



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.

NOVEMBER 2017 MEETING SNAPSHOTS

Community update

BERT BOERE, PRESIDENT BROOKLYN RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP (BRAG) provided an update on recent meetings looking at the Westgate Tunnel project. The project needs to address the broader issues, including noise, cars, trucks, rail for freight and the Lead West Integrated Transport Plan. BRAG is pleased that Hobsons Bay CC has voted to remove its provisional support for the tunnel and plans to go back to government to ask for a study on what is needed for the western suburbs. There is need for a better plan as the current scope isn't sufficient to address emerging issues such as the ramps at Grieve Parade.

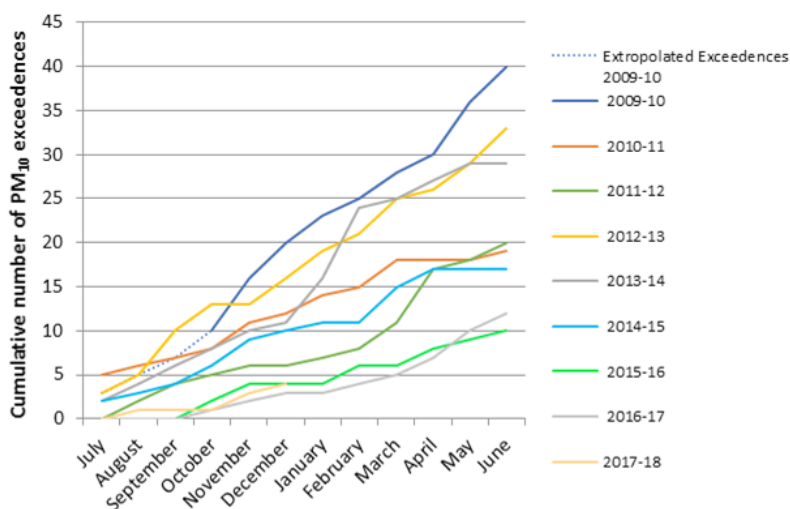
BRUCE LIGHT, PRESIDENT YARRAVILLE ON THE NOSE (YOTN) commented on his disappointment with the current planning within Brimbank CC which is allowing more container storage facilities to be established on Somerville and Jones Rd, and therefore more truck traffic and which he also believes are exempt from the height restrictions. The issues are not just about dust and noise but visual amenity.

EPA Victoria update on dust, noise and odour program

EMMA ROPER, TEAM LEADER STRATEGY AND SUPPORT introduced new staff members: Ramesh Dianat, Compliance Strategy Officer, Nikki Lowes, Team Leader – Field Operations and Claire Sonogo, the Officer for the Protection of the Local Environment (OPLE) for Brimbank and Hobsons Bay City Council areas.

Dust Report – PM10 exceedences

This is a measure of smaller particles in the air than actual dust particles. The graph shows the number of days the readings exceeded the standard.



The second week of November has posed the first big challenge for the season. Alerts for November 14 and 15 were due to northerly winds resulting in two exceedences. A long, hot and dry summer is expected so dust controls will play an important part in reducing exceedences.

EMMA ROPER AND NIKKI LOWES responded to a number of questions relating to the high dust levels and recording systems for November 14 and 15:

- An alert is sent to industry, Department of Human Services and educational facilities to enable them to enact their management plans for dust mitigation.
- EPA officers were on standby but were deployed elsewhere.
- The new OPLE staff members were in training at the time and are not yet capable of attending.
- There are also eight new environment protection officers expected to be recruited soon which might help future resourcing issues.
- They are not aware which, if any, industries enacted their plans in this instance, but EPA staff have been sent out during past events to monitor this.
- <http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/our-work/monitoring-the-environment/epa-airwatch> It is important to note the difference between the Air Quality Index and Particle PM10 readings when interpreting this data.

Odour Report

The data shows a significant jump in the number of odour complaints in 2017. EPA needs the community to continue to report these as it provides the necessary evidence towards making a case against responsible industries.

Count of Month	Column Labels											
Row Labels		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Grand Total
1		28	54	21	11	34	28	11	14	45	58	304
2		40	38	46	18	30	15	12	9	21	38	267
3		115	70	125	41	31	15	7	28	48	31	511
4		86	65	211	77	45	13	9	8	66	42	622
5		108	68	208	46	55	36	10	21	38	50	640
6		67	84	141	82	54	13	17	7	32	60	557
7		96	191	83	37	87	40	11	12	19	96	672
8		137	60	114	60	48	13	9	12	34	155	642
9		153	69	64	48	54	19	25	8	16	77	533
10		76	59	21	27	67	11	20	18	22	50	371
11		70	69	34	49	32	4	11	7	21	5	302
12		59	50	37	15	19	5	6	29	37		257
Grand Total		1035	877	1105	511	556	212	148	173	399	662	5678

Despite ongoing issues with the reporting system in EPA, the community is encouraged to make odour reports as this is still the only way evidence can be gathered to make a case against offending industries.

At the March 7, 2018 BCRG Open house Chris Bydder from EPA is planning to have an odour stand to help the community identify and report odours.







Environment Protection Authority Victoria



VICTORIA State Government



1300 EPA VIC (1300 372 842)



contact@epa.vic.gov.au

Operations Update

The following operational activities have been undertaken since the last BCRG meeting. Key dust sites were a focus – with a view to getting long term processes in place.

- 6 notices issued on sites in Brooklyn since August 2017
- 3 notice amendments
- 3 draft notices currently with duty holders
- 14 inspections of sites in Brooklyn

The community called for increased monitoring of dust in Altona North and along Geelong Rd. EPA is developing a proposal to get new monitors but still haven't got the funding to do this. The dust shouldn't be leaving the site.

It is hoped that the new changes to the Act and the EPA Reform will bring about a significant change to how councils and EPA can enforce compliance. The new proposals are similar to WorkCover and shift the burden of proof, that there is no impact outside the site, to the landowner rather than the EPA or councils having to prove a breach of permit or license as in the current system. It is expected that this will increase the number of landowners operating at a higher standard.

The new Officers for the Protection of the Local Environment (OPLE) are currently undertaking training and are not expected to be on the ground until 2018. Their role will be to respond to lower scale pollution and waste issues, including noise, odour, dust, litter and septic tanks.

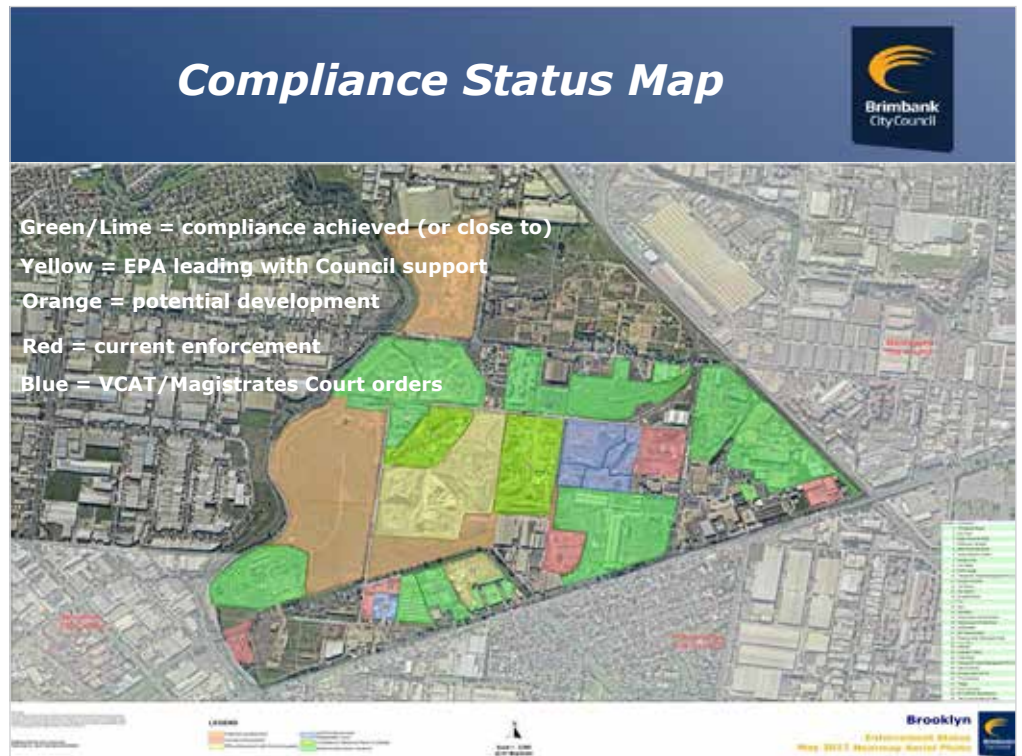


Claire Sonego, new Officer for the Protection of the Local Environment (OPLE) is welcomed by EPA, Brimbank and Hobsons Bay City Councils.



Brimbank City Council Compliance Update

STUART MENZIES, DIRECTOR CITY DEVELOPMENT provided an update on compliance activities being undertaken, in collaboration with EPA where required, to reduce the effects of dust from industries in the Brooklyn Industrial Precinct. The potential development site owners are in pre-application discussions with council and active compliance through enforcement notices and VCAT or court orders are being undertaken at several sites. Those sites with existing use rights continue to operate legally but their practices may not be ideal. Council is negotiating with these industries to find a 'whole of site' solution.



Individual site improvements include: amended applications, additional site sealing, materials recycling sheds, tighter permit conditions controlling stockpiles, significant landscaping, improved bunds, stockpile capping, and improved drainage. Full details can be seen in the **BCRG meeting notes**.

28 Jones Rd Container Facility Permit has been issued for a state of the art shipping container storage facility with best practice operation including sealing of the entire site and significant landscaping & beautification of Federation Trail.

Community members expressed their disappointment in this and any future container facilities as they predict an increase in diesel fumes, noise, truck traffic and issues of visual amenity from high container stacks.

Westgate Tunnel Project The six councils, including Brimbank CC, made a joint submission via Lead West to the Western Distributor Authority in support of the Westlink proposal. To achieve Westlink, land reservations need to be put in place, but this is the role of state government. If established, they would create certainty and drive further investment.

BCRG meetings for 2018:

Open House Wednesday 7 March - Drop in between 5pm and 7pm

Community Forums: Wednesday 11 July and Wednesday 14 November,

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

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

