



BCRG COMMUNITY FORUM 3/2024

MEETING 58

WEDNESDAY

13 November, 2024

6:00pm til 8:50pm

Brooklyn Community Hall, Cypress Ave

Chair: Catherine Botta **Notetaker:** Andrea Mason



MEETING PURPOSE

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

	Arrive for supper
1	Welcome Meeting purpose and overview of agenda items Introductions
2	Rolling Actions Update <i>Andrea Mason</i>
3	Community Update <i>Carmen Largaiolli, Brooklyn Resident and Geoff Mitchelmore, Friends of Lower Kororoit Creek</i>
4	Council Updates <i>Jake Repacholi, Hobsons Bay City Council</i>
5	Callan Riley <i>Maribyrnong City Council</i>
6	Matt O'Mara and Kristen Gilbert <i>Brimbank City Council</i>
7	Brooklyn Recycling Group - Better Environment Plan <i>Update on the planning process with discussion on ideas for improving outcomes for the Brooklyn Community.</i> <i>Christian Buxton, Dr James Brett and Stephen Kerr</i>
8	Review of BCRG <i>Brief overview of the review process - Cath</i> <i>Brief overview of BCRG history – Andrea</i> <i>Brief overview of the survey results – Cath</i> Group Discussion • <i>What have been the Key achievements, or highlights of BCRG? Including specific benefits.</i> • <i>What have been the key trends and changes in the operating context for BCRG over time? What are the likely future trends?</i> • <i>What are likely to be the key community issues in the future? What are the potential options for community engagement on these issues? Is the BCRG model the right model for the future?</i>
9	EPA Victoria Update on dust, noise and odour program a. compliance activity, b. Strategic initiatives and programs <i>Jeremy Settle, Acting Regional Manager - West Metro</i> <i>Gary Laidlaw, Senior Engagement Lead, Western Metropolitan Region</i>
10	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 public. Meeting participants should advise Andrea Mason or Cath Botta if they would like their name removed from this public document.

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ACTIONS FROM THE MEETING

Action 1311_1: EPA, Hobsons Bay CC, Brimbank CC and Maribyrnong CC to consider review survey and workshop results from November 2024 BCRG discussion and report back on ideas for a future model for BCRG.

ITEM 1.

WELCOME (Catherine Botta)

The final notes from the June 2024 meeting are available from the [Brooklynip website](#).

Catherine Botta (Convenor) conducted acknowledgement to country and welcomed everyone to the BCRG forum including Cr Rayane Hawli, Hobsons Bay City Council.

Cath reminded everyone of the purpose of the forum – to foster collaboration between members of the community, industry, EPA Victoria, local and state government.

Everyone was invited to introduce themselves.

ITEM 2.

ROLLING ACTIONS (Andrea Mason)

Andrea Mason, Executive Officer, BCRG reminded everyone of the Rolling Actions list which records actions from each meeting and updates actions that have been addressed between forums. These are available on the [Brooklynip website](#) and are circulated with the enews.

The status of the actions from the previous meetings are:

Action 1906_1: BCRG to invite EPA's Air and Odour Scientist back next year to provide an update on the analysis results from PM_{2.5} study of the inner west **INCOMPLETE - DEFERRED**

ITEM 3.

COMMUNITY UPDATE (Carmen Largaiolli, Brooklyn Resident and Geoff Mitchelmore, Friends of Lower Kororoit Creek)

The full presentation from Carmen is available in [Attachment 1](#).

The full presentation from Geoff is available in [Attachment 2](#).

Carmen Largaiolli has been participating in BCRG since its Inception in 2008 and reporting pollution to EPA for many, many years. She provided one example of a personal experience as a resident in Brooklyn on how the EPA Airwatch air data is available and how the information showed PM₁₀ levels of over 100µg/m³ on November 6, 2024 in Brooklyn. The Air Quality Index app on her phone also showed the level in Brooklyn significantly higher than other suburbs around Melbourne.

Carmen showed images of the dust that is daily on her car as an example of the impact that dust is having on the lives of residents. Added to the ongoing dust issue, there has been a lot of noise and dust this year from projects such as cabling and site construction which often happens at night and which the residents are not always notified in a timely manner.

In July 2024, Carmen was one of many who received notification from EPA that their personal data had been hacked from the Call Centre earlier. The EPA’s call centre is run by a third party and Carmen suggested that this should really be managed directly by the EPA. Incidents such as these add to the declining lack of trust in the EPA.

Carmen stressed that it is not the community’s job to monitor and counteract pollution. Agencies and industry must be held accountable for the poor air quality still being experienced by residents. Although there have been some improvements, overall and after all this time, the report card is a ‘fail’. This ongoing poor situation has left many in the community upset, tired and frustrated.

Community members echoed these sentiments. They questioned what else can be done to draw more attention to the issue such as media exposure. What else can be done other than move away?

Geoff Mitchelmore provided an update on Development in the Inner West being undertaken as part of the Melbourne Water Pipeline Reserve Brooklyn Masterplan and surrounding roads.

Improvements undertaken or planned

- Urban Forest is growing really well after only two years.
- Melbourne Water pondage – now has birdlife using it.
- West Gate Tunnel Project have resurfaced the bitumen path.
- Brimbank CC - more plantings and solar lighting to connect across from one side of Brooklyn to the other. Paths complete.
- West Gate Tunnel plantings being undertaken in West precinct.
- Brimbank CC – received \$1.7M from State Government to seal Old Geelong Rd which is nearly complete.
- Stages 4 & 5 Kororoit Creek Shared Trail Connection from Altona North to the Bay Grant is actively being pursued from the Federal Government.
- Stage 1 recently opened to community by Hon Melissa Horne MP linking Altona North to Brooklyn via the Kororoit Creek Shared Trail and Federation Trail.

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ITEM 4.

Council Update (Jake Repacholi, Coordinator Public Health, Hobsons Bay City Council)

Jake was a late apology. Cath Botta read from notes Jake had sent through.

1. Smoke related complaints remain steady with 7 received across the period 1 Aug to 31 Oct.

As we approach warmer months a greater portion of these complaints are attributed to outdoor fires for cooking (i.e. pizza ovens) as opposed to indoor wood heaters. We are continuing to draw on new EPA resources in this space to educate residents around appropriate fire usage and storage of wood.

2. Work on collaboration with EPA on wood heater smoke webpage and highlighting results of EPA study into local pm 2.5 pollution is continuing, and initial feedback has been positive.
3. Participated in forum held by the centre for safe air on 19 September about 'Diabetes and Air Pollution' with key speakers Dr Timothy Chaston, Keith Loveridge and Professor Geoffrey Morgan. The webinar will inform the broader work of Council and is also available for those interested online in the Youtube website – just search "Fuelling healthier air webinar".
4. On 9 October HBCC participated in the inaugural meeting of the Brooklyn Recycling Group's Better Environment Plan (BEP). Council has committed to continued participation in the forum and we support its intended outcomes which will benefit the Brooklyn community.

ITEM 5.

Council Update (Callan Riley, Manager City Sustainability, Maribyrnong City Council)

Callan provided an update on the work Maribyrnong City Council is undertaking to improve air quality in the region.

Council activities

- Increased effort to raise community awareness by increasing content regarding air quality on the Council website <https://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/Residents/Our-environment/Air-Quality-in-the-City-of-Maribyrnong>.
- Idle Off Campaign – liaising with Melbourne University to implement a behaviour change program to encourage drivers to idle off and reduce emissions particularly around schools and other sensitive areas.
- Consulting with Department of Transport to explore what a low emissions zone would look like, location of the port, models for transport movement and truck numbers.
- Council staff across several departments (local laws, env health, planning and sustainability) to tour Brooklyn with EPA to get a better understanding of the issues and to inform Council.

ITEM 6.

Council Update (Kristen Gilbert, Manager City Development Services and Matt O'Mara, Coordinator Planning Compliance Brimbank City Council)

Kristen and Matt provided updates on the statutory planning and compliance activities being undertaken by Brimbank Council in the Brooklyn area. These include properties with new planning applications and updates on properties previously discussed at BCRG.

Current planning permit applications

- **P449/2024 - 11A McDonald Road, Brooklyn** – Earthworks (retrospective application) – Application received on 16/10/2024, awaiting further information
- **P117/2024 – 730 Geelong Road, Brooklyn** - buildings and works for the construction of a vehicle store and associated earthworks – application received 04/04/2024
- **454-460 Somerville Road, Brooklyn** – New application received on 21 November 2023 for use and development of the land for shipping container storage, office, restricted retail premises and convenience restaurant in a Design And Development Overlay (DDO11), demolition and buildings and works within a Heritage Overlay, erection and display of signage, reduction to the standard car parking requirement, access alterations to a road in a Transport Zone 2 and a variation to the bicycle parking facilities. This is effectively exactly the same as a previous application on this site that was refused last year. Further information has been requested, included an Environmental Audit that confirms that the site is suitable for use.

Decisions made since last meeting

- **P468/2024 - 7 Moonah Circuit, Brooklyn** – Buildings and works (mezzanine) to an existing warehouse – Permit issued on 28/10/2024
- **P277/2024 – 5 / 600 Geelong Road, Brooklyn** – Buildings and works (ancillary office) to an existing warehouse – Permit issued on 11/07/2024
- **P267/2024 – 3A / 600 Geelong Road, Brooklyn** – Buildings and works (ancillary office) to an existing warehouse – Permit issued on 01/07/2024
- **P167/2024 – 469 Somerville Road, Brooklyn** - Buildings and works in association with industry, business identification signage, creation and alteration to access in a Transport Zone 2, the construction of a front facing fence over 2 metres in height and the removal of an easement within a Design and Development Overlay Schedule 11 – Permit issued on 24/09/2024
- **696 Geelong Road, Brooklyn** – Buildings and works for sealing the internal accessways – permit issued on 19/03/2024. This application was in response to compliance action on this site. If they construct these accessways, this will effectively close out the compliance issue. The Enforcement Order application is still pending at VCAT.
- **166 Jones Road, Brooklyn** - application to change the use from asphalt plant (industry) to reclaimed asphalt plant (materials recycling). Application received on 2 February 2024. Further information was requested. Application was withdrawn on 27/03/2024

VCAT decision

- No VCAT decisions for sites in Brooklyn since last meeting

Current compliance activity

- **Proactive dust monitoring program continuing** – several of the operators within the Brooklyn area are being monitored for dust control measures where it was required as part of their approvals. To be conducted in higher temp and higher wind days.

This includes the Bunting Road Precinct including sites at:

- **69 Bunting Road** – MR – Occupier is in the process of vacating the site. It is anticipated that further use of the site will only be for storage, which does not require planning approval.
- **125 Bunting Road** – ResourceCo – no visible dust escaping site
- **159 Bunting Road (and 84-90 Jones Road)** – Sunshine Groupe
- **175 Bunting Road (and 166 Jones Road)** – Hansons
- **Western end of Old Geelong Road** – looks like some trailers were again being stored within the road reserve. We will monitor this, noting that road works are commencing for the sealing of the road.
- **720 Old Geelong Road Brooklyn** – still working with the owners to have the site cleaned up and brought into compliance with the Planning Scheme. Compliance action is pending.
- **A number of properties within Brooklyn** - investigating unpermitted uses and non-compliance with planning permits. Nothing specific to report at this stage.

QUESTION: Ryan Transport have been operating illegally for nearly 3 years already. Have they applied for a permit and how can they continue to be there?

Kristen: There is enforcement action underway, therefore we cannot give details at the moment. This is a complicated situation and there has been a change of ownership, so the process through the courts is expected to be slow.

QUESTION: Who issues the permits for works through the night? There is overnight dust affecting residents.

Matt: The construction works being undertaken have permits to operate at night to reduce traffic congestion and dust affecting residents during the works.

Kristen: BCC permits are publicly advertised, and the community has an opportunity to make a complaint. In the case of these works, no complaints have been received by Council. Community complaints can affect future permits and operator behaviour. We are available if you have concerns.

Matt: There are many different activities being undertaken and each has to have its own permit which is designed to minimise impact on the residents. Council can't measure the dust occurring on site but use unmarked cars for surveillance purposes. There is no evidence of infringement of permit conditions to date. Council cannot act without community complaints and evidence.

COMMENT: *The community is tired of complaining. These works are going over a number of years and it would be better if they happened during the day to give the residents an opportunity to leave home. Overall, the residents have been putting up with this for over 30 years.*

COMMENT: *There is clearly community fatigue and this is a huge issue for the residents that needs to be addressed with appropriate monitoring that reduces the reliance on the community.*

Jeremy: EPA acknowledges reporting fatigue in the community. However, where there is a new issue, EPA requires new information from the community - though the channels available. It is hard to allocate resources to investigate any issues without the community complaints. Where we can see clear emissions from site it is easier to act. The call centre operates for 24 hours. EPA is cooperating with councils. EPA will respond to an emergency at any hour and staff will attend. Regular pollution reports, EPA staff finish at 10pm.

COMMENT: *The Inner West Air Quality Report suggested introducing incentives from local councils to assist businesses to move out of the area. I am not seeing great change over many years and increased community frustration. There is a need for land use change in the industrial precinct.*

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ITEM 7.

Brooklyn Recycling Group - Better Environment Plan (Christian Buxton, Dr James Brett and Stephen Kerr)

The full presentation is available in [Attachment 3](#).

Christian Buxton, Director, Special Project Consultancy & Sunshine Groupe noted that his family had been operating its business in Brooklyn since the 1930s and has been participating in BCRG for many years.

He understands the frustration of the community and the need for the change.

This has led to the development of the Better Environment Plan (BEP) in this new initiative that has come from the review of the Environment Act in 2021. So far, only four of the twenty businesses in the area are involved in this first BEP, Sunshine Groupe, ResourceCo, City Circle and Delta Group. The BEP is essentially a voluntary agreement between industry and the EPA to find innovative and collaborative ways to solve difficult environmental problems.

The focus of the BEP is to mitigate dust emissions in the Brooklyn Precinct from industry. They will agree to undertake particular actions within certain timelines and to be finalised by June 30, 2025. This is a complicated problem, and all parties need to be involved in working together with industry. Within the BEP, budgets to support the Collective Actions approximate \$400,000 (half funded via a grant by DEECA). Aggregate spending by the four participants on ongoing site improvements will exceed \$1.4 m over the next 12 months.

Acknowledging that we can do better, the BEP enables us to work more closely with the EPA and we extend an invitation to the community here at BCRG to take a seat at our table and to help hold us accountable. We hope that by working together in a more transparent manner, we can achieve some positive change.

Dr James Brett, Principal Engineer, Synergetics spoke of the eight Group Actions within the BEP which fall broadly across five categories.

- **Training** – training modules established for staff across the four businesses
- **Tree Planting** – specifically designed to reduce dust emissions from our sites and coordinated with community groups
- **Dust Sensors** – installing more sensors and a more coordinated approach to identifying dust sources
- **Street Sweeping** – more coordinated approach with businesses owning their own machines and working in with LGAs
- **Communications & Community Liaison** – appointment of a Community Liaison Officer, developing a website and creating a BRG BEP Working Group.

Stephen Kerr, Chief Executive, Public Relations Exchange elaborated on the plans to increase community engagement within the BEP. He extended an invitation from community members to approach him if they were interested in being part of the BEP Working Group on November 27.

QUESTION: Is there a plan to extend the BEP to other companies?

Christian: We have reached out to all 20 companies in the precinct, but many were holding back as they feared the legal framework. With this first BEP now underway, we need to go back and reassure them that this new process is working.

QUESTION: This is a great vision and proactive approach from industry. Can councils/stakeholders do more in the way of incentives to get the other industries involved and implementing change??

Stephen: Fundamental to engaging others will be the BEP Working Group. Currently we have the four businesses, EPA and other groups but we want a bigger cohort to work on this issue.

QUESTION: When the North wind is high and dust is blowing everywhere towards residents – what action do you take – as you can't stop the dust on those days?

Christian: On our site the gypsum plant is 15m below ground surface level. At Sunshine Groupe we don't operate at all on high dust days and undertake other works and maintenance instead. This is one of the key disciplines of our business.

QUESTION: Are other businesses being encouraged by EPA to do individual BEPs?

Jeremy Settle, EPA: EPA can't compel industries to do a BEP. It would be better if they joined with this as it would be more efficient and a better use of resources including community effort to join together. EPA still needs to explain the process better to businesses to encourage them to join.

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ITEM 8.
Review of BCRG, Cath Botta

Cath Botta gave an overview of the need to review BCRG as it has been a long time.

Key Objectives:

- To review the history and development of BCRG and identify the key achievements and specific benefits of BCRG to date.
- To understand the community perspective on the key issues for a future focus and the potential models/ options the future.

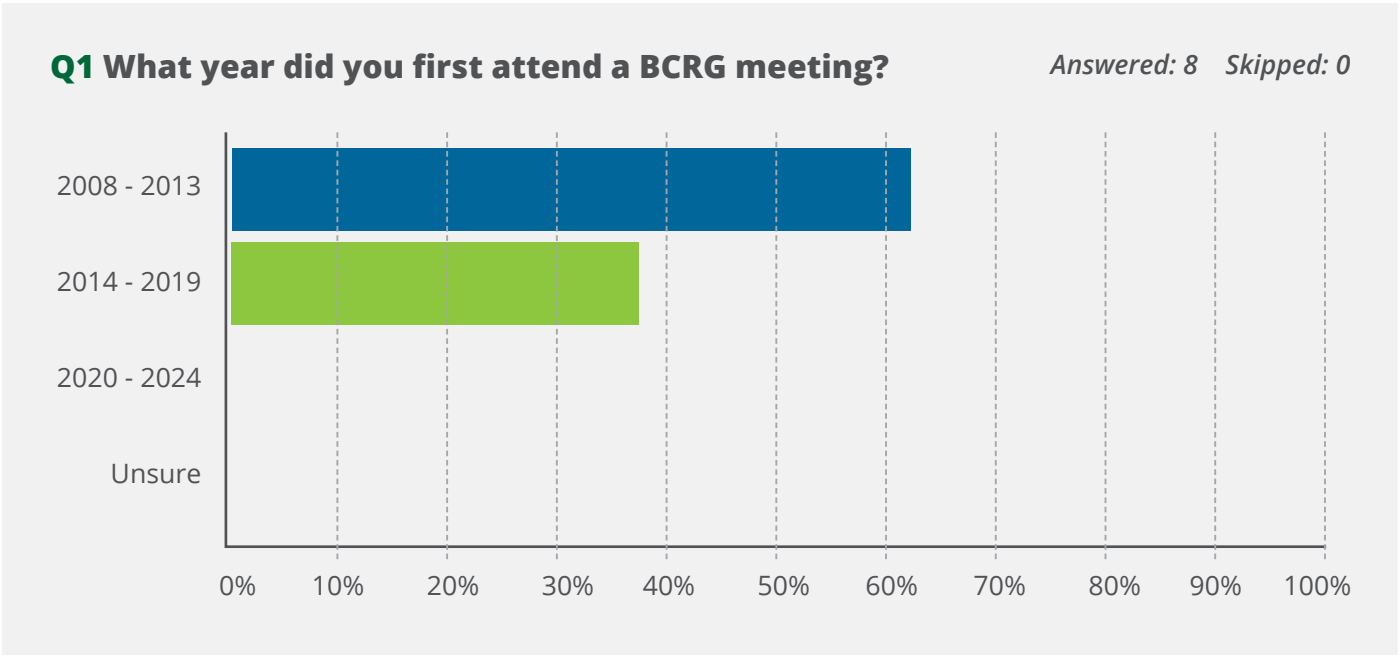
A Potted History

Andrea Mason provided a 'potted' history of BCRG since 2008. This presentation can be seen in full on the Brooklynip website [Click here](#).

Review Process:

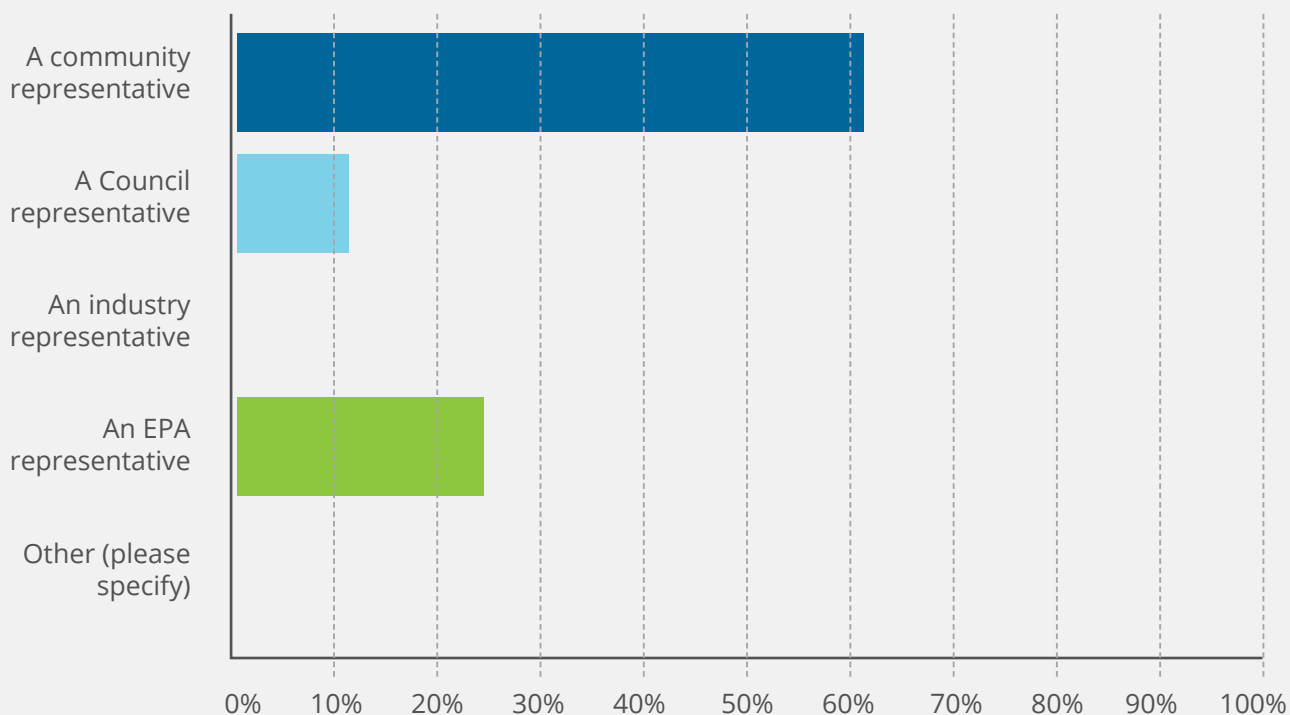
- Online survey sent to all BCRG members – 8 responses out of 233 email subscribers
- Key person interviews – Council Representatives (3) and key Community members (3)
- Discussion at the November BCRG meeting

Online Survey Results



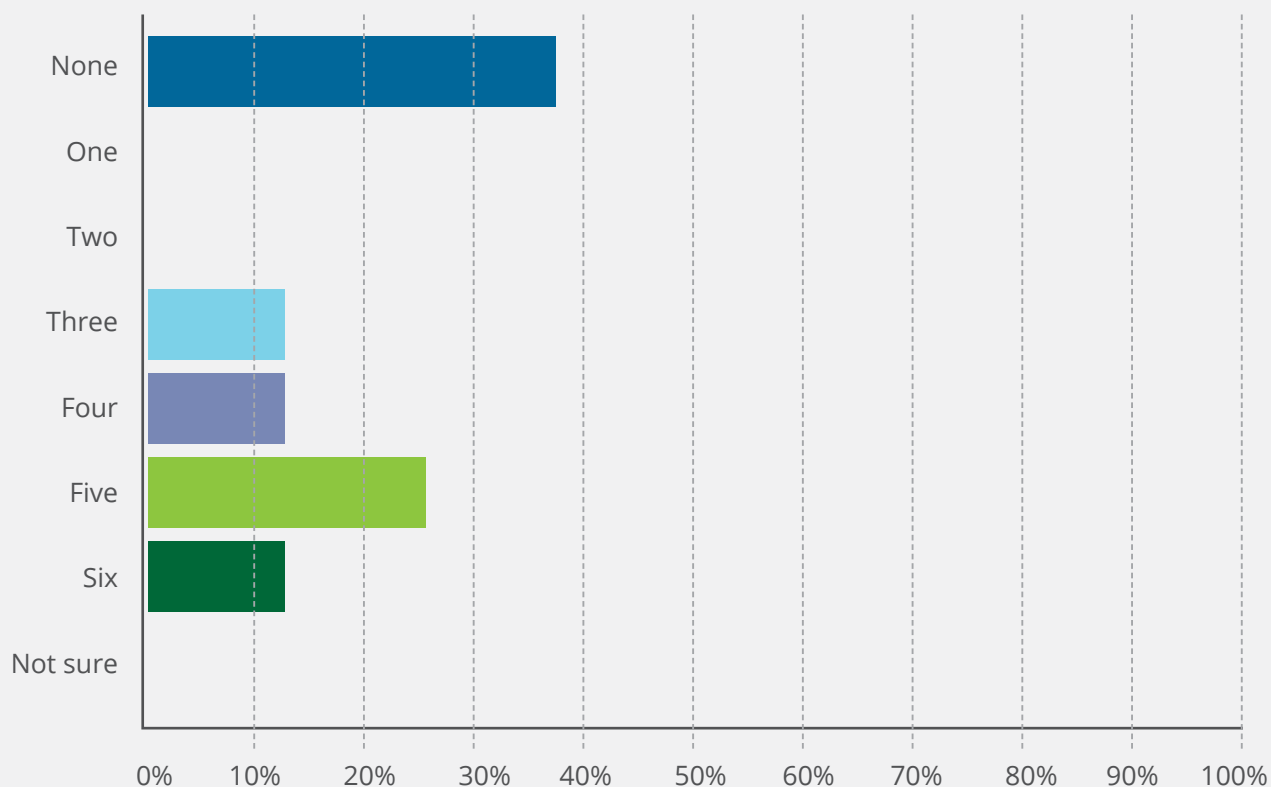
Q2 Which of these best describe you?

Answered: 8 Skipped: 0



Q3 BCRG holds 3 meetings a year. How many BCRG meetings have you attended in the last 2 years?

Answered: 8 Skipped: 0



Q4 In your opinion, what is working well with BCRG?

- o An opportunity to hear from other agencies
- o Very little
- o Presentations are generally very good
- o Coordinated approach to solving problems in Brooklyn.
- o Collaboration with community, industry and government agencies. Using drone technology as another tool to verify compliance.
- o Communication - Giving a voice to the community.

Q5 In your opinion, what is not working well with BCRG?

- o Doesn't appear to be an effective mechanism for making change - seems that content and issues raised are constantly repeated without actions taken to effectively resolve matters.
- o Getting Action and change- bureaucracy
- o Inability to attract Brooklyn community to meeting - Are we getting fresh members from the community? Is industry presence high enough?
- o Relationships between industry and community could improve.
- o Wider community awareness of what we are doing.
- o Outcomes... specifically re Australian Tallow
- o Not enough time for Q and A
- o Accountability of Authorities

Q6 In your opinion, what suggestions for improvement should we consider?

- o There are a number of other initiatives and forums that exist to address air quality - this may be more effective at creating change than the current BCRG
- o A complete rehash- no real change has been achieved -Maybe a full refresh to see if the group is still relevant and needed.
- o Emphasis on EPA Better Environment Plans and extend to capture all industry
- o Is moving the meetings to an online forum feasible and could the meetings be chaired via a government agency roster system?
- o We need to get out to the wider community to make them aware of what we are doing
- o More focus on pollution issues, more pressure on industry and EPA
- o More time for Q and A in the meetings

Q7 In your opinion, what have been the key achievements, highlights or changes since BCRG started?

- o Creating and maintaining relationships between agencies and community - A great channel for bringing stakeholders together.
- o Nothing permanent
- o More involvement of Councils is big plus
- o The roads being repaired, massive compliance efforts for many of the duty holders.
- o Lower pollution rates...but it's an ongoing battle
- o Definitely the odour have lessened in the last ten years (largely solved) - In early days constant composting odour issues were predominant.

Q12 In thinking about the future, what key issues do you think require further attention and focus?

- o Raising general awareness about air quality. Close analysis of impacts of West Gate Tunnel opening and understanding how this changes local conditions.
- o Obvious delay tactics and buck passing between private business interests and various gov bodies and regulators has resulted in very little real change or improvements for the community. Dirt, industry noise pollution, air pollution, water poisoning, dangerous chemic stockpiles, trucks etc are still causing serious damage throughout our neighbourhoods.
- o BEP and emphasis on Planning Permits to ensure all requirements are met
- o Still odour and dust, sadly. Traffic, public transport
- o On going monitoring and oversight of industry - particularly those industries north of Geelong Road - Focus needs to be on pollution issues and impact on community
- o Accountability of the authorities to take action; and to protect residents

Cath asked the following questions on the night.

What's Not working?

- Community objections related to West Gate Tunnel and air quality impacts largely ignored by government.
- Need much better planning and need State to look at zoning and traffic.
- Not enough State government agency involvement. Needs more proactive action to get things moving
- Needs someone to drive the vision and the movement – there is a lack of leadership and facilitating of change.

Key Issues requiring attention – quick conversation in small groups

- **What's the health impact** – cost of inaction and a public campaign to drive change
- **Singular key focus - Health impacts on community** - everyone has to subscribe to it
 - o Monitoring on the impacts on health
- **Public Engagement** - Lots of models and UNESCO tools we could implement - May assuage fears about the dust – information is a really good point
- **Visible actions by community, authorities and businesses**
- **Clarifying responsibility, Accountability and empowerment** – clarifying responsibility to calibrate the expectations of the group. Direct questions to appropriate authority. Need higher authority in the room.
- **Advocacy**
 - o Address the 'as of right' status which are unfortunately still in perpetuity – role for state and federal planning regulations.
 - o What's being done with new businesses moving in
 - o Why can't we regulate new uses of land to safeguard communities and the impact of industrial land on community developments
- **Define community expectations** – what does community action look like?
- **Define business expectations**

Models for BCRG in the Future

- **Leadership and coordinated approach** – assigning accountability around actions
- **What is the purpose of the group?**
 - o Need to go forward with greater accessibility for attendance and interaction. Staff reluctant to attend if no real purpose and interactions. BCRG offers opportunity to improve communication
 - o Offers opportunity to hear the specific details of issues
 - o Align with Inner West Report recommendations
- **How do we activate the community?**
 - o Need to bring in more community members and industries
 - o Address community fatigue
 - o Why should we (community) care if no one else does?
 - o EPA – a lot of resources for a small community group – need to make it easier to juggle life and work commitments
 - o More advertising for meetings/
 - o Engagement tools from UNESCO?
 - o Bert – Inner west report got a lot of traction in govt. Can we use that to our advantage?

Potential Options and Models for the future

Potential options and models

- Close out BCRG – focus on other initiatives and forums that exist to address air quality issues
- A complete rehash and full refresh of BCRG to see if the group is still relevant and needed.
- Develop a model around the EPA Better Environment Plans
- Move to online Forum only with meetings chaired via a government agency roster system
- Annual Meeting/Forum only

Specific benefits of BCRG

- Enabling updates from agencies
- Communicating key information on odour, air quality and compliance and enforcement actions
- Industry working directly with community
- Enabling community to have a voice, to agitate for change, to advocate for action and reinforcing the expectation that if you cause a problem you need to fix it.

Comments on the Night included:

- *Explore using hybrid and Face to Face meetings to allow more flexibility*
- *Three meetings ideal*
- *Need more follow up – annual meetings is too big a gap*
- *What is the purpose? Is it information sharing or action based?*
- *Is it engagement or communication?*
- *Format vs function – current format not serving the purpose of the group.*
- *Host another community event*

Conclusion

The Forum closed with the EPA and three councils to take the feedback into account and discuss options to progress and shape into a proposal.

Action 1311_1: EPA, Hobsons Bay CC, Brimbank CC and Maribyrnong CC to consider review survey and workshop results from November 2024 BCRG discussion and report back on ideas for a future model for BCRG.

ITEM 9.

EPA Victoria Update on dust, noise and odour program (Sam Sparks, Team Leader, Western Metropolitan Region)

As the meeting was behind in time, The EPA didn't get an opportunity to present but their full presentation is available in [Attachment 4](#).

ITEM 10.

MEETING CLOSE

Cath thanked the presenters and everyone for attending and contributing to the discussion.

Stephen Kerr urged everyone ‘to celebrate the small victories!’

Meeting closed 8:50 pm

Meeting Attendance Record – November 13, 2024

30 people registered their attendance.

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Alexandra Damasoliotis	Resident	Dr James Brett	Synergetics
Andrea Mason	EO, BCRG	James Georgiou	Delta Group
Bellville Leshoele	EPA Victoria	Jeremy Settle	EPA Victoria
Bert Boere	BRAG	Jian Tan	Nufarm
Brian Long	Resident	Jim Demetriou	AOCSpecialist
Brian O’Neil	PRX	Kristen Gilbert	Brimbank City Council
Callan Riley	Maribyrnong CC	Leighton Black	Australian Tallow
Carmen Largaiolli	Resident	Matt O’Mara	Brimbank City Council
Catherine Botta	BCRG Chair	Peter Anderson	Victorian Traffic Authority
Christian Buxton	Sunshine Groupe	Rayanne Hawli	Resident
Clare Dunn	PRX	Rosa McKenna	BetterWest
Donna Gray	CSF Proteins	Ruth Cronin	Resident
Gary Laidlaw	EPA Victoria	Sophie Aubrey	The Age
Geoff Mitchelmore	Resident	Sam Sparks	EPA Victoria
Heather Humphreys	Resident	Stephen Kerr	PRX

Apologies

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Stephen Lansdell	EPA Victoria	Jake Repacholi	Hobsons Bay CC
Lisa Palmer	Australian Tallow		

ATTACHMENT 1.
BROOKLYN - COMMUNITY UPDATE
- CARMEN LARGAIOLLI - BCRG 13 NOVEMBER 2024

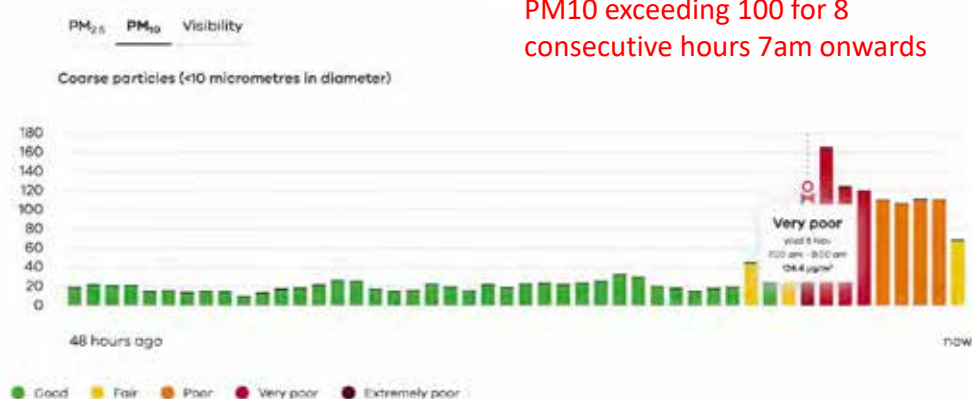
BROOKLYN

Community Update – Carmen Largaiolli
BCRG 13 November 2024

EPA AirWatch readings PM10 – 6 Nov 2024

Air data from last 48 hours at Brooklyn

The graph shows pollutant concentrations over the last 48 hours, calculated at one-hour averages. Using the labels above the graph, it shows each pollutant measured at this station. Find out more about our [air quality categories](#).





App readings PM10
6 Nov 2024

Air Quality Index (AQI)
Readings - Brooklyn
highest vs other suburbs

My car
looks like
this most
days





- Brooklyn profile
 - large proportion of renters
 - young families with children, fewer original residents
- Pollution still prominent
 - low community awareness
- community not responsible for
 - monitoring polluters
 - counteracting pollution caused by industry
 - restoring healthy air quality “stolen” by industry
- Accountable industry
- Accountable governing authorities

ATTACHMENT 2.
DEVELOPMENTS IN THE INNER WEST
- BCRG PRESENTATION - NOVEMBER 2024

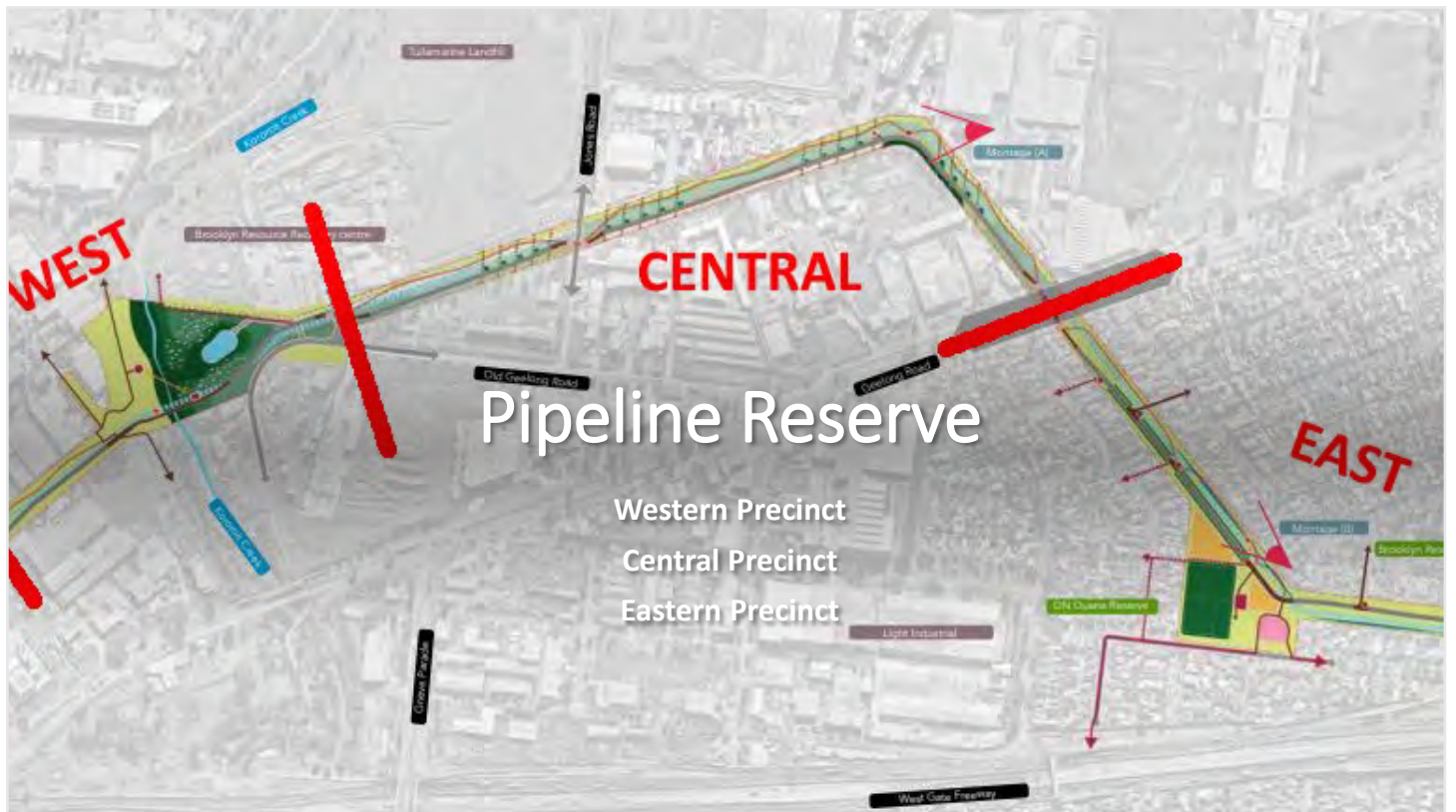
Developments in the Inner West

Brooklyn Community
Reference Group



Brimbank Urban
Forest

Pipeline Reserve Master Plan 2020



Eastern
Precinct
Hobsons Bay



Duane Reserve lighting & planting

Central
Precinct -
Brimbank



Cleanaway to Geelong Road

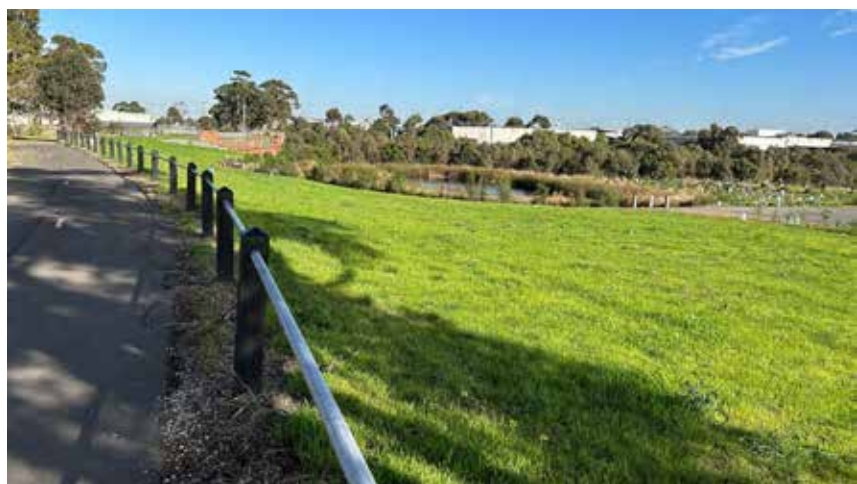
**ACTION – Brimbank City Council
DEECA & West Gate Tunnel Project**



Western Precinct Kororoit Creek



Western Precinct





West Gate
Tunnel
Project/
DEECA
planting
Preparation

Western
Precinct
Old Geelong
Road

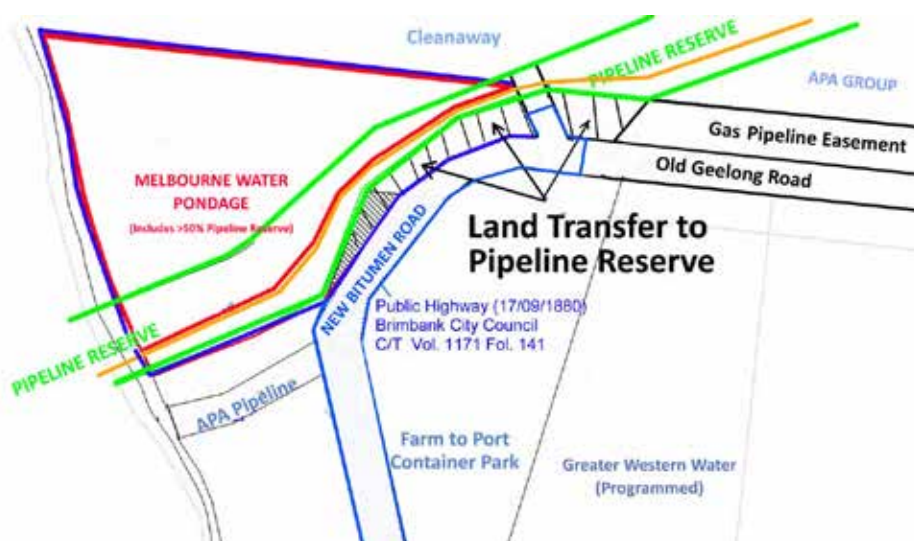


FOLKC planting

STATE BUDGET 2023

Thanks to Honorable Melissa Horne MP, \$5,000,000 to clean up dusty roads in the Inner West.

Brimbank received \$1,700,000 to seal Old Geelong Road and it will be complete end 2024



Old Geelong Road

Sealing complete by Christmas 2024



Stage 1
Shared Trail
opened



Historic 1880s Blue Stone Bridge



**HOBSONS
BAY CITY
COUNCIL**



Stages 4 & 5 Kororoit Creek Shared Trail Connection from Altona North to the Bay Grant is actively being pursued from the Federal Government.



**BROOKLYN
COMMUNITY
REFERENCE GROUP**

FUTURE??



The most important objective for the Brooklyn Community Reference Group (BCRG) is to work to protect the health and wellbeing of the Brooklyn residential community.

One way to meet this objective is to green and clean the environment in Brimbank, Hobsons Bay, Wyndham and Maribyrnong.

The use of the EPA Victoria Better Environment Plan (BEP) may be the way forward.

A Better Environment Plan is a statutory-based voluntary agreement between EPA and duty holders, in this case land holders, and offers organisations an opportunity to test innovative solutions to environmental issues or to agree ways in which they can exceed their environmental obligations.

Greening and cleaning all business sites in the West Industrial Precincts could be a goal for BCRG to pursue.

Already four organisations, City Circle Demolition, Delta/Sunshine Groupe and ResourceCo are preparing a BEP although the nature and extent of these plans have not been disclosed to BCRG yet.



Friends of Lower Kororoit Creek Inc. (FOLKC) and Brooklyn Residents Action Group (BRAG) have been active in getting Old Geelong Road sealed through a State Government Grant, and Pipeline Reserve greened, and have also been getting some industries involved in greening and cleaning the local environment.

PROGRESS SO FAR:

- 1. Urban Forest at Geelong Road/ Kororoit Creek – DEECA/MW/FOLKC - Complete*
- 2. Old Geelong Road development by State Government/BCC/FOLKC – Complete by Christmas 2024*
- 3. Pipeline Reserve development by WGTP /DEECA/BCC/MW/FOLKC – Complete by end 2025*
- 4. BEP City Circle/Sunshine/ResourceCo Underway but unknown outcomes to be implemented!*

- 5. Cleanaway and FOLKC have been in early discussions to see where improvements can be made – ie landscaping, litter management, dust reduction.*
- 6. Cedar Meats and FOLKC are also pursuing better landscaping and dust control in its carpark area.*
- 7. Budget Rent-a-car in Hobsons Bay actively altered landscape plans to improve its environmental outlook and blend in with the Kororoit Creek environmental corridor – Action MW/HBCC/FOLKC.*
- 8. Toyota, DEECA/WGTP/MW/CCD/FOLKC in discussion re greening Western Precinct Zone 9 Pipeline Reserve*

**OTHER MAJOR INDUSTRIES/ORGANISATIONS
THAT SHOULD CONTRIBUTE INCLUDE:**

Programmed Facility Management
Undeveloped block & mound owner
APA
Hanson
Fulton Hogan
Jaytric Logistics
Australian Tallow
720 Old Geelong Road
Farm to Port Container Park
Fuel Tanker storage

Prior to February BCRG Meeting

ACTION:

Sub Committee to meet to develop an invitation to our community and industry to attend BEP meeting in February 2025

- Invitation to *Promote BEP*
- *Why BEP – To protect health & safety of the community, its workers and visitors.*
- *Invitation to attend BEP meeting to hear about BEP and about first BEP & progress*
- *Need numbers to show that we are concerned and want help from our industry neighbours*
- *Want a green and clean environment for our kids & grandkids to live and be safe*
- *Else??*

Letter drop to all Brooklyn Community – BRAG and committee help wanted

Letter drop all relevant industries - Secretariat

POSSIBLE AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 2025 MEETING:

EPA introduce BEP
Trio Group explain where BEP is at
Present all BEP participants and progress
Other organisations asked to consider developing BEP
Brainstorm for other potential participants
Other Business
Local happenings by BRAG/FOLKC/community
State Government report
Local Government reports
EPA short report

BEP IDEAS:

Crushing plants enclosed
Dust monitoring at fence lines
Advocate for tunnel filtration
Planting on pipeline easements
Green walls
Landscaping
Planning Permits enforced
Illegal truck parking stopped
More Electric busses & trucks in West!
Containers on trains!
Old trucks removed from Inner West
Electric Shore Power in the docks
Other

BRAINSTORM SESSION:

ATTACHMENT 3.

BROOKLYN RECYCLING GROUP - BETTER ENVIRONMENT PLAN - NOVEMBER 2024



VICTORIAN FIRST

BETTER ENVIRONMENT PLAN

2024



PRESENTERS



Christian Buxton: Director, Special Project Consultancy & Sunshine Groupe

- 25 year link to the Brooklyn Precinct

Dr James Brett: Principal Engineer, Synergetics

- BEP Coordination & Delivery

Stephen Kerr: Chief Executive, Public Relations Exchange (PRX)

- Stakeholder Management & Communications

BROOKLYN RECYCLING GROUP MEMBERS:



PARTNERS:





TODAY'S AGENDA

- **BACKGROUND & OVERVIEW (C Buxton)**
 - Investigate collaborative and innovate actions between the BEP participants aimed at mitigating the emissions to air of particulate matter (PM) from the Brooklyn site.
- **BEP ACTIVITY - 8 GROUP ACTIONS (J Brett)**
 - Training
 - Tree Planting
 - Dust Sensors
 - Street Sweeping
 - Communications & Community Liaison
- **HOW WE CAN WORK TOGETHER (S Kerr)**
 - Bi-monthly BEP working group meeting
 - Delivery partner for tree planting program
 - Others
 - Keeping lines of communication open

3

QUESTIONS?

ATTACHMENT 4.
EPA VICTORIA - BROOKLYN CRG
- 13 NOVEMBER 2024



Environment Protection Authority Victoria

13 November 2024

Brooklyn CRG

Sam Sparks – Environment Protection Team Leader
Gary Laidlaw – Senior Engagement Lead



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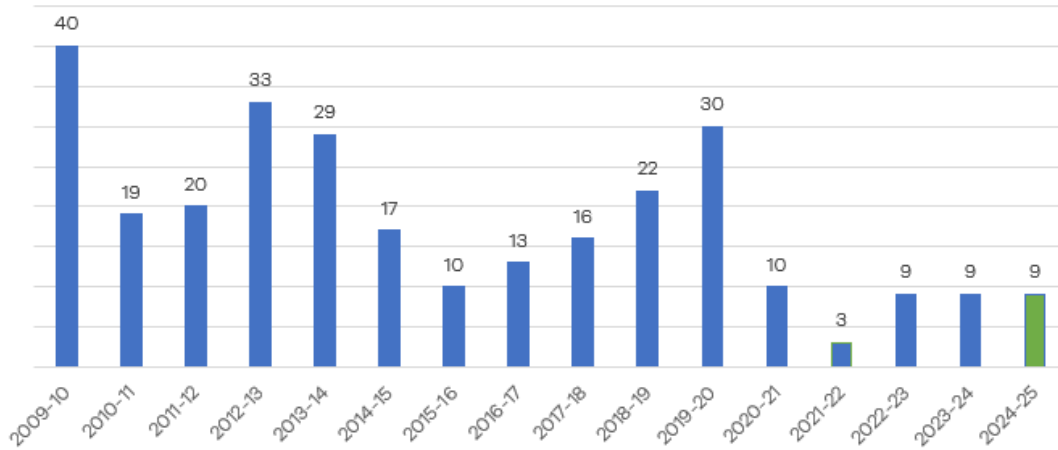


Welcome



Air Quality

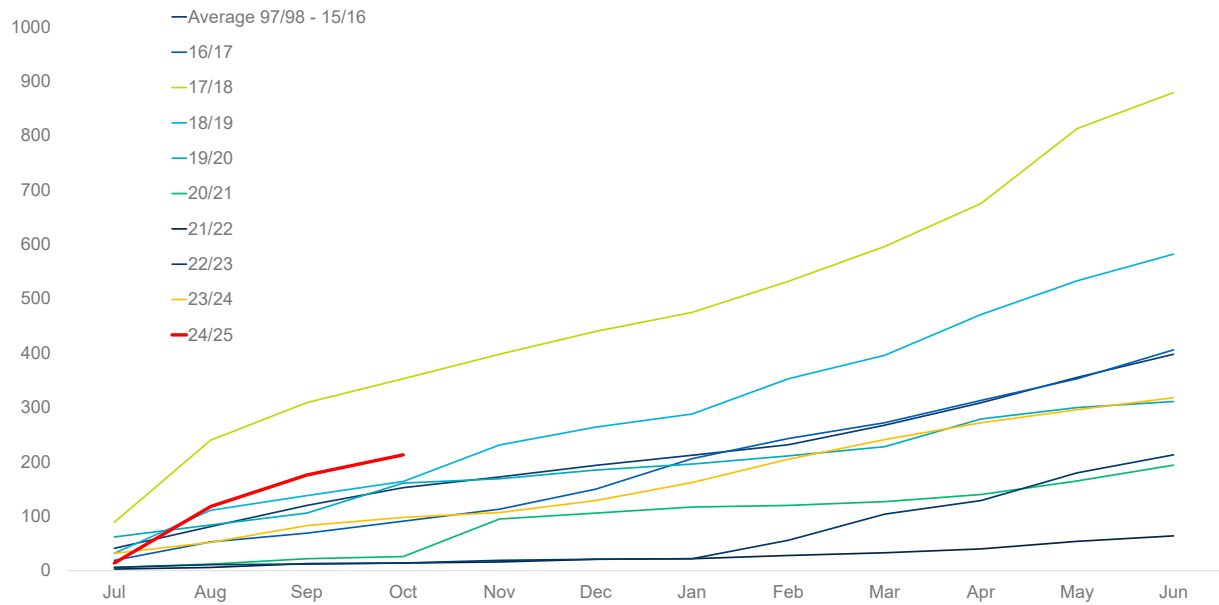
Number of days exceeding the PM₁₀ daily standard each year in Brooklyn



EPA VIC | BCRG - 13 November 2024

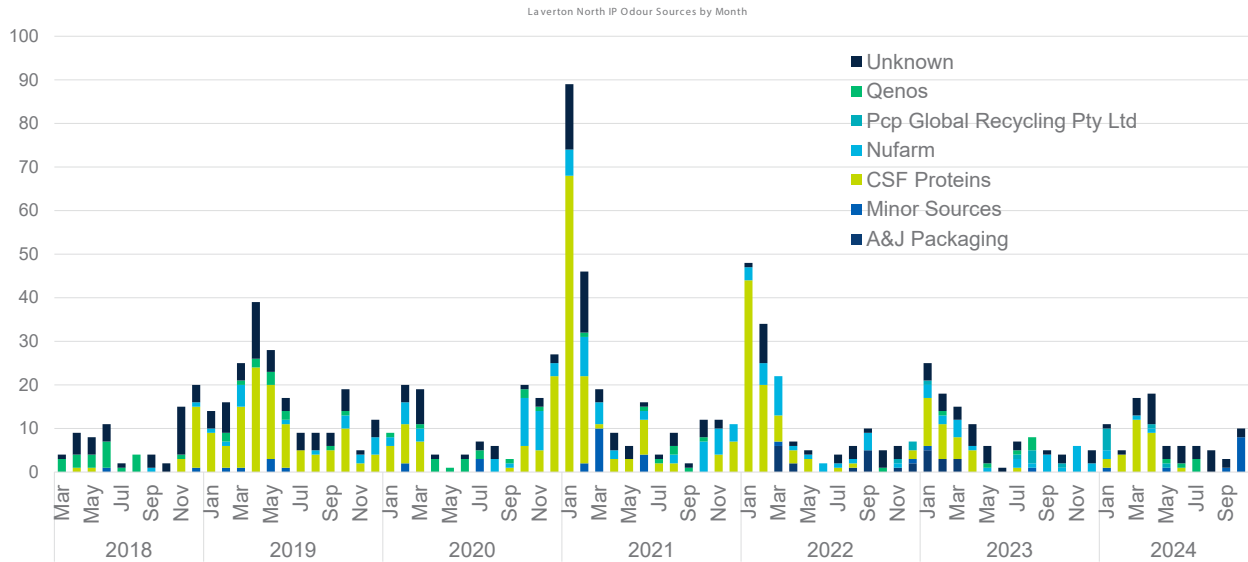
Brooklyn odour reports

Cumulative monthly odour reports by financial year



EPA VIC | BCRG - 13 November 2024

Laverton North odour reports



EPA VIC | BCRG - 13 November 2024

Compliance Report Q2 2024/25

What's been happening in Western Metro

Pollution Reports – approx. 1902 received
 Inspections – 211 inspections completed
 Notices - 104 notices issued in total.

Key programs updates

- Fire Prevention Program
- Inner West AQ (Dust)
- Inner West Odour
- Permission Compliance Assessments
- Local initiatives

Region so far this Financial Year



EPA VIC | BCRG - 13 November 2024

Compliance Report Q2 2024/25 Brooklyn Area

Brooklyn and Tottenham

13 Notices so far this year

- 3 x Information Gathering Notices;
- 8 x Improvement Notices;
- 2 x Prohibition Notices



EPA VIC | BCRG - 13 November 2024

Enforcement Update

- Cleanaway Prosecution Outcome
- Limbourne Group Permission Revocation

EPA answers a foam call - "where's the fire?"

1 November 2024

A Sunshine North company has been fined over a foam-without-the-fire incident that polluted the Merriemong River.

EPA Victoria has fined SA, Bell & Co Pty Ltd \$3062 for contravening the Environment Protection Act 2017 by allowing 30 litres of concentrated firefighting foam to enter the stormwater system.

Fine for charity shop dumper

25 June 2024

A man's attempt to afford a broken pool table on an Jacot Vale St Vincents de Paul Society Store has seen him land fines, charges and costs totaling \$5786.

CCTV caught the moment, just before Christmas 2022 when the man and his compatriot stopped a Mitsubishi ute outside the Merriemong Rd shop, manoeuvred a broken pool table off the flat bed and leave it propped outside the store's door.

Failure to comply with EPA Notice earns 460 Brooklyn a fine

12 September 2024

A subsidiary that failed to supply a clean-up plan for contaminated land it peers in Brooklyn has been fined \$5000 by EPA Victoria.

460 Brooklyn Pty Ltd owns land at 454-462 Somerville Rd Brooklyn which was once used for chemical manufacturing purposes and as a result is now contaminated with substances including benzene, styrene and brominated flame.

EPA fine for concrete batcher put on notice

12 September 2024

A Laverton North company that failed to contain wastewater from its concrete batching business has been fined nearly \$70,000 by EPA Victoria.

On 9 July 2024 EPA officers attended Aerlink Property Corporation's business on its out RD, Laverton North. The company trades there as Midway Concreting.

The officers estimate more than 1000 litres of wastewater had escaped the facility and the cause was directly linked to the onsite management.

EPA VIC | BCRG - 13 November 2024

Environment Protection Authority Victoria

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epa.vic.gov.au

