



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.

JULY 2016 MEETING SNAPSHOTS

Community Input

We were fortunate to have Tim Watts MP, Member for Gellibrand and Nial Finegan, CEO EPA Victoria at the meeting to hear concerns from the community regarding Brooklyn.

Tim Watts thanked the local volunteer community members for their ongoing commitment to making change in the western suburbs for their communities. As a local, 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. Nonetheless it is important that community engagement through BCRG is continued to be supported, and that the campaign for change stays strong.

Nial Finegan, CEO EPA Victoria: 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.

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 responsibility will be on operators to prevent emissions such as dust. Failure to incorporate preventative systems can then be enforced regardless of the licencing arrangements. The political will is there to make the change and the issue of existing use rights problem and the stockpiles is recognised.

Community concerns included:

The Clean Air Agreement is focussed on coarse particulate matter, arising from coal dust and wood heaters. The issues related to Brooklyn need to be addressed.

'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'.

'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'.

Employers have a duty to provide a safe working environment and exposure to dust should be part of their work safety plans.

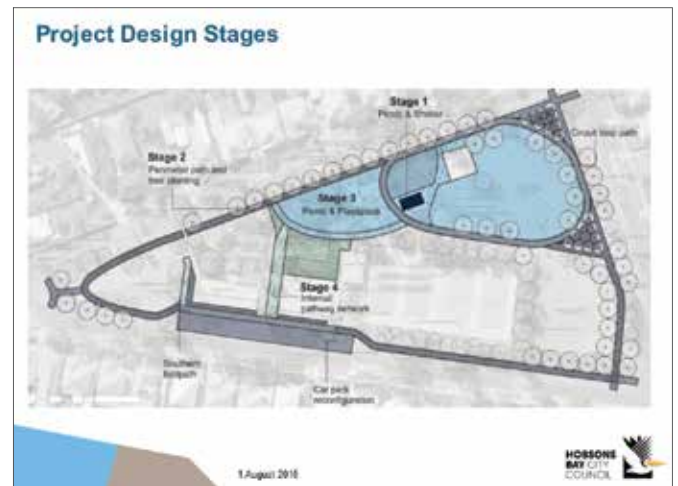
It is time the Planning Minister made changes to prevent dust coming from the companies with the very high stockpiles and existing use rights.



Brooklyn Reserve Upgrade

Erika Robertson, Sports and Recreation Officer Shveta Khaneja, City Design and Urban Projects, Hobsons Bay CC provided an overview of the proposed Brooklyn Reserve upgrade.

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, Hobsons Bay City Council was awarded \$200,000 for the upgrade to Brooklyn Reserve - Destination Play Space and Recreation Zone. Council has committed an additional \$200,000 towards the works.



To get involved go to Council's participate page and complete a survey
<http://participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/>

Sunshine Groupe Update

Dust monitoring and Stockpiles



Christian Buxton, General Manager and Robert McKie, OHS & Environmental Manager

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. Sunshine Groupe is committed to reducing the dust levels for the benefit of the community and their business.

The stockpile will begin to decrease when reclamation works begin in August but there is no set timeline as the new technology and processes have to be tested. A new covered building is being built and all the reclamation and tipping will be undercover. A tour of the site operations will be planned when the new recycling plant is completed and operational.

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. When the Level Crossing Rail Removal works in St Alban's Rd finish the truck numbers will then reduce significantly.

Jan 2016 fire

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 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. 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.

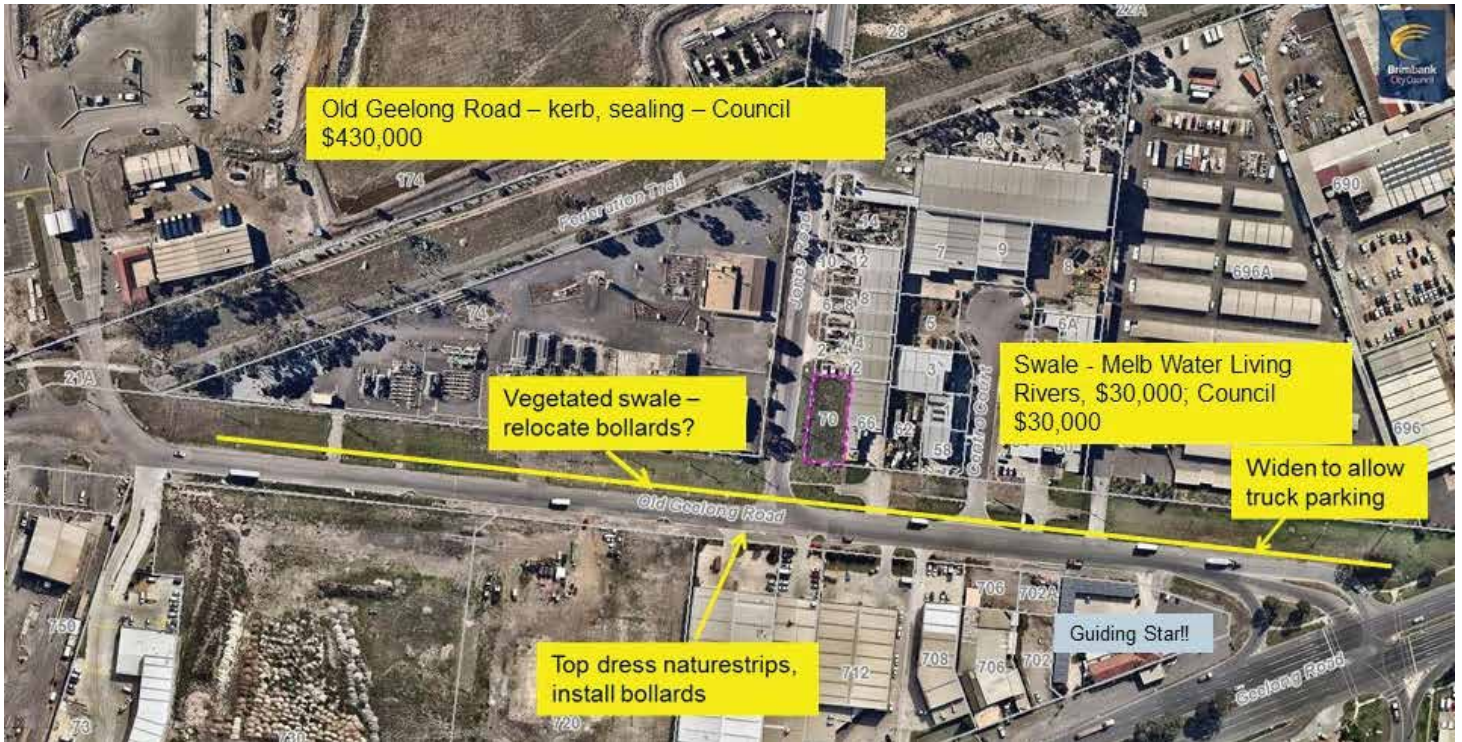
Hotspot



Brimbank Works Update



Ray Martin, Infrastructure Development Coordinator, Brimbank CC confirmed the following proposed works:



Sealing of Jones and Bunting Roads has made significant improvement, 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.

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 will be publicly advertised and submissions may be received from the community. The final approved program won't be known until mid-year.

"Where the landscaping and planting has been completed, the roads are looking terrific -so THANK YOU"

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.



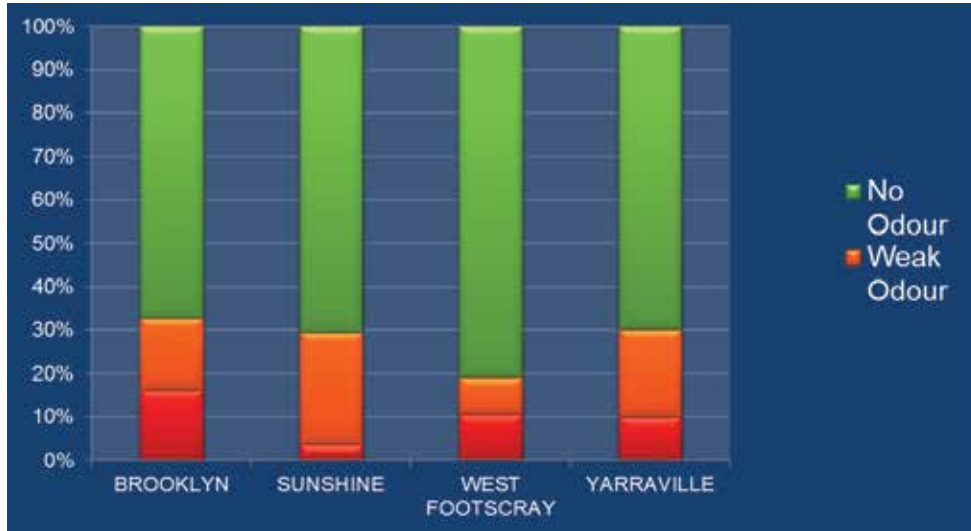
<https://www.facebook.com/BrooklynCommunityRepresentativeGroup>



Brooklyn Odour Survey 2016

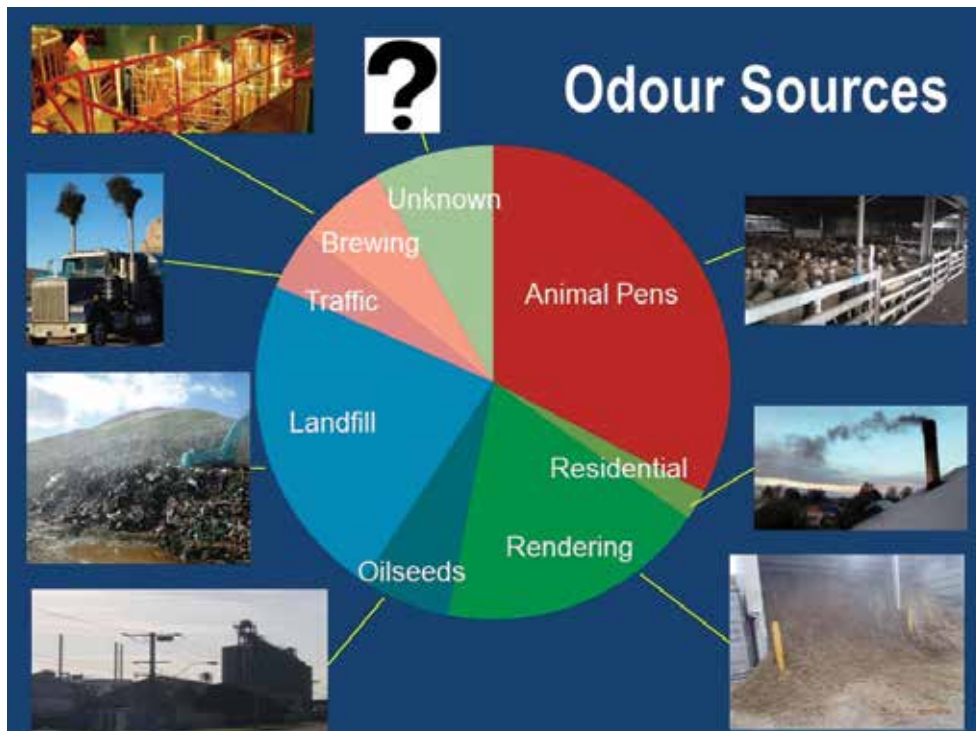
There has been a jump in odour reports this financial year particularly since December compared to the last two financial years - although they are still at a lower level compared to every year before 2013.

In response to the spike in odour complaints EPA undertook an extensive odour survey in 285 residential points in Brooklyn, Yarraville, West Footscray, Sunshine, and 165 points around major industry in Brooklyn.



Odour Survey results by Suburb

Brooklyn community reports are a good indicator of odour impacts and were confirmed by surveillance.



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

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 Notices (PANs) AND 10 sanctions for dust related issues and 2 sanctions and a prosecution for odour related issues.

Stockpiles and Existing Use Rights

EPA continues 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.

EPA works very closely with council in the planning and strategic area to develop ways of controlling all the businesses in the area. Together they have contributed to the planning scheme amendment C177 which is currently sitting with the Planning Minister.

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

Impacts of Western Distributor Project on Brooklyn

A number of questions were asked regarding the impacts from increased traffic from the proposed Western Distributor Project may have on air quality (particularly PM2.5 particles from vehicle emissions), odour and noise in Brooklyn and the need for extra monitoring. A representative from the project will be invited to present to the group early next year.

The final BCRG Community Forum for 2016 is 16 November.

Attendance by open invitation; contact eo.bcr@gmail.com

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

