



BROOKLYN COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE GROUP

OUR PURPOSE: To provide an update on progress towards resolution of dust, noise and odour issues.

AUGUST 2017 MEETING SNAPSHOT

Community update

Bert Boere, President Brooklyn Residents Action Group (BRAG) spoke of the emerging issue of the Westgate Tunnel Project and the increased risks of odour, noise and dust issues from increased traffic. The residents would like a one-page document outlining the future impacts such as noise, odour and dust as the lengthy draft Environment Effects Statement is impossible to read.

It was noted that the Public Hearings for the Environment Effects Statement for the West Gate Tunnel Project are occurring Aug 14 - Sept 19 at the Footscray Community Arts Centre. The full timetable can be found at: https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0027/78219/PPV-West-Gate-Tunnel-Project-IAC-Timetable-version-4.pdf

Bruce Light, President Yarraville On The Nose (YOTN) thanked Cargill for their efforts in reducing the impact of odour on Yarraville. He suggested two areas where great opportunities exist for BCRG to lobby for change:

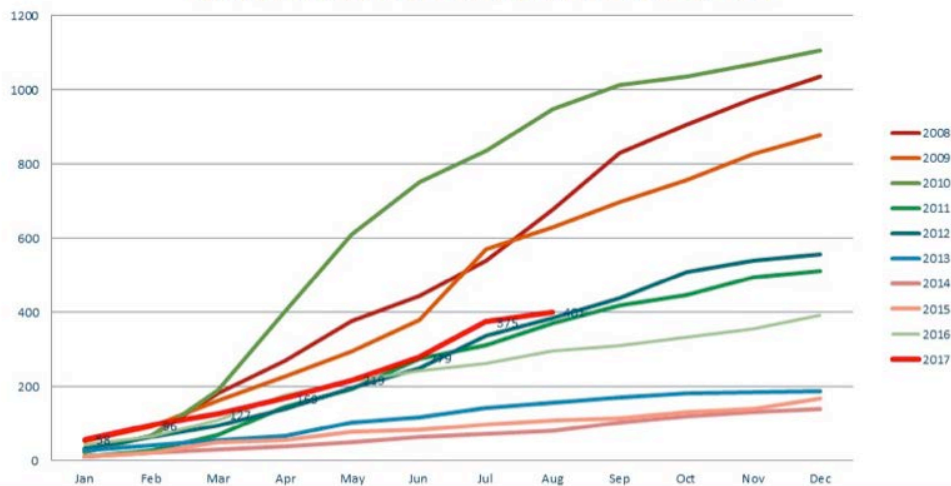
- **West Link** – he suggested that there is an opportunity for BCRG to promote the western end of the Eddington East/West project (WestLink) as a demonstrable superior alternative to the current government Westgate Tunnel Project. The WestLink project will keep trucks off Millers Road and create an opportunity to reduce dust from the Brooklyn Industrial Precinct; and
- **EPA reform** – The recent ABC Four Corners program highlighted the total disregard of recycle and waste management across Australia. Hopefully the proposed new powers for the EPA will bring change.

EPA Victoria update on dust, noise and odour program

Emma Roper, Team Leader Strategy and Support, Chris Bydder, Team Leader Field and Jim Demetriou, Principal Odour Expert reported on the significant spike in odour reports in 2017 compared to the previous 3 years. This is a concern for EPA and has prompted a rethink of the strategy. The Act still requires EPA to act on official reports of odour exceedences, and Emma urged everyone to continue to report odour incidences. EPA has staff on 24/7 standby to receive complaints.



Cumulative Odour Reports by Calendar Year 2008-2017



There are several ways to make reports to the EPA – phone (most effective) or through the website or email. EPA is working to address the issue of delays in response to reports.

After the meeting the following tips were provided for reporting:

***Be consistent - Everybody perceives an odour differently** and it is difficult to place a label to the characteristic if you have not been exposed to it. Don't worry about how you describe a smell, but use that description consistently each time you make a report about that same odour.

***When applying an intensity (strength) to an odour you must also be consistent and realistic** - you may be required to support your position, what's important is that it is strong enough to have an impact (not how strong it is). When applying a rating, provide a descriptor such as: 3 - distinct (present when breathing normally) or 6 - extremely strong and you needed to get away from it immediately.

***Record the details of the event:**

When you were home and the duration of the exposure during this period.

Wind strength and direction.

How the odour has infringed on your lives

***EPA may require a statement so good notes are recommended.**



Updated EPA Odour Strategy for Brooklyn Industrial Precinct

Ensure that all commercial and industrial premises contributing to odour impacts in the Brooklyn Industrial Precinct have appropriate engineering and management controls to minimise impacts on the Brooklyn residential area, through the effective on-site management of odour sources to ensure the human health, amenity and the environment is not adversely impacted.

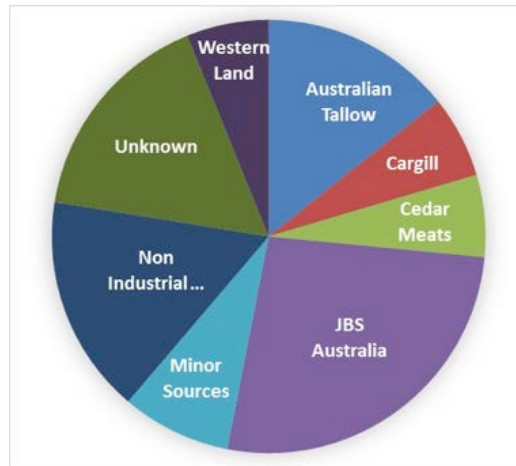
Long Term Goal: Odour reports are reduced to and remain below 160 reports per year.

Odour Surveillance

- 20 odour surveys from May – June 2017; 501 individual odour observations in residential and industrial areas.
- Strong odour was detected 15.8 % of the time in residential areas.
- A fair amount of odour was picked up where the source was not industrial in nature (wood heater smoke, residential renovations, traffic etc.)



Odour sources



Dust Update

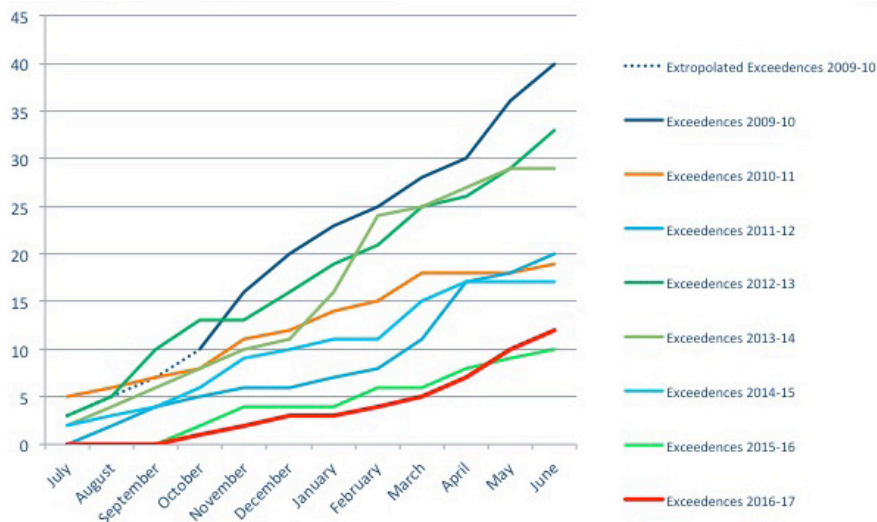
- 12 exceedences in 2016/17, slightly higher than last year (10) but...
- 7 of the exceedences occurred during Apr-Jun, the second driest three-month period since we began monitoring in Brooklyn in 2009.

Significant decrease in;

- Daily PM10 average above 40 µg/m3 in Brooklyn was 30 days
- Annual PM10 average was 22.2 µg/m3

There is an underlying improvement in Brooklyn's PM10 levels (These are smaller than normal dust particles and are breathable), although the number of exceedences this year are more than last year and too high. The worst times are in the driest months of autumn.

Cumulative number of PM10 exceedences



Updated EPA Dust Strategy

Ensure that commercial and industrial operations in the Brooklyn Industrial Precinct cause minimal environmental impact on the surrounding community.

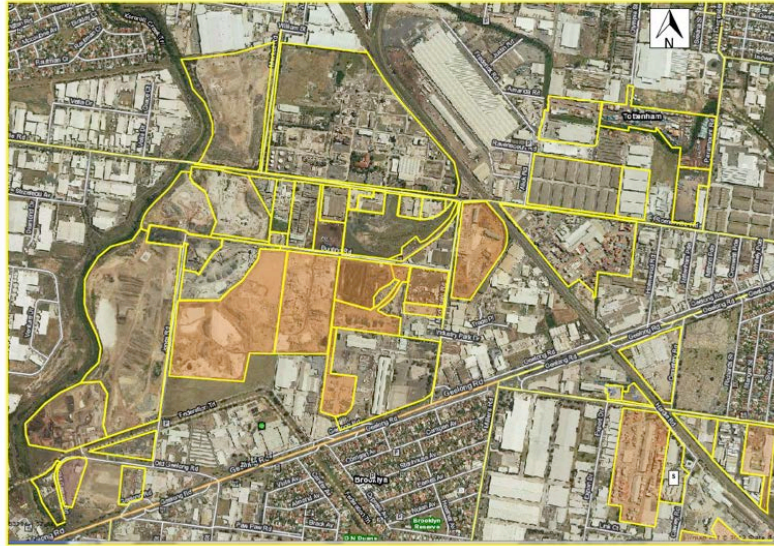
Long Term Goal: Effective on-site management of dust sources to ensure the human health, amenity and the environment is not adversely impacted.

EPA Actions

- Assess all the sites in the area where dust is an issue and work with councils to get enforcement or changes where possible. Focus on sites directly to the NW, N and NE of Brooklyn of large unsealed areas or of high risk activities.
- Inspect high-risk sites to get the most value for effort in further improving air quality at key sites to the north of Brooklyn.
- Notices to focus on long term engineered solutions for dust issues.



Target Sites for Brooklyn Dust 2017



Officers for the Protection of the Local Environment (OPLE)

- The OPLE 15-month Pilot Program will use EPA employees, trained and appropriately authorised under the EP Act (restricted) to respond to lower scale pollution and waste issues, including noise, odour, dust, litter and septic tanks.
- OPLEs will also provide information and education activities to support the prevention of pollution, and will undertake proactive inspections of premises to support compliance.
- Hobsons Bay CC and Brimbank CC will share one OPLE, who will work beside compliance and health officers.



Environment
Protection
Authority Victoria



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Other Community feedback

- The government should be more proactive in supporting the relocation of some industries – especially since the fires at Coolaroo.
- If the industries moved out then councils could address the introduction of more suitable industries into the area
- Promote a long-term approach to enable West Link to be built
- Address the issue of unlicensed operators who are still not meeting modern standards
- Use the powers that the Minister has to revoke licenses of repeat offenders and force them to relocate
- Support those companies that have made change or are actively complying to regulations

The final BCRG Community Forum for 2017 is 15 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.

