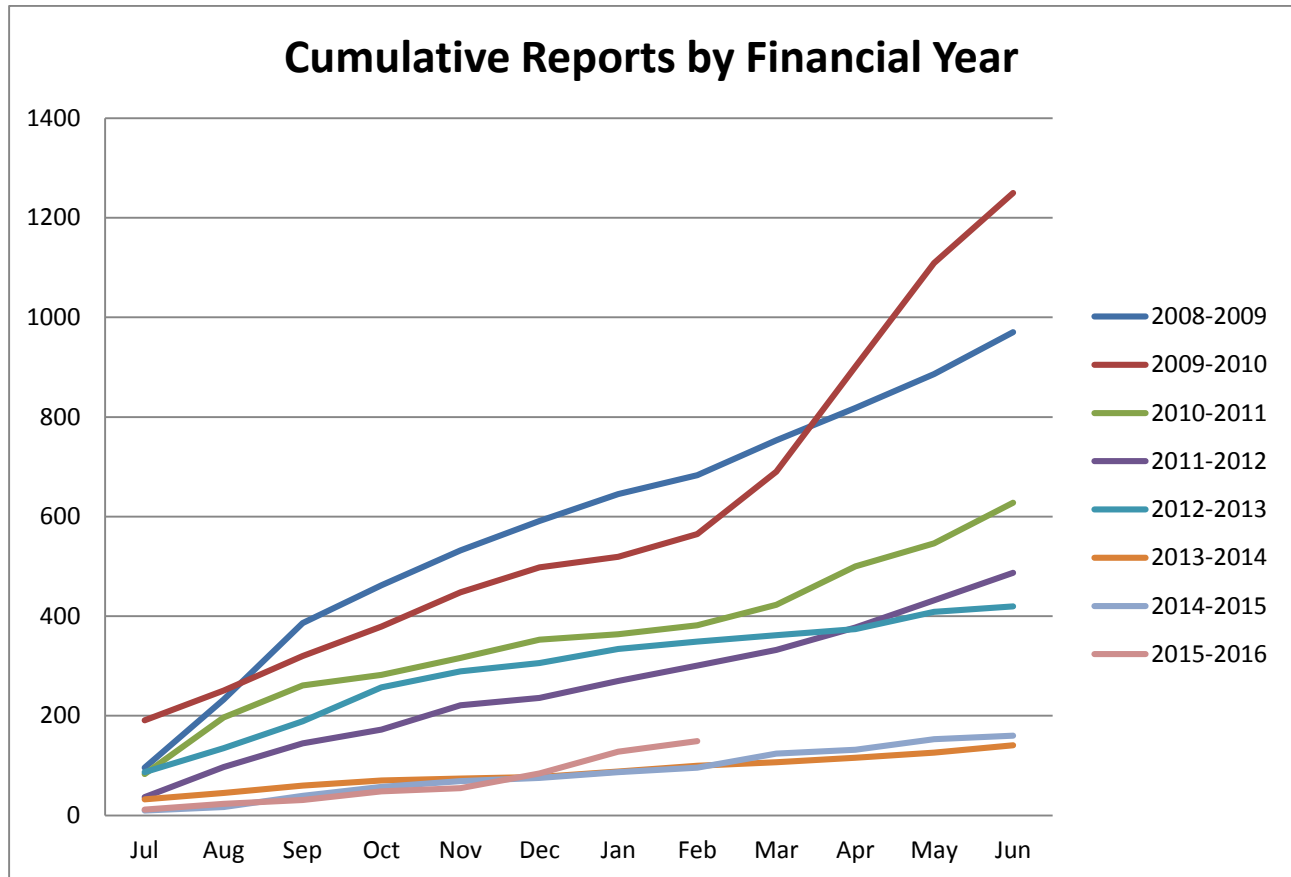


Figure 1. Odour Reports in Brooklyn

Question: There are still issues with the EPA Hotline. When you call to report an odour, you are asked where the odour comes from and if you don't know the complaint is not registered. Recently the number of complaints registered about an issue did not match the number of residents I know actually rang. Complaints at night and on the weekend do not appear to be investigated. What has been done to improve this since it was raised at the last forum?

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

Response: Daniel Hunt, EPA The EPA does send officers to investigate reports on the weekend and at night. The reporting system is essential to the prosecutions process. It has to be proven that the odour is offensive to the person making the complaint. Phone calls to the Hotline are best where an immediate response is required. Email reports are also important but can take longer for a response.

Response: Chris Bydder, EPA Sometimes officers sent to investigate often can't find the source of the odour.

Question: Does the reporting system allow for companies to make a complaint?

Response: Emma Roper, EPA It is important that the reports are made as individuals as the inspecting officers need to know who to talk to about the complaint at the time and in the follow up. Also, in order to proceed with any prosecutions, the reports and evidence must be from individuals within the community.

Response: Chris Bydder, EPA The call centre does not decide if an officer responds to a report. That is determined by the officers and is based on the reports as they come in. All sites reported are investigated at some time, if not immediately.

Chris Bydder and Jim Demetriou, the EPA Odour expert, inspected ATP before Christmas as part of the VCAT process. The new PANS¹ for ATP will greatly improve the site and must be completed by December 2016.

Question: ATP sometimes blame other sources for the odour. Are there other tallow rendering plants in Brooklyn?

Response: Chris Bydder, EPA There are two other rendering plants – one at JBS and one in Laverton Nth.

Dust Update

- 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 2016
- Mobile Dust Monitoring has been undertaken

**Number of days exceeding PM10 air quality objective
(May 2015 - Feb 2016)**

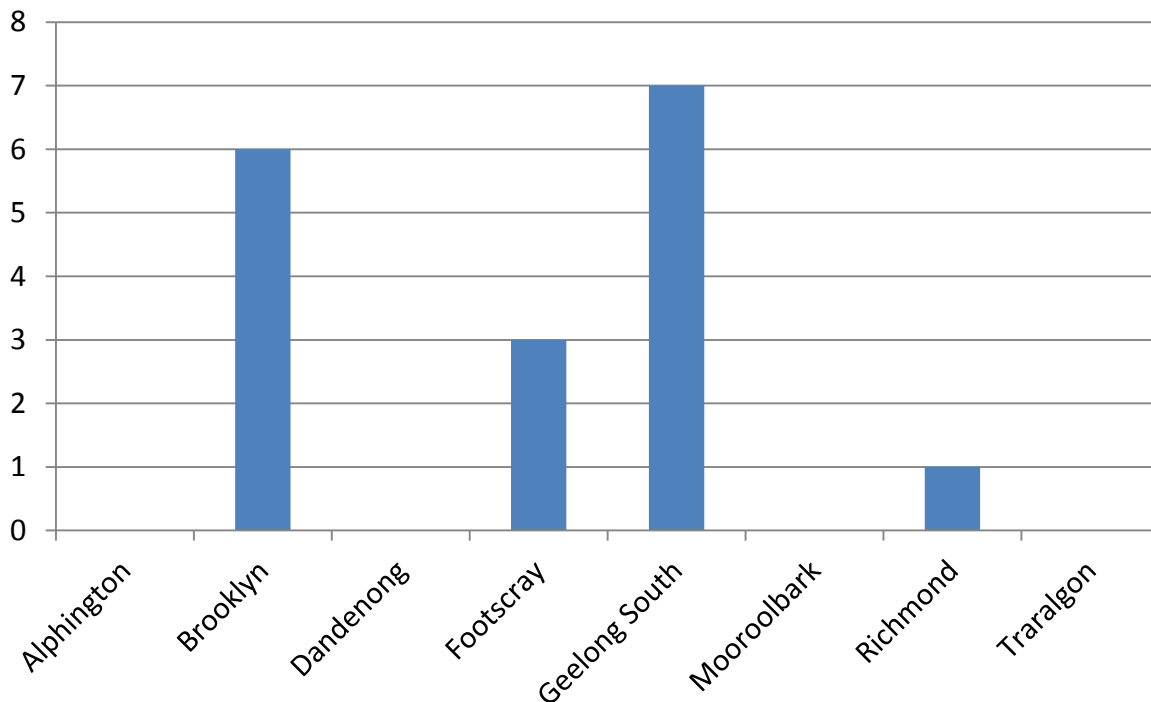


Figure 2. Dust Reports across the Melbourne network

¹ Pollution Abatement Notices

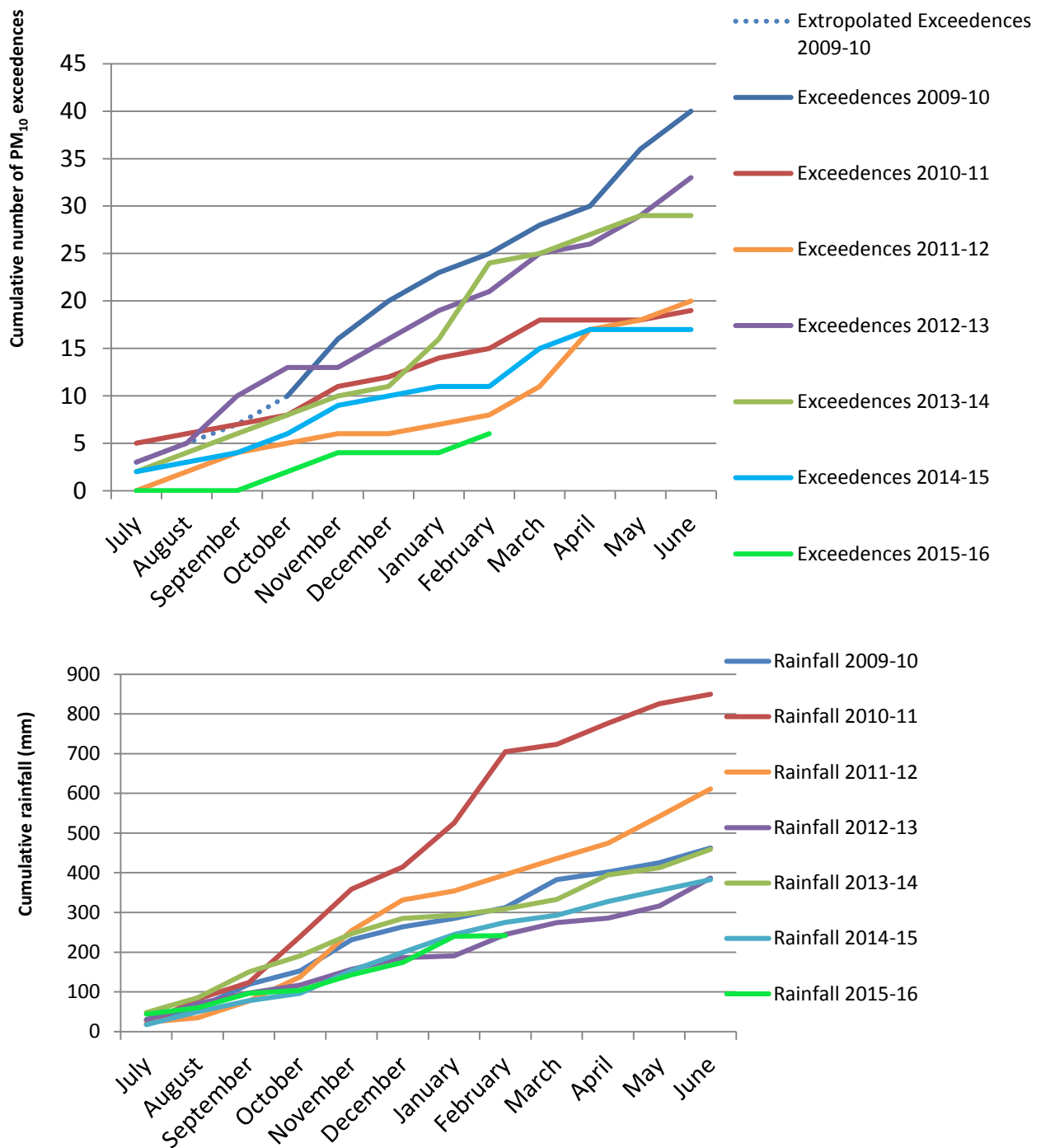


Figure 3. Cumulative Dust exceedences and Rainfall comparisons in Brooklyn

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

2015



2016



Figure 4. Mobile particle monitoring in Brooklyn. Red indicates high readings of particles.

The mobile monitoring shows significant improvements on the roads, particularly Jones Rd and Bunting Rd in the past year.

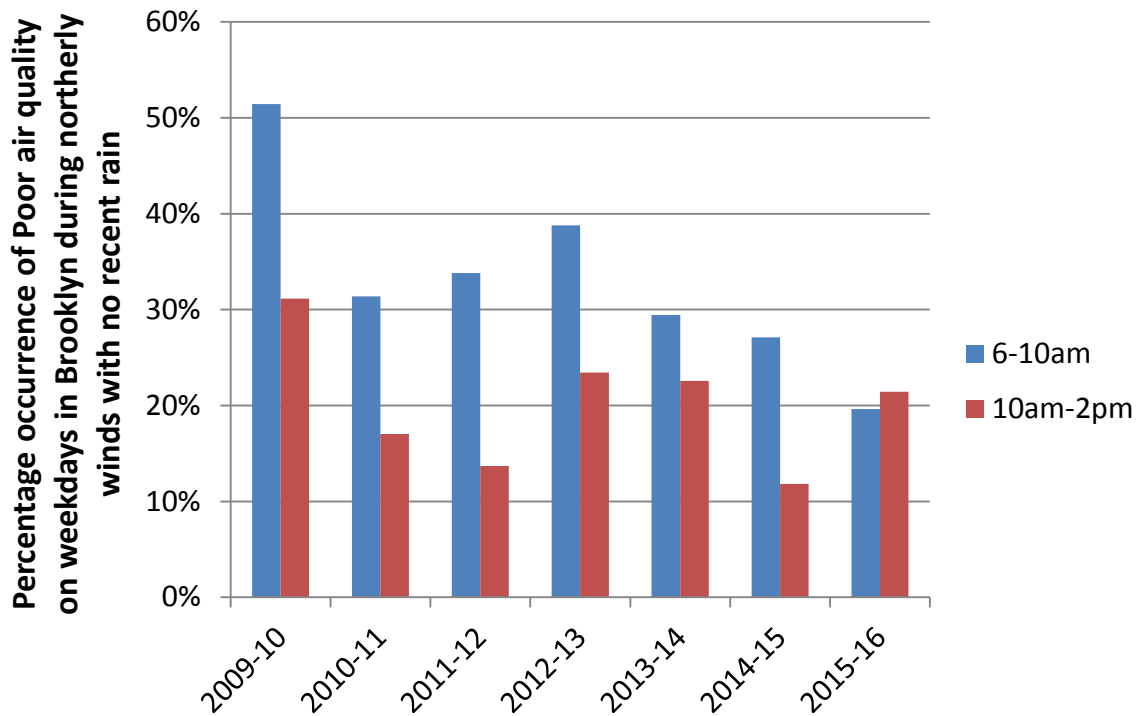


Figure 5. Movement of the daily peak

Air Quality Update

- Sealing of roads has led to improvements in air quality
- It is easier to enforce and investigate dust track out from industry.
- We will be focusing on Jones and Bunting Roads precinct for our compliance inspections over the next quarter.
- There are current ongoing investigations with regard to dust tracking out of several businesses in the precinct.
- PINS and Official warnings have been issued.

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 Council's to reduce the fire risk of various industry.

Figure 6. EPA, MFB and council officers inspecting sites in Brooklyn.



Question: Why aren't the locals informed when a large fire event takes place? There was a lot of smoke and flames when the rubbish fire started. The potential for it to get away through the rubbish and long grass around Geelong Rd is very high.

Response: Daniel Hunt, EPA The response is under the management of Emergency Services Victoria who do some community notifications using the Fire Ready App and other social media outlets.

Response: Nial Finegan, EPA If the current system is not hitting the target, we can give feedback to EMV on preferred communications options for these situations. Other issues related to fires include prevention appropriate to each site. A united front from the agencies involved is harder for non-compliant properties to ignore.

Question: Is the SMS notification system for fires being used and working properly?

Response: Nial Finegan, EPA The emergency services responding assess the risk of each fire and notify the public based on the risks, using the smoke as a key indicator. It is highly recommended that people get the Fire Ready App for their smart phones.

Action 020316_3: EPA to get feedback from the MFB regarding notification systems for residents in the event of a fire.

Question: Does the MFB have monitoring equipment for air quality at these fire events?

Response: Nial Finegan, EPA MFB and CFA have air monitoring for their staff. Generally, the advice to residents is to avoid smoke inhalation. The Incident Controller allows EPA a 24-hour window to monitor fire sites. EPA advice for air quality is targeted at prolonged fire events and long term smoke exposure e.g. Hazelwood.

Nial Finegan

Nial commented on the expected improvements that had occurred since Jones Rd and Bunting Rd have been sealed.

A study on the Brooklyn Air quality and roads shows that the road sealing has achieved the expected positive impact. [See Attachment 3](#)

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.

The recent spate of fires has caused concerns because there were so many close together. A new blitz campaign is underway to provide a coordinated effort to reduce environmental risks from dust and smoke, ensure fire risks are managed and hold businesses to account.

The Hon Marsha Thomson has made a commitment to continue Wade Noonan's advocacy. Nial assured the forum that there have discussions in Parliament about the issues in Brooklyn and that the community is being listened to.

The EPA 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.

Question: What was the cause of the three Brooklyn fires?

Response: Nial Finegan, EPA The Geelong Rd tyre fire was deliberately lit. EPA is working with the tyre facility and Pollution Abatement Notices will be used to enforce changes to that site. There is no common element for all the fires. Some of the fires are still under investigation.

The EPA's role now is to ensure there is sufficient risk mitigation. Lessons learned include how we work with Councils to mitigate risks.



1300 EPA VIC (1300 372 842)



contact@epa.vic.gov.au

After the meeting: The EPA media release "EPA inspections to enforce new rules around waste tyre stockpiles" can be seen on the [EPA website](#).

Item 5. Sunshine Groupe Site Improvements Update (Christian Buxton, Manager)

Christian's presentation can be seen in full in [Attachment 2](#).

Christian gave an overview of the Sunshine Groupe's integrated recycling and waste management business operating in Bunting Rd, Brooklyn. Its current services include commercial waste, construction and demolition recycling and plasterboard recycling. It intends to expand into timber, commercial and industrial waste recycling and alternative fuel production.



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. These actions have produced significant results both externally and internally in improving the dust issue. 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.



Figure 7 Site improvements at Sunshine Groupe

Stockpile fire

The fire at Sunshine Groupe started on January 26 2016 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.

The fire was not near the landfill but in a stockpile of carpets that had been removed from the waste as carpet is difficult to compact. (The carpet is normally shredded and used in the lining of landfill cells.)

There were three possible causes of the fire which were discounted: batteries, instantaneous combustion from green waste or lightning. After discussions with MFB, the most probable cause is from human interference.

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.

Comment: Our family was very frightened and it was an extraordinary visual event. It was not a minor incident, as mentioned in the agenda - there were 50 fire officers present and the community was asked to shut their windows on a 30-degree day and the next.

Response, Jen I sincerely apologise for calling it a minor incident on the agenda.

Response, Christian Sunshine Groupe apologises for the incident. This had not been foreseen as a risk. We believe it was caused by human interference. We recognise the stress it has caused the community.

Question: Why is the stockpile mound on your site so high and producing dust?

Response, Christian Reduction of the stockpile will begin soon. The stockpile is very high because the development of the landfill cells and the construction of the recycling plant are behind schedule. A new cell has been completed which we can use once the site requirements for the groundwater have been met.

The stockpile will not go any higher - it will be removed and reduced by recycling the existing waste in the stockpile and adding new waste into the new cell. It is a requirement of our EPA licence to reduce the stockpile height.

There is very little dust being produced from that stockpile as the trucks are being wet down before tipping. I appreciate that dust is a problem but I don't believe that the stockpile is the source.

Question: Are there any dust mitigating measures on the stockpile?

Response, Christian There are dust monitors just south of that stockpile. If there is any spike in dust levels, the water trucks are used to water the stockpile.

Question: Do you recycle cement sheeting? If you are recycling carpet, are you removing dieldrin which may be in old carpet?

Response, Christian We do not recycle cement sheet. The carpet is pulled from the landfill, then it will be shredded to line the base of the new landfill cell. I am unaware of dieldrin as a potential hazard.

Action 020316_4: Christian to investigate dieldrin risks and report back through the meeting notes.

After the meeting: EPA provided the following information.

Dieldrin is an insecticide that was used widely up until the 70's and 80's but has been banned across the globe since the 1980's. It was banned in Australia in 1987 including all imports.

Question: What are the readings from your 2 air monitors?

Response, Robert McKie The dust monitors are set to alert us at 10 parts per thousand (ppt) which is less than that at City Circle. If there is a dust episode the site is wet down using the water truck or if necessary, we stop production.

Question: How does 10ppt compare to 50ppm³?

Action 020316_5: Sunshine Groupe to provide their dust measurement data and demonstrate the measurements of dust from ppt to ppm³.

After the meeting: Christian supplied the following response.

Rob will clarify the levels Sunshine Groupe monitor measure and report to the next BCRG forum.

Sunshine Groupe won't be providing dust measurement data as this is in confidence and sensitive to their competitors. Sunshine Groupe will review their data and make comment if they are noticing any trends upward or downward.

19/04/16 Robert McKie

Measurement is PM10 levels in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. The current Action Level is average PM¹⁰ reading of 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ over a 10-minute period. Action levels are currently being reviewed. The EPA has provided advice on the setting of action levels.

Over the past three years dust monitors have been continuously relocated around the site to assess certain work activities and potential generation of dust. In addition to this, historically there have been issues maintaining the site weather station, in particular wind direction data, that have now been rectified. As such it is difficult to provide numbers relating to trending on the site for dust generation. That said, our data shows air quality improvement in the area similar to that of the published EPA air monitoring results in Brooklyn when looking at days in exceedance of 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for PM¹⁰.

Question: Thank you for the work you have been doing sealing the site in recent months. What was done in earlier years and what was spent on the site previously?

Response, Christian In the past there wasn't a high focus on sealing because the adjoining roads were unsealed and any efforts onsite would have been ineffective. The sealing of Jones Rd and Bunting Rd was the incentive to do more on our site.

Item 6. Targets for BCRG to end 2018 (Jen Lilburn)

At the BCRG forum in November 2013, a number of targets were established for actions that BCRG could help influence and could be reported against. These were based on the Brooklyn Evolution Strategy Vision and goals. In November 2015 Jen reported on the progress against those targets ([see Nov112015 meeting notes](#)).

BCRG's goals (as developed in 2013) were presented:

- *Industrial and residential areas co-exist with better amenity for people who live and work in the area*
- *BIP industries are compliant, appropriate for the area and operate to modern-day standards*

In this context Jen asked small groups of meeting participants to propose new achievable and measurable targets for BCRG to 2018 in relation to the issues of odour, dust, BCRG meetings and other issues. The targets are important to help the group identify who should come to meetings and what should be reported. The feedback is listed in Table 1. The contributions have been consolidated, and where necessary amended (in consultation with EPA Victoria) to ensure that targets are deliverable.

Feedback on the following is welcomed – please contact jen@kismetforward.com.au

Theme	What target would you like to us (collectively) to work towards?	Regarding this target what do you think can be achieved by the end of:		
		2016?	2017?	2018?
ODOUR	Odour sources within Brooklyn Industrial Precinct are minimised. Community members are more satisfied that EPA effectively responds to all odour complaints	EPA conducts a survey of odour sources. 50% reduction in odour complaints compared with 2015. EPA responds within 3 business days to reports. Offending industries brought to compliance.	70% reduction in odour complaints compared with 2015. EPA responds within 3 business days to reports. Offending industries brought to compliance.	90% reduction in odour complaints compared with 2015. EPA responds within 3 business days to reports. Offending industries brought to compliance.
DUST	Dust levels are consistent with that for the rest of Melbourne and meeting National standards. Businesses operate according to modern-day standards.	Less than 5 dust exceedences. Total compliance with EPA & Council permits & notices. Discuss impediments in legislations with the Minister for Environment.	Less than 5 dust exceedences. Total compliance with EPA & Council permits & notices. New sites identified & targeted (for improvement). Commitments with timelines from Sunshine Groupe as to when stockpiles will be brought to contour levels.	Less than 5 dust exceedences. Total compliance with EPA & Council permits & notices. New sites identified & targeted (for improvement). Old Geelong Rd fully sealed (all the way) All verges maintained and vegetated throughout BIP.

Theme	What target would you like to us (collectively) to work towards?	Regarding this target what do you think can be achieved by the end of:		
		2016?	2017?	2018?
BCRG MEETINGS	BCRG effectively operates as a collaborative forum bringing together government, industry and community to highlight air quality issues and discuss their minimisation.	Continued senior representation from Councils, EPA, VicRoads and industry. Make efforts to encourage greater community participation. Invite Lead West to attend BCRG.	Continued senior representation from Councils, EPA, VicRoads and industry. Make efforts to encourage greater community participation.	Continued senior representation from Councils, EPA, VicRoads and industry. Make efforts to encourage greater community participation.

Table 1 Proposed BCRG targets to 2018.

Action 020316_6: Jen to coordinate reporting on the 2016, 2017 and 2018 targets at the end of each year.

In addition to the above, the following ideas were discussed. They are outside the remit of BCRG and have been forwarded to Brimbank City Council for consideration.

What target would you like to us (collectively) to work towards?	Regarding this target what do you think can be achieved by the end of:		
	2016?	2017?	2018?
More nature strip planting and easier process to get trees/planting applications – Greening the West Litter Illegal dumping Invite Lead West Industrial Ecology Focus on the Creek – Water quality – Living Rivers – Building wetlands – Cleanaway interested in how sewerage is naturally treated.	Plan for the planning Initiative to build civic pride – plan Plan for red tape reduction Focus on water quality and improving Kororoit Creek – make it nice/accessible area	Coordinated approach to Brooklyn across LGAs Bring Brooklyn Evolution Strategy from a Brimbank document to a Mark II whole of Brooklyn Region Supporting innovation in industry – SV grant eligibility Pooled community grants? Coordinated	Regional approach through Lead West – collaborative and coordinated approach to create ‘one’ Brooklyn Draw on similar case studies and learnings from around the world – revitalising and improving industrial precincts.

Action 020316_7: Susan Fitton to respond to the additional suggestions made during the targets discussion.

Item 7. Panel - Malcolm Ramsay (Hobsons Bay CC), Stephen Wall (Maribyrnong CC), Susan Fitton (Brimbank CC), Daniel Hunt (EPA), Christian Buxton (Sunshine Groupe)

Question 1 for EPA: What is the new red spot in the mobile dust monitoring results?

Response: Chris Bydder, EPA A cluster of red indicating higher dust on the corner of McDonald Rd and Geelong Rd is from the mobile unit sitting in traffic next to a truck queuing lane - the exhaust fumes have inflated the results. In other areas there was no dust detected. The data in the monitoring reports and visual assessments indicate a significant reduction in dust levels along Old Geelong Rd, Jones Rd and Bunting Rd. In Tottenham, the Maribyrnong CC has sealed roads and channels and industry have responded by sealing their entrances - the area looks good.

Question 2 for EPA: The big issue is still around dust. Having listened to different recycling industries report on their achievements - the bottom line is that I'm still being inundated with dust. What can I do as a resident?

Other comments related to the dust and stockpiles included:

- **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.**
- **Our kids have moved away but 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.**

Response: Nial Finegan, EPA The next step has to be to lobby the Ministers and local Members of Parliament for change. It is not good enough to continue under the old rules. Industries that are improving their sites should be putting pressure on other industries to improve. If there was a collaborative project with EPA and councils with appropriate powers to act there would be more change. We could adopt a system similar to Worksafe where agencies can visit industries and help industry comply. Then pressure can be put on noncompliant industries while others just need to be shown the right way from exemplar sites so that there is good industry and jobs in the future. Community must continue to hold agencies to account and BCRG is a great forum for this.

Don't stop bringing up this issue and continue to build a case and lobby for change. It is possible to make the change – for example the fire in Somerton was from an industry working outside the legal framework and snubbing their noses at community. Since the fire, we are having conversations with the Minister and government about what has to change. The Minister for Environment is attending the next BCRG Forum so use that time to make your case.

The current situation is not good enough but as bureaucrats we have to get legislative reform before we can make the necessary changes. Now that the other major dust sources have been addressed, hopefully it can be proved that the source is the dust piles.

Question 3 for Brimbank CC: BCC has reviewed the legislation (re existing use rights) - do we need to revisit this?

Response: Stuart Menzies, BCC Various methods have been tried to change the effects of the existing use rights law. BCC has worked with industry to try to promote voluntary changes using methods such as bund walls, revegetation and changing stock pile management. The emphasis is based on voluntary change while still exploring the legal side.

Response: Nial Finegan, EPA In order to achieve legislative change you will need to show that all other avenues are not working. With the Minister coming to BCRG you have an opportunity to show that this is what we have achieved by working together, for a long time, but it is not enough and the next step requires a parliamentary response and a change of legislation.

Response: Stephen Wall, MCC The message from the Councils is that the state and federal governments must work together with their neighbours and other agencies to make the precinct better. Action in Council is restricted by the laws we have to follow. It is important to get the government to have a will to change legislation by constantly reinforcing the message. Council has an important advocacy role. We have delegations to ministers all the time and BCRG must inform this. Getting the Minister to BCRG is a real coup!

Action 020316_8: Jen to liaise with BCRG members and invite the community to make a presentation for Hon Lisa Neville's attendance at the July 2016 BCRG forum.

Question 4 for Brimbank CC: Does the Minister for Planning have a discretionary right to extinguish the existing use rights benefit in a planning application if it can be shown that the industry is having an adverse effect on the amenity?

Response: Stephen Wall, MCC Council is guided by the conditions in the Planning Scheme which includes the existing use rights. VCAT is the avenue for objections.

Response: Stuart Menzies, BCC Generally the existing use rights can't be altered under the current Planning Scheme. Any ministerial intervention is for actions such as compulsory acquisition.

Response: Susan Fitton, BCC There are only a few industries in Brooklyn operating under existing use rights, the majority of businesses operate under old have planning permits with conditions which they have to adhere to.

Question 5 for Brimbank CC: What is the height allowance for the stockpiles I can see from my home in Geelong Rd?

Action 020316_9: Brimbank staff to investigate the stockpiles visible from Geelong Rd with the resident.

After the meeting Susan Fitton reported: We tried to identify the site of the stockpile/s on the map at the meeting. The resident wanted us to confirm the site location of the stockpiles. Simon Vittorio and his team have conducted an inspection, revealing that the only stockpiles visible from that address are those of the Sunshine Groupe landfill, (Jones and Bunting Road). Unfortunately, Council has no stockpile heights on this site and it's an EPA licenced landfill. These are the stockpiles that Christian Buxton spoke about during the meeting. See Figure 8.



Figure 8 Stockpiles visible from Geelong Road

Comment: The particulate matter standard of PM¹⁰ in Australia is lower than other countries which use PM²⁰ and PM⁵⁰. Average dust level measurements cover up the spikes in dust. The 'shut down' levels that guide mining operations are not used in industries in Brooklyn. Better monitoring and regulations would mean that some of the industries may not be able to operate in this area.

Response: Nial Finegan, EPA The air quality standards are being reviewed and the Victorian Government is pushing for higher standards but other states are holding back due to mining interests.

Also the current standards have many limitations and the EPA needs to educate the community about these limitations. We have to encourage industry to improve their own standards.

The other concern is getting an understanding of the long term dosage of dust for the community and associated impacts to the community and workers in the area. We need to get to a level of air monitoring against ambient air levels that is real time.

Meeting closed 9.05pm

Attachments

[Att1 EPA Update 02032016](#)

[Att2 Sunshine Groupe Presentation](#)

[Att3 Brooklyn road sealing update](#)

Meeting Attendance Record – 02 March, 2016

30 people registered their attendance.

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Andrea Mason	Executive Officer, BCRG	Joanne Callus	Resident
Bert Boere	BRAG	Joe Coleiro	Cargill
Bruce Light	On The Nose	Kieren McDermott	Cleanaway
Carmen Largaiolli	Resident	Kirstin Alexander	Sims Metal
Chris Bydder	EPA Victoria	Laurie Bell	Resident
Christian Buxton	Sunshine Groupe	Malcolm Ramsay	Hobsons Bay City Council
Colin Riley	Sunshine Groupe	Nial Finegan	EPA Victoria
Daniel Hunt	EPA Victoria	Robert McKie	Sunshine Groupe
Emma Roper	EPA Victoria	Roger Isaac	Resident
George Smetona	Resident	Stephen Wall	Maribyrnong City Council
Greg Murray	Cargill	Steven Fox	JBS Australia
Heather Humphreys	BRAG	Stuart Menzies	Brimbank City Council
Helen Paterson	Containerspace	Susan Fitton	Brimbank City Council
Jen Lilburn	BCRG Chair	Sunil Bhalla	Maribyrnong City Council
Jill Galvin	Resident	Tim Jessop	Cleanaway

Apologies			
Bill Cole	Resident	Martin Hermans	Resident
Geoff Mitchelmore	Resident Altona North	Olga Ghiri	Cleanaway
Jan Cole	Resident	Ray Martin	Brimbank City Council
Jane Nathan	Brimbank City Council	Sandra Wilson Cr	Hobsons Bay City Council
Michael Clarke Cr	Maribyrnong City Council	Simon Vittorio	Brimbank City Council