



**BCRG**

**BROOKLYN COMMUNITY  
REPRESENTATIVE GROUP**

# **BCRG COMMUNITY FORUM 2/2016**

# **MEETING NOTES**

WEDNESDAY

27 JULY, 2016

6:00pm for 6:30 – 8:50pm

Brooklyn Community Centre, Cypress Avenue, Brooklyn

**Chair:** Jen Lilburn    **Notetaker:** Andrea Mason



# MEETING PURPOSE

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

1	Welcome, Jen Lilburn
2	Tim Watts, Federal Member for Gellibrand
3	Brooklyn Reserve Upgrade (Erika Robertson, Sports and Recreation Officer, Hobsons Bay CC)
4	Sunshine Groupe Update - dust levels, stockpiles, fire (Christian Buxton, General Manager and Robert McKie, OHS & Environmental Manager)
5	Brimbank Works Update (Ray Martin, Brimbank CC)
6	EPA Victoria Update on dust, noise and odour program (Daniel Hunt, Unit Manager Metro)
7	Panel
8	Wrap up & Close

The intent of these meeting notes is to promote open communication between local business, local and state government, community and EPA Victoria (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.

## ACTIONS FROM THE MEETING

**Action 27 07 16\_ 1:** Tim Watts MP to invite Tony Burke MP to a future BCRG community forum.

**Action 27 07 16\_ 2:** Daniel Hunt, EPA to update BCRG on personal air monitoring equipment in November.

**Action 27 07 16\_ 3:** Daniel Hunt to provide a response to the question: How many of the operators have air monitoring stations on their properties?

**Action 27 07 16\_ 4:** Sunshine Groupe to provide an update on the progress/timeline of the stockpile reclamation - approx. October.

**Action 27 07 16\_ 5:** Sunshine Groupe to provide an opportunity to tour the site operations when the new recycling plant is completed and operational.

**Action 27 07 16\_ 6:** Sunshine Groupe to provide further detail regarding the dust control measures for the stockpiles during the reclamation process.

**Action 27 07 16\_ 7:** Brimbank CC to provide an update on stockpiles through the meeting notes.

**Action 27 07 16\_ 8:** A Western Distributor Project VicRoads representative to be invited to BCRG in 2017 to discuss potential noise, dust and odour impacts for Brooklyn.

**Action 27 07 16\_ 9:** BCRG to liaise with community groups focussed on the Western Distributor Projects and look for opportunities to share information.

## ITEM 1.

### WELCOME, JEN LILBURN

Jen Lilburn (Convenor) welcomed everyone to the BCRG forum, especially Nial Finegan, CEO EPA Victoria, Cr Michael Clarke and Stephen Wall, CEO Maribyrnong CC, Cr Sandra Wilson and Cr Jason Price, Hobsons Bay CC and community representatives from Yarraville on the Nose (YOTN), Brooklyn Residents Action Group (BRAG), industry representatives and new meeting attendees. Tim Watts MP, Member for Gellibrand, was particularly welcomed.

Apologies included Hon Lisa Neville who is no longer the Minister for Environment, Hon Wade Noonan and Hon Lily D'Ambrosio, who is the new Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change.

This was to be the last meeting for Jane Nathan, Administrator Brimbank CC (BCC) and Jen thanked her for her support for Brooklyn and wished her well. Jane responded thanking everyone for the fantastic support she has received. She acknowledged the members of the BCRG forum who have worked together to bring about change to the Brooklyn area and who have fought for changes in the attitudes of decision makers regarding the importance of the area and the western suburbs.

The final notes from the March 2016 meeting are available from the [Brooklynip website](#).

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## ITEM 2.

### TIM WATTS MP, MEMBER FOR GELLIBRAND

**TIM WATTS MP**, Member for Gellibrand thanked the local volunteer community members for their ongoing commitment to making change in the western suburbs for their communities. As a local himself, Tim said he understands firsthand the impacts of the dust and the concerns the community has for the impact of dust on their quality of life and the health of their children. He has followed the progress in the area over the last 10 years and can see an upward trend in improvements. Tim also noted the increase in odour complaints in the past year. While it looks like there has been some progress it is important that this type of community engagement stays strong and that BCRG is continued to be supported.

Tim then asked for feedback on what his role can be in supporting the continued improvements to Brooklyn at the Federal level.

**QUESTION:** The Clean Air Agreement is focussed on coarse particulate matter, PM10, such as coal dust and wood heaters and therefore currently not relevant to Brooklyn. Is there any possibility of this changing in the future?

**TIM WATTS** There are no plans to change the strategy at the moment but it is important to keep campaigning for changes that make the priorities more relevant to Brooklyn. It would be beneficial to invite Tony Burke MP, Shadow Minister for Environment and Water to BCRG to discuss these issues.

**COMMENT:** Brooklyn is recognised as a pollution hotspot for legislation changes even though the issues are not related to coal or wood fires.

**Action 270716\_1:** Tim Watts MP to invite Tony Burke MP to a future BCRG community forum.

## **QUESTION: Is the EPA getting personal air monitors?**

**DANIEL HUNT, EPA** There is personal air monitoring equipment being used in the Latrobe Valley but not Brooklyn at present.

**Action 270716\_2:** Daniel Hunt, EPA to update BCRG on personal air monitoring equipment in November.

**NIAL FINEGAN, CEO EPA** Victoria is leading the case at the national level for a higher standard of ambient air quality including an increased standard for PM10 levels and an acceptable threshold and enhanced standard for PM2.5. The Hazelwood experience has resulted in funding for air monitoring in the Latrobe Valley which will lead to a broader networked approach including personal devices. EPA will continue to work with community and push for more funding for Victoria. The BCRG forum has shown that by working together at all levels and undertaking action, the evidence base behind the air quality and monitoring can be established.

Citizen science is hugely important in driving the debate. Personal monitors could provide real time advice for individuals and add to the modelling which informs the community on how to manage the risks.

**COMMENT:** *Monitoring has been undertaken for 10 years where I live but nothing has changed - except the date! We need to change the law that allows dirt to blow on my place from stockpiles every day. It has affected my health and it's ridiculous that kids can't go out to play in this area.*

**COMMENT:** *What is the point of monitoring if the industries are still allowed to have large piles and rain grit onto my home. Nothing has come from the monitoring and testing in the past. I don't believe things are improving.*

**QUESTION:** **The Alex Fraser Group (in Clarinda) does its own monitoring and they shut down of their own volition on high risk days. If they can do this, then others can too so why can't that be written into the legislation? In submissions to the EPA review it was highlighted that the legal situation is complex and ineffective when trying to pursue a polluter through the courts. Maybe the proposed changes need effective enforcement.**

**NIAL FINEGAN, EPA** Although this comes under State jurisdiction the Australian government and the State need to work together. The current situation is still not acceptable and the community's frustration is understandable. The monitoring is very important to underpin the push for change such as the improvements in Bunting Rd and Jones Rd.

The EPA Inquiry report is now with the Minister and a response is due later this year. There were 48 recommendations made including legislating for a 'general duties preventative model' <http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-us/news-centre/news-and-updates/news/2016/may/16/epa-welcomes-release-of-independent-review-findings> in this model the operators will have to undertake self-regulation similar to that of the Alex Fraser Group and the responsibility will be for the operators to prevent emissions such as dust. Failure to incorporate preventative systems can then be enforced regardless of the licencing arrangements.

**QUESTION:** **Why are the wealthy suburbs getting action with landscaped sites and bunds which have solved their problems but we're not here in Brooklyn? The piles on Geelong Rd have dust rising above the buildings and the dirt is being blown onto my property.**

**NIAL FINEGAN, EPA** The majority of the landfills on the east side of Melbourne are now closed and have been capped and landscaped. EPA doesn't discriminate between suburbs.

**DANIEL HUNT, EPA** My approach will be exactly the same for this area as it was in the east.

**QUESTION:** Where are the dust monitors? We want to know what is coming off each property because the dust that reaches the Brooklyn monitor is being filtered by the housing. We need a monitor at Geelong Rd.

**EMMA ROPER, EPA** The monitor is in Brooklyn Reserve and is part of a network of monitors across the state. EPA also has a mobile monitor for use on high risk days.

**QUESTION:** What are the proposed sanctions in the new preventative model?

**NIAL FINEGAN, EPA** The model is not yet established but it would be hoped to include a preventative duty including monitoring with effective sanctions for noncompliance.

If you have an ongoing problem in your property with dust now, contact EPA staff to discuss monitoring options.

**QUESTION:** Employers have a duty to provide a safe working environment and exposure to dust should be part of their work safety plans. How many of the operators have air monitoring stations on their properties?

***Action 270716\_3:** Daniel Hunt to provide a response to the question: How many of the operators have air monitoring stations on their properties?*

**COMMENT:** *I believe that the company with the very high stockpiles has a different licence and it is time the Planning Minister made changes to prevent this. I continue to get sick from the dust.*

**DANIEL HUNT, EPA** There are existing use rights under the planning permits on some sites.

**STUART MENZIES, BCC** At the November 2015 BCRG meeting Simon Vittorio showed the BCC audit of stockpiles and permit conditions. Where there are height limits in the conditions, BCC has enforced them. Other sites have new conditions established around the stockpile heights and bund walls in exchange for the businesses doing further remediation work. There are two sites that don't have any conditions through permits. Some have temporary storage of materials and BCC is working with EPA to monitor these.

**NIAL FINEGAN, EPA** EPA shares the community's frustration around existing planning rights. It is hoped that the changes to the law and a move to a preventive model will help get around this and force operators to make change. EPA has to work within the legal framework and must have the monitoring for any enforcement through the courts. All the current evidence is pointing to dust sources and as the roads and sites continue to be sealed the dust is being reduced and offending sites are more easily identified.

**COMMENT:** *It should be remembered that it's our health that is at stake as well as the mental worry. What is occurring is immoral and unacceptable.*

## ITEM 3.

# BROOKLYN RESERVE UPGRADE (ERIKA ROBERTSON, SPORTS AND RECREATION OFFICER SHVETA KHANEJA, CITY DESIGN AND URBAN PROJECTS, HOBSONS BAY CC)

The presentation can be seen in full in **Attachment 1**.

Erika and Shveta provided an overview of the proposed Brooklyn Reserve upgrade including background information to the funding, the draft plans, examples of other play spaces that may be incorporated into the final plan and the community engagement process for feedback.

In late 2015, Australian Tallow Producers Pty Ltd (ATP) based in Brooklyn were found guilty of three counts of air pollution offences resulting in ATP being required to fund community projects that would restore or enhance the environment for the wider public benefit. As part of the sentencing in December 2015, the Hobsons Bay City Council was awarded \$200,000.00 by EPA who is the administrator of the funds, for the upgrade to Brooklyn Reserve - Destination Play Space and Recreation Zone. Council has committed an additional \$200,000 towards the works, making the total project budget \$400,000.

### Over the next 12 months, Council will oversee the project and

- Upgrade the play space at Brooklyn Reserve
- Install new infrastructure - with careful choice of materials
- Improve landscaping.

### Play Space Strategy 2017 - 2024

- Brooklyn Reserve is one of 83 play spaces located in the City of Hobsons Bay.
- On a quarterly basis, Council audits the play spaces and prepares the program for renewal, repairs and upgrades.

### Brooklyn Community

Population forecasts show that between 2011 and 2026, Brooklyn will:

- Have an overall population increase of 33.5% in population of under the working age.
- See an increase in the 0 to 9-year-old age group of around 4% with about 88 children between 2011 and 2036.

It was stressed that Council hoped the local community would feel some ownership for the reserve and contribute to the planning.

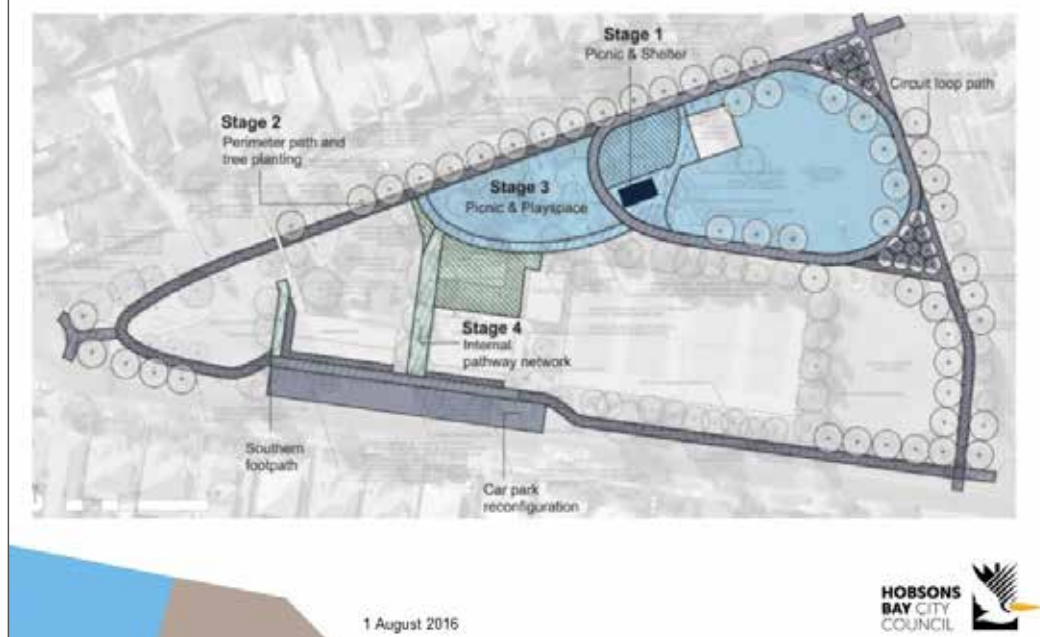
## HOBSONS BAY RESERVES



## Timelines

- **Consultation:**  
July – August 2016
- **Finalisation of design:**  
late August / Early September 2016
- **Detailed design and finalisation of documentation:**  
September – December 2016
- **Construction commences –**  
early 2017

## Project Design Stages



**Figure 1. Brooklyn Reserve Project Design**

### To get involved and have a say on the future of the Reserve:

- Go on to Council's participate page and complete a survey <http://participate.hobsonsabay.vic.gov.au/>
- Post back a completed survey.
- Post comments and suggestions on our map.
- Contact the project team on 9932 1131.
- Sign up online and receive updates from Council on other projects being delivered.

## Next Steps

Over the next coming months, Council will: Publish questions and comments gathered from the consultations sessions on the Council website.

- Provide stakeholders with another opportunity for your input in the design stage.

**QUESTION:** The plan shows a concern for improving amenity but how can this work for the residents when the dust and noise levels are still high? There is no advantage to encouraging us to go outside and expose ourselves to more risks - why would we go outside to use these improvements? Wouldn't it have been better to fund the planting of more trees across the region to buffer against the dust and noise?

**SHVETA KHANEJA, HBCC** Thank you for your comment. We are still in the feedback stages and we will continue to work with the local community and schools to address any concerns they have. This site was chosen above the Federation Trail as it is considered less at risk.

**NIAL FINEGAN, EPA** The penalty to ATP was recommended to benefit the community rather than impose a fine where the proceeds would go directly into Treasury. The court reached out to Hobson Bay CC for a proposal, and in consultation with EPA, settled on the Brooklyn Reserve upgrade as a good project. This funding cannot be changed now but other planting is a good idea for another day.

The actual cost to the company was substantially more as the EPA claimed the costs of prosecution. It sends a strong message to industry that it is necessary to invest in their businesses to ensure they comply with regulations.

**CR SANDRA WILSON** stressed that although the proposed play outdoor space is in a potentially unhealthy area, Council would encourage the community to continue to undertake outdoor activity but take the necessary precautions on high risk days and when advised.

## ITEM 4.

# SUNSHINE GROUPE UPDATE - DUST LEVELS, STOCKPILES, FIRE (CHRISTIAN BUXTON, GENERAL MANAGER AND ROBERT MCKIE, OHS & ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER)

The presentation can be seen in full in **Attachment 2**.

Robert outlined the dust monitoring that is on site at Sunshine Groupe for PM10 and noted a reduction in dust this year. The monitors have been effective in measuring dust levels which can be used in decisions to shut down the plant if too high. Christian outlined Sunshine Groupe's commitment to reducing the dust levels for the benefit of the community and their business - 25% of the operational stoppages were due to dust related incidents. He stressed that it is in their interests to comply with the licence conditions with council and EPA.



At the time of the carpet stockpile fire (Jan 2016) the MFB suggested that it may have been deliberately lit. A man has been charged with arson and criminal damage, and pled guilty, after being arrested for setting tyres ablaze in Brooklyn. Further control measures including extra cameras, increased security and extra firefighting capabilities have been introduced to reduce risk.

Christian explained that Sunshine Groupe disputed the allegation against Western Land Reclamation for the breach of licence as described in the EPA press release July 5 2016 and felt that the language used was misleading and other odour sources may have been responsible. He stressed that Sunshine Groupe does not burn waste and outlined the control measures that are in place including: daily checks, landfill temperature monitoring and the engagement of a consultant to make further recommendations for hotspot management.

Hotspot



Additional controls have been put in place to address dust on the roads including a water truck to wash the roads, a dedicated street sweeper for Bunting Rd and it is planned to restrict trucks to sealed areas only. The Level Crossing Rail Removal works in St Albans Rd should finish soon and the truck numbers will then reduce significantly.



The high stockpiles are in fact overfilled landfill sites. It is planned to start to reclaim this material in August and recycle the inert waste to gain some benefit from the resource. The delay has been due to a delay in permit approvals and the development of the new landfill cell. The reclamation is a new process which will involve some trial and error initially.

Sunshine Groupe will be discussing any issues and planning with the EPA on August 10. The need for change is acknowledged but change has to come in increments (in negotiation with EPA) and as the business can afford it.



**QUESTION, JEN: Will the stockpile start to decrease in August and over what timeframe?**

**CHRISTIAN BUXTON, SG** Yes the stockpile will begin to decrease but there is no set timeline as the new technology and processes have to be tested.

*Action 270716\_4: Sunshine Groupe to provide an update on the progress/timeline of the stockpile reclamation - approx. October.*

**QUESTION: Are we able to see the plans for the recycling plant and the enclosed facilities for dust control?**

**CHRISTIAN BUXTON, SG** There is a new second covered building being built and all the reclamation and tipping will be undercover. We are happy provide a tour of the site operations when the new recycling plant is completed and operational.

*Action 270716\_5: Sunshine Groupe to provide an opportunity to tour the site operations when the new recycling plant is completed and operational.*

**QUESTION: Some Sunshine residents are concerned that trucks coming into the site from St Alban's Rd have open trays with dust blowing out. Are they entering the recycling plant?**

**CHRISTIAN BUXTON, SG** The trucks are not entering the recycling plant itself but are coming onto the site from unsealed areas and going out through the wheel wash. The trucks are owned and driven by subcontractors and a high number of drivers are not complying with speed restrictions or covering their loads. This has to be managed by the overseeing authority for the rail project as it is outside Sunshine Groupe's authority.

**NIAL FINEGAN, EPA** The Level Crossing Removal Authority oversees the St Alban's Rd project and if there is an issue then they should be consulted directly or complaints can be made to EPA so that truck monitoring can be undertaken. VicRoads should also be informed to help with enforcement. Sunshine Groupe is doing a lot of good work and we need more operators like this.

**QUESTION: Is there a maximum height for the stockpiles on the Sunshine Groupe site?**

**CHRISTIAN BUXTON, SG** There is no restriction on the height but that will form part of the discussions with EPA on 10th August.

**NIAL FINEGAN, EPA** Reducing the height of the overfill will form part of the discussion with Sunshine Groupe and EPA supports the initiative of the recycling process planned. EPA needs to understand the challenges for the company in making changes.

**QUESTION: Are you able to bring the highest stockpile down first?**

**NIAL FINEGAN, EPA** There is no detail yet and the operations need to be planned. The process must be done safely.

**CHRISTIAN BUXTON, SG** The risks, e.g. compactor rollover need to be assessed as part of the overall planning.

**QUESTION: Will the stockpile mounds ever disappear?**

**CHRISTIAN BUXTON, SG** The mounds will be reduced in accordance with the EPA licence conditions, then they will be capped and redeveloped into a mixed commercial precinct with no more mounds.

**QUESTION: What is the status of the sealing program and traffic management for the Sunshine Groupe site?**

**CHRISTIAN BUXTON, SG** The site has been sealed at the entrance for ~500m, around the recycle area plus the enclosed tipping area. The objective is to divert all road traffic so it enters and leaves via the sealed areas.

**QUESTION: How are you planning to tackle the dust from the stockpiles?**

**CHRISTIAN BUXTON, SG** There are two large water tanks at the base of the area for dust and fire control but this is not under my management so I will have to get more information.

*Action 270716\_6: Sunshine Groupe to provide further detail regarding the dust control measures for the stockpiles during the reclamation process.*

**QUESTION: Why isn't the crushing machine covered and is the dust coming from trucks driving on stockpiles?**

**CHRISTIAN BUXTON, SG** The crushing machine/hopper is covered and we do not drive on the stockpiles anymore. There are 2 other recyclers in the area operating crushers and also Fulton Hogan have a materials plant which may be contributing to the dust.

## ITEM 5.

# BRIMBANK WORKS UPDATE (RAY MARTIN, INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR | ENGINEERING SERVICES, BRIMBANK CC)

The presentation can be seen in full in **Attachment 3**.

Ray confirmed that Brimbank CC has committed \$430,000 for sealing and kerbing channel along Old Geelong Rd after Christmas. There is also \$30,000 from Melbourne Water plus a matching \$30,000 from council to improve the swale drains. Bollards and topdressing of the nature strips will prevent parking and this can be enforced once complete. Revegetation may be limited near the gas pipe.

## Proposed Works



**Figure 2. Proposed sealing improvements**



**Figure 3. Proposed verge improvements**

Images of Jones and Bunting Roads showed where there has been marked improvement in reducing the mud – particularly where industry has installed wheel washes and sealed their sites. However, there are still many unsealed roads in the area and council will continue to liaise with adjoining businesses to address ongoing dust issues.

It has been noted that the trees are covered in dust.



**Mud on road – The good news**



**Mud on road – The not so good news**

**QUESTION:** Are there plans to extend this program up Jones Road where the verges are in a terrible state and there is a lot of discarded machinery?

**RAY MARTIN, BCC** The next priority is to consider what actions can be taken to improve Old Geelong Rd to the west of the Transpacific entrance (i.e. to Finch’s land). The discarded machinery on private land is a matter for enforcement. Council will write to the property owners before works commence for them to collect any discarded machinery etc. on the road reserve.

**(POST MEETING) SIMON VITTORIO, BCC** Planning Compliance Unit undertaking enforcement along southern end of Jones Road. Issues of goods and machinery stored in car parking areas, in landscape beds and on verges to be addressed through this program.

**COMMENT:** There are areas of Somerville Rd that still need action as they are not coping with this wet weather.

**(POST MEETING) RAY MARTIN, BCC** The main priority is areas around Jones and Bunting Roads. Council will need to consider what actions they may take with respect to materials being deposited on the “external” roads like Somerville Road.

**COMMENT:** Where the landscaping and planting has been completed, the roads are looking terrific -so thank you.

## ITEM 6.

# EPA VICTORIA UPDATE ON DUST, NOISE AND ODOUR PROGRAM (DANIEL HUNT, UNIT MANAGER METRO)

The presentation can be seen in full in [Attachment 4](#).

Daniel gave an update on odour, dust, and air quality monitoring for Brooklyn. An extensive odour survey has yielded results that will help EPA work towards improving odour compliance in the area. Dust results have shown an improvement since Jones and Bunting Roads were sealed but there is still a lot of work to do.

## Odour Reports 2015/16



**Figure 4. Odour Reports in Brooklyn**

The odour reports showed that there has been a jump in odour reports this financial year particularly since December compared to the last two financial years - although they are still at a lower level compared to every year before 2013.

# Brooklyn Odour Survey 2016

In response to the spike in odour complaints EPA undertook an extensive odour survey which:

Was conducted from May 2016 – June 2016

Industrial monitoring around major industry in Brooklyn

454 Individual Odour Checks were performed across 20 surveys.

- 285 Residential survey point/checks
- 165 Industrial survey points/checks

Residential monitoring was in Brooklyn, Yarrville, West Footscray, Sunshine

At each point on the odour monitoring route an officer would stop and smell (check for odour)

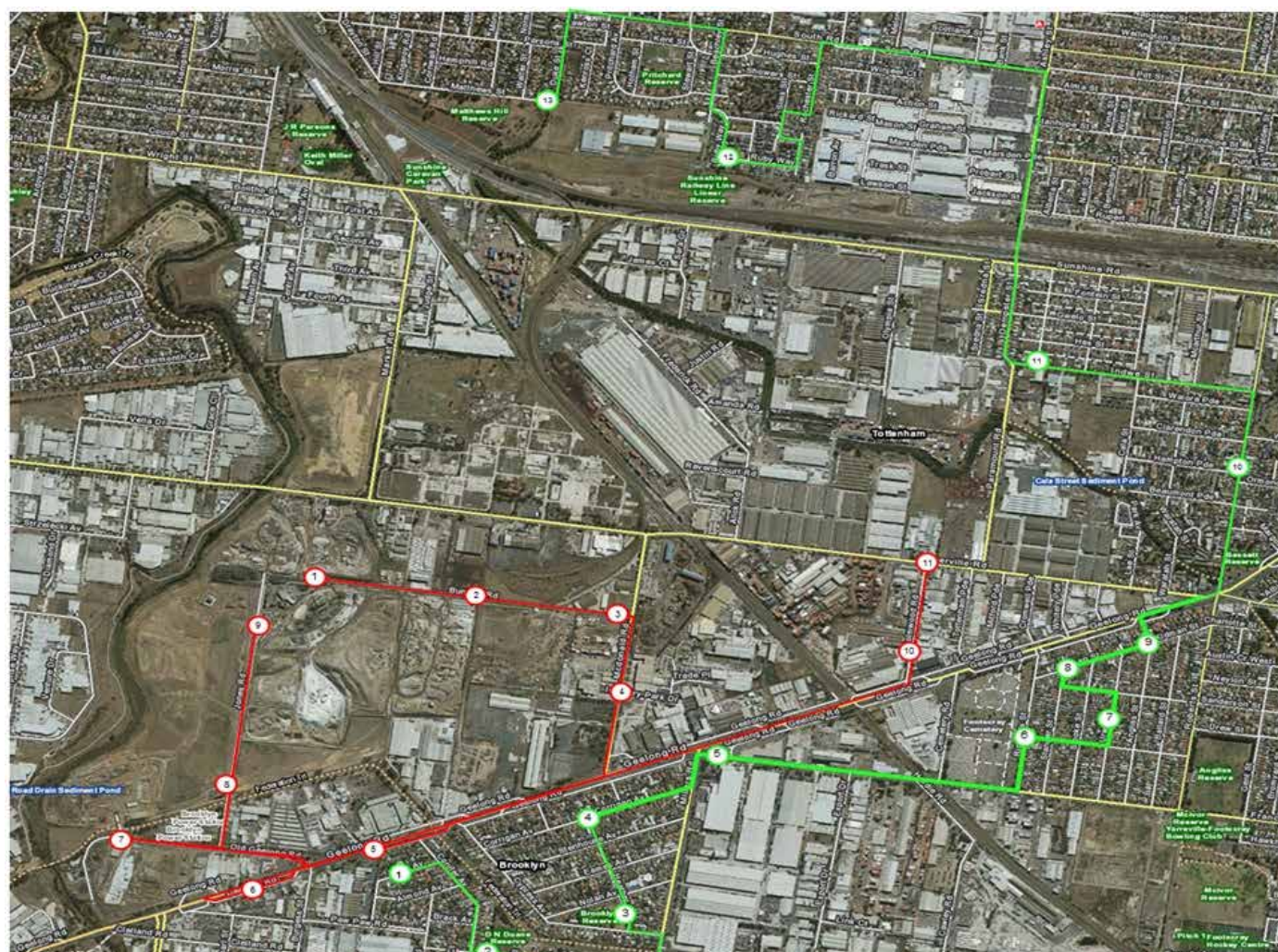


Figure 5. Odour monitoring sites in Brooklyn survey

## How The Data Was Analysed?

- Using weather data, and officer observations, the trajectory of odour plumes were determined and linked to local industries
- Data compared with Brooklyn Surveys in 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2012

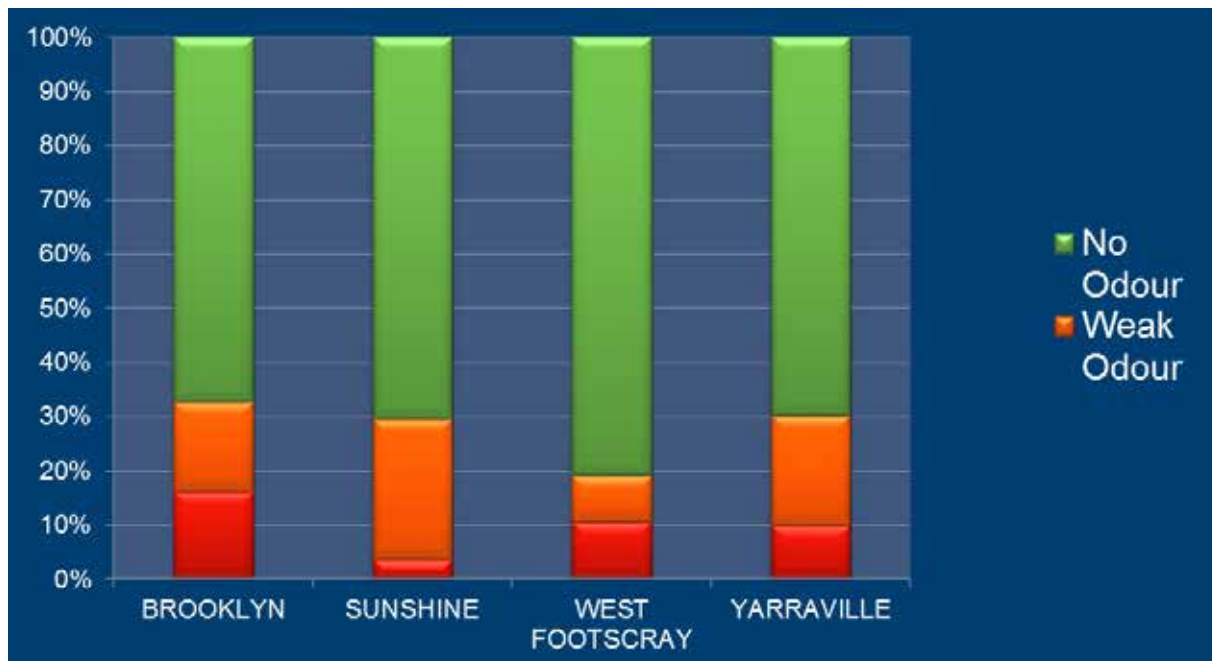


Figure 6. Odour Survey results by Suburb

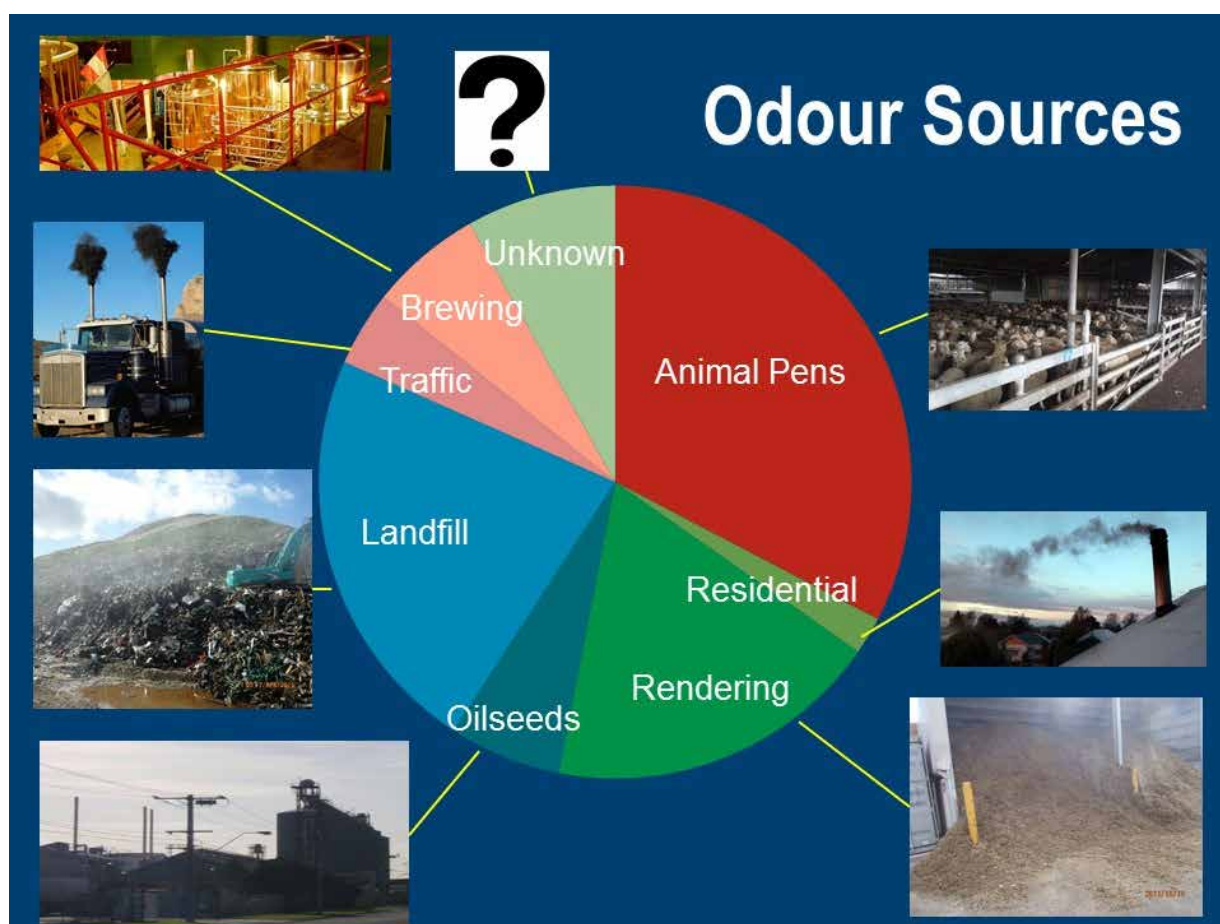


Figure 7. Odour Survey results by Odour Source

## Reports vs Observations



## Actions

- Pollution Abatement Notices issued on 2 companies
- Penalty Infringement Notice issued on 1 company
- 2 Investigations are ongoing
- More notices are planned
- Reformed licenses for all landfills being rolled out

## Dust Update

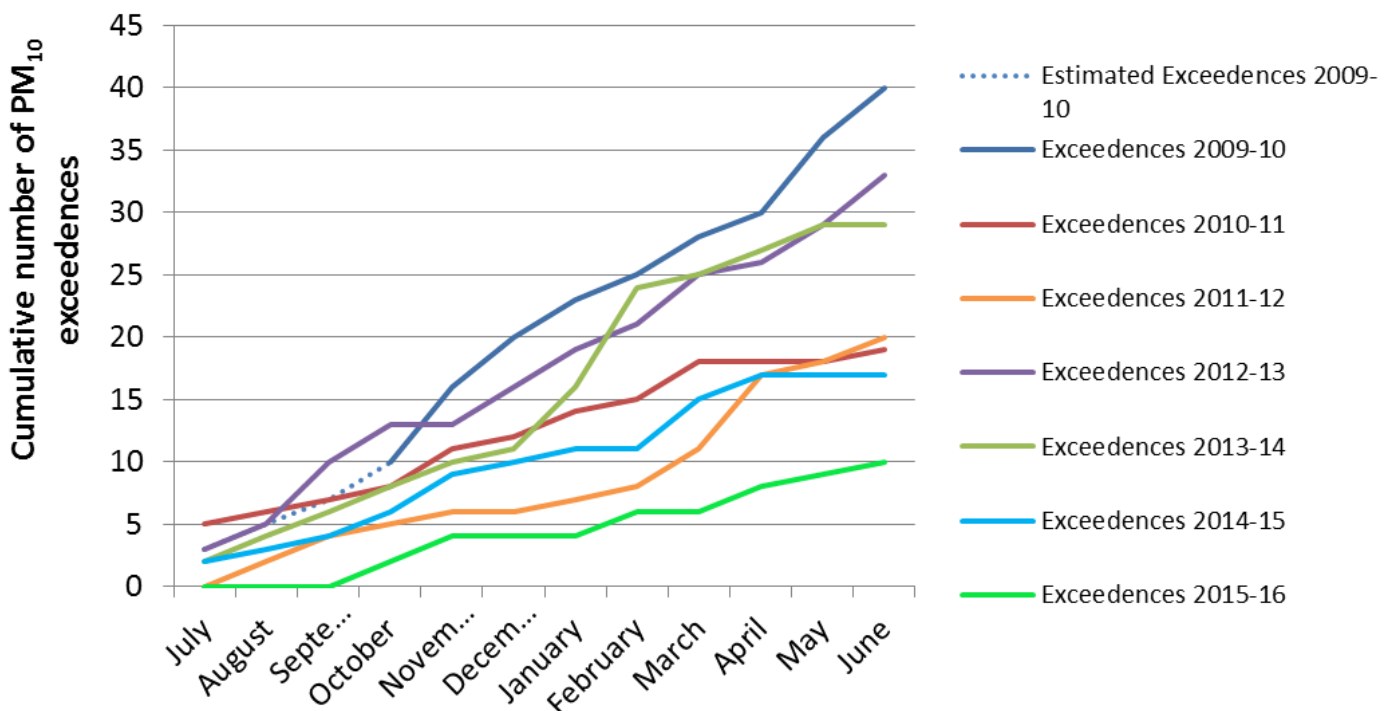


Figure 8. Brooklyn Dust Exceedences

# Air Quality Update

- Sealing of roads has led to significant improvements in air quality.
- 2015/16 recorded the lowest number of poor air quality days since monitoring began (10 exceedences) - smashing the previous record in 2014/15 (17 exceedences) - [but still higher than the World Health Organisation standard]
- 2015/16 was also the equal driest year since monitoring began.
- Review of Dust strategy to commence in the next 2 months - looking at deployment of portable dust sensors at key locations to get a better understanding of remaining sources.
- Over the last 5 years EPA has issued 58 Pollution Abatement Notice's (PAN's) AND 10 sanctions for dust related issues and 2 sanctions and a prosecution for odour related issues.

**QUESTION: Who is responsible for holding City Circle near Market Rd and Somerville Rd to account for the dust and their stockpile heights? We appreciate Sunshine Groupe's efforts and it is disappointing that their workers and the community must also be exposed to the dust. Existing use rights are the problem and no one is doing anything about these.**

**DANIEL HUNT, EPA** EPA and Brimbank CC are limited by what can be done with City Circle. We continue to work together to try to take action within the current legislation. It is this issue that is driving the need to change to the preventative action model being considered under the EPA review.

**NIAL FINEGAN, EPA** These legacy issues are difficult to resolve but it is possible to make change to regulations as was seen following the tyre fire incident. It is easier to work with those operators that are licensed. The political will is there to make the change and the issue of existing use rights problem and the stockpiles is recognised. We are working toward a different space where we expect EPA to be an environmental and health regulator with a new suite of tools to enforce action.

**EMMA ROPER, EPA** EPA meets every six weeks and works very closely with council in the planning and strategic area to develop ways of controlling all the businesses in the area. Together we have contributed to the planning scheme amendment C177 which is sitting with the Planning Minister at the moment. EPA has issued notices to a number of industries e.g. the need to install wheel washes at the City Circle site to control dust. Where these conditions have not been met, compliance measures have been put in place and stronger notices have been issued.

**(POST MEETING) SIMON VITTORIO, BCC** Both Delta and City Circle have planning permits that specify the maximum stockpile height allowed. As previously presented at BCRG, City Circle has a 6.0 metre limit and Delta 8.0 metre limit from the working base level on the site (not the road). Both operators currently have amended planning permit applications with Council for review, with the objective to improve on-site operation and put in place measures to reduce off-site impacts, such as dust. Amended permits will require parts of the site to be sealed, improved drainage, landscaped perimeter bund walls, tighter controlled permit conditions and truck wheel washes.

**QUESTION: What is the timeline after the August start for the stockpiles to be reduced by Sunshine Groupe - we having been hearing the spin for years?**

**DANIEL HUNT, EPA** The stockpiles will begin to be reduced after August as required by the licence but overall there will be only be a slight reduction in the stockpiles before the site is capped, grassed and revegetated. This will gradually settle down over time but the Western Lands mounds will never be completely gone.

**COMMENT: As expected, the mounds will always be there and in drought when there is no vegetation there will be more dust!**

**Action 270716\_7:** Brimbank CC to provide an update on stockpiles through the meeting notes.  
- See Appendix 1.



1300 EPA VIC (1300 372 842)



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



## ITEM 7.

# FURTHER QUESTIONS

Due to time constraints, the Panel was not held but further general questions were taken.

**QUESTION:** Is it possible for the potential noise, dust and pollution impacts on the Brooklyn area from the Western Distributor Project (WDP) to be included in BCRG meetings next year?

**MATT WALSH, VICROADS** There have been some studies undertaken in the planning stages of the WDP project which could be outlined by the responsible VicRoads officer at a BCRG meeting.

**Action 270716\_8:** A Western Distributor Project VicRoads representative to be invited to BCRG in 2017 to discuss potential noise, dust and odour impacts for Brooklyn.

**COMMENT:** I would like to acknowledge the progress in dust reduction however the nuisance dust over PM10 is not being measured or it is a long time since it has been measured, and the positive results for dust reduction may be misleading.

**NIAL FINEGAN, EPA** While larger dust particles may be an issue, EPA will continue to focus our resources on the monitoring and improvements required to reduce PM10 and PM2.5 and it is expected that the reduction in nuisance dust will follow from these actions

**QUESTION:** Why isn't PM2.5 measured in Brooklyn and what happens if the Western Distributor Project results in an increase in traffic?

**EMMA ROPER, EPA** PM2.5 is not measured in Brooklyn but it is measured in Footscray. In 2007/8 there were three monitoring stations measuring a wide suite of analytes which showed a clear need to focus on PM10 in Brooklyn. PM2.5 is generally linked to incomplete combustion from vehicles. There was a study undertaken in Francis St in the past which looked at PM2.5 which can be used as a baseline if it is shown that there is a need to review this in light of the new WDP project.

**NIAL FINEGAN, EPA** EPA is working with Transurban and government agencies for the WDP. There are a number of sites where additional air monitoring will be undertaken for 'before and after' data. There are other community groups that have a particular focus on the Western Distributor Project and it would be beneficial for BCRG to liaise with these groups and share information via the forum and newsletters.

**Action 270716\_9:** BCRG to liaise with community groups focussed on the Western Distributor Projects and look for opportunities to share information.

**CR MICHAEL CLARKE, MARIBYRNONG CC** One of the big concerns from the Western Distributor Project is the change in truck numbers that may result and the change in air quality in Brooklyn e.g. Millers Rd or Buckley St. It may be strategically useful to look at air monitoring after construction begins in 2018 to gain a longitudinal understanding of the impacts/outcomes for the area which may lead to increasing measures to ensure trucks are channelled into the WDP in the future.

**COMMENT:** The predicted increase in the number of trucks in the regions due to the Melbourne waste management facility in Ravenhall may lead to an increased need to monitor PM2.5.

**NIAL FINEGAN, EPA** There are Statewide plans looking into the future needs for landfill and EPA or the Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group can give an update on this at a later date. It is not known yet which roads will be used most for waste management at Ravenhall but pre-project baseline air monitoring being undertaken for the Western Distributor Project could inform this.

**COMMENT:** Local businesses and residents are being affected by the dust and odour in Brooklyn and these are contributing factors in not being able to attract new businesses into the area.

Next BCRG meeting is November 16, 2016.

Meeting closed 8.50pm

# ATTACHMENTS.

[Att1\\_2016\\_07\\_27 Brooklyn Reserve](#)

[Att2\\_SunshineGroupe BCRG Presentation 270716](#)

[Att3\\_Brimbank Presentation to BCRG 27-07-2016](#)

[Att4\\_EPA\\_BCRG-Update July 2016 V2](#)

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## MEETING ATTENDANCE RECORD – 27 JULY, 2016.

47 people registered their attendance.

Name	Organisation
Alex Kozeniauskas	Delta Group
Andrea Mason	Executive Officer, BCRG
Annette Patrick	BRAG
Bert Boere	BRAG
Bill Cole	Resident
Billy Gray	EPA Victoria
Brian Long	BRAG
Bruce Light	Yarraville On The Nose
Carmen Largaiolli	Resident
Christian Buxton	Sunshine Groupe
Daniel Hunt	EPA Victoria
Emma Roper	EPA Victoria
Erika Robertson	Hobsons Bay City Council
Gary Haywood	Resident
Geoff Mitchelmore	Resident Altona North
George Smetona	Resident
Greg Murray	Cargill
Greta Haywood	Resident
Hannah Brown	Electoral Officer to Wade Noonan MP
Heather Humphreys	BRAG
Jan Cole	Resident
Jane Nathan	Brimbank City Council
Jason Price Cr	Hobsons Bay City Council

Name	Organisation
Jen Lilburn	BCRG Chair
Jill Galvin	Resident
Joe Coleiro	Cargill
Kieren McDermott	Cleanaway
Laurie Bell	Resident
Malcolm Ramsay	Hobsons Bay City Council
Matt Walsh	VicRoads
Michael Clarke Cr	Maribyrnong City Council
Ming Wong	Resident
Nial Finegan	EPA Victoria
Ray Martin	Brimbank City Council
Robert McKie	Sunshine Groupe
Sandra Wilson Cr	Hobsons Bay City Council
Shveta Khaneja	Hobsons Bay City Council
Stephen Wall	Maribyrnong City Council
Steven Fox	JBS Australia
Stuart Menzies	Brimbank City Council
Sue Lowther	Hobsons Bay City Council
Sunil Bhalla	Maribyrnong City Council
Susan Fitton	Brimbank City Council
Swathy Karki	Hobsons Bay City Council
Tim Jessop	Cleanaway
Tim Watts MP	Member for Gellibrand

### Apologies

Name	Organisation
Chris Bydder	EPA Victoria
Helen Paterson	Containerspace
Lisa Neville MP	Member for Bellarine

Name	Organisation
Olga Ghiri	Cleanaway
Simon Vittorio	Brimbank City Council
Wade Noonan MP	Member for Williamstown

## APPENDIX 1.

# STOCKPILE UPDATE – AUGUST 2016, SIMON VITTORIO, BRIMBANK CC

There are five (5) industries located within the Brooklyn Industrial Precinct that contain stockpiles on the land as part of the on-site operation being conducted.



All five (5) operations have a planning permit to conduct the use on the land, however, two (2) operations, located at 174A Jones Road and 84-90 Jones Road, Brooklyn, do not contain conditions to limit the maximum height of stockpiles.



The remaining three (3) operations are subject to planning permit conditions that require the stockpiles to be limited to a particular height no more than 8 metres. These operations are located at 473 - 477 Somerville Road, 499 Somerville Road and 125 Bunting Road, Brooklyn.

## Stockpile locations









→ Council controlled

→ No planning permit cond's (minimal Council control)

1

An initial Council audit identified that there were breaches to the permitted height of stockpiles with levels recorded above 15 metres in some instances, resulting in subsequent compliance action by Council. This action involved each operator submitting amended planning permit applications to Council to improve the on-site operations and ultimately reduce the stockpile heights recorded during the audit and the amount of dust and other pollutants emanating from the site.

The amendments to the planning permits requested a slight increase to the stockpile heights to a more realistic workable level of approximately 8 to 10 metres, however, it should be noted that these heights are significantly lower than the pre-audit level.

As part of the proposed amendments to the existing permits Council are also requiring the operators to undertake significant on-site investment to off-set any additional increase in stockpile heights, including:

- Overall reduction in stockpile heights from pre-audit levels by a minimum 7.0 metres
- Tighter enforceable permit conditions on all amended permits
- Formalised landscaped bund walls around the perimeter of each site to filter dust and ensure stockpiles are not exposed to winds
- Significant entry landscaping to improve the appearance of the site and filter dust
- Sealing of entry and exit areas and particular internal access roads to reduce dust generated by truck and vehicle movements on the ground
- Improved on-site drainage to prevent water and pollutants running off the land and increased water retention and re-use to allow water to be recycled and used for operational purposes
- Installation of truck wheel-washes to exit points to ensure trucks wheels are cleaned prior to exiting the site
- Utilisation of short-term dust suppression measures to minimise off-site dust, such as suction street sweepers, to clean up debris tracked onto the roads
- Partial enclosure of a recycling operation

Please note that the amended planning applications have not yet been approved by Council, however, some of these on-site improvements have already commenced. The applications are due for endorsement in the near future.

