



BCRG COMMUNITY FORUM 1/2025

MEETING 59

WEDNESDAY

5 March, 2025

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.

18:00 – 18:30	Arrive for supper
1	Welcome <i>Andrea Mason and Cath Botta (online)</i> Meeting purpose and overview of agenda items Update on BCRG future Introductions
2	Rolling Actions Update <i>Andrea Mason</i>
3	Community Update <i>Carmen Largaoille, Geoff Mitchelmore</i>
4	Council Updates <i>Jake Repacholi, Hobsons Bay Council;</i>
5	Council Updates <i>Callan Riley, Maribyrnong Council;</i>
6	Council Updates <i>Matt O'Mara and Kristen Gilbert, Brimbank Council</i>
7	EPA Victoria Update a. compliance activity, b. Strategic initiatives and programs <i>Sam Sparks, Team Leader, Western Metropolitan Region</i>
8	Future of BCRG Brief overview of the Proposal for the Future BCRG – <i>Gary Laidlaw (EPA)</i> Group Discussion
9	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 0503_1: BCRG and Sunshine Groupe to invite Synergetics to BCRG to provide further detail on the Measuring Dust in Brooklyn Industrial Estate 2021 report.

Action 0503_2: EPA to show some of the drone footage (remotely piloted aircraft systems, RPAS) at BCRG to illustrate its effectiveness in compliance.

ITEM 1.

WELCOME (Andrea Mason and Catherine Botta)

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

Catherine Botta joined online and conducted acknowledgement to country and welcomed everyone to the BCRG forum.

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

Cath gave a summary of the action from the November BCRG meeting for the EPA and 3 council representatives to look at the the review discussion and come back with a proposal for a new model for BCRG (which was presented in Item 6).

For various personal and work reasons, Cath announced that this was her final BCRG forum. Cath has been Convenor since 2018. She said that it has been an absolute privilege to work with everyone that she appreciated the way the BCRG community welcomed her and worked collaboratively with her over the years.

Gary Laidlaw, EPA Victoria, thanked Cath for her great support for BCRG and professional manner – keeping everyone on track and running the forums.

Cath left the meeting and handed the Chair back to Andrea who acknowledged Cr Rayane Hawli and Cr Elena Pereyra, Hobsons Bay City Council and Cr Victoria Borg (Deputy Mayor) Brimbank City Council who were in attendance.

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 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.

COMPLETE SEE ITEM 8

ITEM 3.

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

Carmen Largaiolli

Carmen gave a comprehensive overview from a resident's point of view to the development of the site on the corner of Cnr Geelong & McDonald Rds from before COVID until now. The full presentation from Carmen is available in [Attachment 1](#).

Concerns and questions included:

- Over development, height and nature of the corner building doesn't align with our vision for Brooklyn.
- High levels of demolition, construction and pollution impacts on residents since before COVID in order to cater for this development (old SEC site), which is still incomplete.
- Close proximity of construction vehicles and equipment, particularly increased trucks movements, to homes.
- Pollution and environmental impacts to residents from diesel generators, electromagnetic emissions, high energy and water consumption plus electronic waste.
- Planning approval has located centres in close proximity (60m) to residential
 - o Local government – has a duty of care for to protect the community to and go further than requirements as our health is being affected.
 - o Lack of community/stakeholder consultation at BCRG forum given history of ongoing Brooklyn pollution.
 - o Brimbank City Council officials did not inform the BCRG forum of advertised permit application stage 2 (second data centre) until after the permit was granted
 - o community members confirmed legal notification letters had not been received by surrounding residents regarding advertised permit applications (for both data centres)
 - o Lack of transparency – generates a sense of development by “stealth”.
- What's planned for the third sub-division?

Kristin, Brimbank CC: The application is assessed against the planning controls for the land zone for industrial development. The data centre was considered to be on the lowest scale for industrial development in terms of things like dust emissions once completed. There is no evidence of electromagnetic emission impacts for residents so council can't refuse application on that basis.

Notifications for both data centres developments were sent based on property addresses and ownership details provided by Hobsons Bay CC and included those further away than just adjacent properties. Notification was undertaken according to the Planning Environment Act which sets out really strictly what you have to do to notify the community of an application however consultation is not required. People then have an opportunity to object.

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

Improvements undertaken or planned

- Brimbank CC – received \$1.7M from State Government to seal Old Geelong Rd which is now complete.
- FOLKC have been busy with Clean up & Planting Activities

- Toyota volunteers have contributed to efforts
- BRIMBANK SECTION PIPELINE RESERVE - Working with West gate Tunnel Project to plant more trees during 2025
- **Old Geelong Road Opening, Celebration and Tree Planting Day.**
9am to 1pm, Friday 6 June 2025
Pipeline Reserve, Old Geelong Road, Brooklyn
- **News! Australian Government, Active Transport Fund**
\$5M to extend Kororoit Creek Shared Bicycle / Walking Trail to Cherry Lake linking Brooklyn community to the Bay

ITEM 4.

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

Jake provided an update on compliance and enforcement related to air quality and noise. He also provided information on what Council has been doing in to advocate for change in the region.

Compliance and Enforcement

- Air quality complaints: Jan (3) Feb (7)
- Burning off complaints: Jan (6) Feb (2) – majority domestic incinerators
- Noise complaints: Jan/Feb (22) – mostly music
- Construction noise: Jan/Feb (9) – Council Building site control team intervened in these

Council activities

- Liaising with Department of Transport and Planning to implement **truck curfew** on McArthurs Rd and Bunting Crt between Chambers Rd and Millers Rd, Altona North.
- National Vehicle Regulator to do the truck curfew enforcement
- Building capacity for officers to undertake **after-hours enforcement** – particularly in the building space for permit controls and access points
- **West Gate Tunnel Project air stack filters** advocacy – Council sent letter to local MPs. Installation of stacks an ongoing council priority
- Liaising with Department of Energy Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) regarding the implementation of Air Quality Strategy and advocating for a greater focus on the Inner West and discussing funding that may be coming from the State Government and how that could be implemented. The HBCC Better Places Program supports local projects already has a list of ‘ready to go’ projects that could fit with this **potential funding program**.
- Liaising with DEECA and providing input to the team responsible for **drafting legislation** around enforcement of the Air Quality Strategy.
- Active involvement in the **Better Environment Plan** with EPA, Maribyrnong CC, Brimbank CC and businesses. Encouraging more than 50 businesses to take part in this program
- Drafting of **new enforcement tools** for authorised enforcement council officers, including building officers, to assist and be more responsive with issues and enforcement

COMMENT: Any grant program needs to be of substantial amounts and targeted correctly to be effective for programs to be successful and create change.

QUESTION: Is there a framework or data metrics that everyone is working toward for air quality in the area and data that residents can use?

Jake Repacholi, HBCC: There are coordinated efforts being undertaken in partnership with HBCC, MCC, BCC and EPA including air quality forums and regular inter-agency meetings. The focus is on implementing the Victorian Air Quality Strategy within our council areas through direct action. At a recent Deakin University Breathe Melbourne round table forum the issue of accessibility to data was discussed. There are some research studies that have been completed. Council is aware that some residents want more data but others simply want the issue ‘fixed’.

Jeremy Settle, EPA: EPA has [AirWatch](#) which is a network of air monitoring stations across Victoria which measure PM2.5 and PM10 against the standards. The exceedences are reported at BCRG. Control measures include the sealing of roads to reduce dust tracing onto roads and dust suppression on large areas of exposed earth. This year has been drier than previous years and the number of exceedences has risen accordingly.

COMMENT: *It must be remembered that there are large areas of exposed dust in the stockpiles in Brooklyn from which dirt is tracked onto roads and that blow dust when there is no one on site to manage it on hot and windy days.*

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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.

295 Whitehall Street, Yarraville

In December 2024 Council rejected a planning application for the use and development of the land at 295 Whitehall Street, Yarraville for expansion to processing and grinding of cement clinker.

The applicant has lodged an appeal at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal. Persons who submitted to Council (either in support or opposed) during the public notification period will receive details from the applicant directly regarding how to participate in the matter. A Compulsory Conference is scheduled for 17 April 2025. The hearing is scheduled for 16 to 24 June 2025

The following reasons were cited in making this decision:

- Will result in unacceptable offsite adverse impacts
- Adverse effect of traffic to be generated on roads
- Adverse offsite industrial effects at nearby sensitive uses
- Protecting the health, safety and liveability of our community

Planning Application TP53/2023(1) – 295 Whitehall Street, Yarraville - Maribyrnong

Other Council activities

- Council is in the process of sealing Cowper St, Footscray between Harris and Lyons streets. Cowper Street, Footscray Reconstruction - Maribyrnong
- Ongoing liaison with Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) and West Gate Tunnel Project (WGTP
- additional tree planting – received an additional 900 trees from WGTP
- working collaboratively to get best outcomes from the West Gate Tunnel project and Cycle Veloway including banning of large freight trucks on major roads in Maribyrnong and Hobsons Bay when the WGT opens.
- Ongoing advocacy for WGTP filtration and ventilation stacks
- Liaising with Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action to inform and promote any future funding under the Victorian Government’s Air Quality Improvement Precincts (AQIP) program to support Melbourne’s west to reduce the emission of PM2.5 and PM10, common air polluting particles.

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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

P73/2025 - 174 Old Geelong Road, Brooklyn - 2 lot subdivision and creation of a carriageway easement. Received on 27/02/2025

P449/2024 - 11A McDonald Road, Brooklyn - Earthworks (retrospective application) - Application received on 16/10/2024. A decision is pending shortly.

P117/2024 - 730 Geelong Road, Brooklyn - buildings and works for the construction of a vehicle store and associated earthworks - application received 04/04/2024. A number of changes have been made to the proposal and the assessment is progressing.

P594/2023 - 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 in 2023. Further information has been requested, included an Environmental Audit that confirms that the site is suitable for use.

Decisions made since last meeting

- NIL

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 on higher temp and higher wind days. This includes the **Bunting Road Precinct** including sites at:

- **11A McDonald Road** - Currently working on planning application for works on the site
- **69 Bunting Road** - MR - The occupier, Limbourne Group Pty Ltd have now vacated the site. It is anticipated that the use of the land will revert to storage only, thus no further permits are required.
- **125 Bunting Road** - ResourceCo
- **159 Bunting Road (and 84-90 Jones Road)** - Sunshine Groupe
- **175 Bunting Road (and 166 Jones Road)** - Hansons

Western end of Old Geelong Road - Previous issues with trailers being stored within the road reserve. Area has since been cleared given the work completed by Council's Engineering team to seal the road and court bowl, providing better visual amenity to the area.

716 Old Geelong Road Brooklyn - Current action underway, including a review of new information submitted to Council regarding demolition waste being stored/sorted on the land by new tenants.

720 Old Geelong Road Brooklyn – Notices have been sent for rectification of non-compliances. Depending on the outcome, this will determine what happens next.

A number of properties within Brooklyn - investigating unpermitted uses and non-compliance with planning permits. Nothing specific to report at this stage.

COMMENT: *It's disappointing that there are still businesses operating while waiting on retrospective permits.*

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ITEM 7.

EPA VICTORIA UPDATE ON DUST, NOISE AND ODOUR PROGRAM (Sam Sparks, Team Leader, Western Metropolitan Region)

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

Sam announced that Steve Lansdell had left the EPA and Jeremy Settle is acting as Regional Manager - West Metro.

Air Quality

Sam gave an update on air quality report for Brooklyn which showed the number of days exceeding the PM10 daily standard over the past 3 years as consistent at 9 days.

Odour

In Brooklyn the cumulative monthly odour reports for 2425 FY were back to higher levels of over 300 to Feb 2025. In Laverton North, the odour reports had risen in Dec to Feb predominantly reported as from CSF Proteins.

Compliance Report Q3 2024/25

What's been happening in Western Metro Region so far this Financial Year.

- Pollution Reports – approx. 3738 received
- Inspections – 466 inspections completed
- Notices - 104 notices issued in total.

Key programs updates

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

Brooklyn and Tottenham

- 31 Notices so far this FY
 - 3 x Prohibition Notices
 - 1 x Environmental Action Notice
 - 18 x Improvement Notices
 - 9 x Information Gathering Notices

Inner West Odour Update

Widespread Compliance and Enforcement work over Summer

- Australian Tallow Producers: 2 x Improvement Notices
- JBS Australia: Notice to Investigate, 3 x Improvement Notices
- Cedar Meats: Notices to follow
- CSF Proteins: 1 Notice to Investigate

More notices currently being drafted.

Enforcement updates to follow.

Local West Metro News

Sam shared several news items highlighting the release of the [EPA's Environmental Justice Policy](#) and [the successful prosecution of a dairy processing company](#) for \$650,000 plus \$30,000 in costs over three industrial spills – a first of its kind Supreme Court civil case.

For other stories go to the EPA website [Media releases and news](#).

QUESTION: How often does EPA undertake dust samples from the air monitoring stations?

Jeremy Settle, EPA: This has been undertaken but generally unless the source has a very specific characteristic it has been shown that there is very little value in doing this.

Brian Long, resident, passed around a sample of soil taken from his property to illustrate what everyone in the Brooklyn area is breathing in and is everyone's homes.

QUESTION: Why have samples of dust provided by residents not been analysed by EPA?

Jeremy Settle, EPA: Every business in the Brooklyn region has dust that is very similar. Unless there is a source with very distinct characteristics, it is hard to identify the source. EPA does do dust sampling for asbestos but with 30% of homes having asbestos in them, this is still not an accurate measure nor proof of the source if asbestos is found in a single broad sample. EPA acknowledges that this dust is affecting residents and impacting their homes, but it is very difficult to attribute that dust to one single site in Brooklyn.

QUESTION: How can Brooklyn Recycling Group claim in their [Better Environment Plan](#) that the four member industries contribute ~ 8% of the pollutants from 18 emission sites within a 3km radius?

Christian Buxton, Recycling Groupe: A screening assessment was carried out by Synergetics (2021) and they would be best placed to respond to how that assessment was made. There were 18 sites in the study including the four BRG members include Delta Recycling, EcoGypsum, ResourceCo, and City Circle. The Synergetics report, *Measuring Dust in Brooklyn Industrial Estate 2021*, can be found in [Attachment 4](#).

Action 0503_1: BCRG and Sunshine Groupe to invite Synergetics to BCRG to provide further detail on the *Measuring Dust in Brooklyn Industrial Estate 2021* report.

COMMENT: *The average 24 hour readings for PM do not truly represent the impact of exceedences that occur during some hours within the 24 hour period which directly impact residents.*

Brian Long showed three short videos to illustrate the level of dust falling onto his car over a few minutes in Burgess Street, Brooklyn.

QUESTION: Would EPA consider taking dust samples from the homes of residents and undertaking analysis? The community wants to know exactly what is in the dust they are breathing in.

Jeremy Settle, EPA: EPA would have to undertake a scenario plan to undertake such a study which include the purpose of the sample and the possible outcome. As mentioned, it is highly unlikely that the sample will show up any distinct characteristics that attribute that dust to any one source. It is more beneficial for EPA officers to respond to complaints and try to find the source at the time of emission. There is no dispute that there is still dust and exceedences occurring.

Sam Sparks, EPA: EPA officers are using drones, particularly on high-risk days for dust, to get much more clear and immediate information about where dust is coming from and when for use in enforcement and potentially prosecution to specific businesses.

After the meeting: A report from Lyn Denison, EPA in Feb 2011 to BCRG presented soil composition results. [Click here](#) to see the report from the BCRG meeting notes

Action 0503_2: EPA to show some of the drone footage (remotely piloted aircraft systems, RPAS) at BCRG to illustrate its effectiveness in compliance.

COMMENT: Diesel emissions are also found in the samples in residents' gutters and the impact of diesel emissions will only increase with the West Gate Tunnel truck traffic.

QUESTION: Why, after 17 years, are we still facing the same issues of dust and impacts to residents' health?

Jeremy Settle, EPA: There have been improvements over time but there are still issues that have to be addressed – particularly when there is still a large area of open space in the industrial area.

Sam Sparks, EPA: The exceedences have been reduced from 36 to 9 per year over time, but the level of enforcement and effort from the EPA officers has not been reduced. There are still issues of noncompliance that need to be addressed.

QUESTION: What more can be done by councils and governments to protect these ~2000 residents in this area from more impacts such as 'as of right' land usage, West Gate Tunnel, increased truck movement etc to become a safe suburb?

Jeremy Settle, EPA: Unfortunately, councils and EPA cannot change the planning zones that exist in Brooklyn but are continuing to develop strategies to reduce noncompliance in the area.

ITEM 8.

REVIEW OF BCRG (Jeremy Settle, EPA)

Jeremy reported on the decision by EPA and the three councils Brimbank, Hobsons Bay and Maribyrnong on the future model for BCRG.

With the resignation of Cath Botta as independent facilitator, it was decided to trial taking the forum online. The proposal for the next two meetings includes:

- Continue to support BCRG forums
- Trialling the next 2 forums in an online only format until end 2025
- Review again at the end of 2025
- Hybrid format deemed too difficult and expensive at this stage
- The Executive Officer role, with Andrea Mason, to continue to help manage the forums and communications
- It is hoped that the online forum will increase the reach of BCRG to a broader audience including the younger residents and families that are currently not participating or represented in the forums - encouraging participation from families as they juggle family activities around teatime etc.
- This proposal has been considered and decided upon by the councils and EPA.

Discussions regarding Communications promoting BCRG forums included:

- Investigate a blended approach to reach the community:
 - o Councils to identify contact details of residents and send out notification of the meetings – particularly Hobsons Bay CC
 - o Utilise community member organisations and agency social media platforms to promote the forums,
 - o Letter drop the community directly (EPA noted that they would not fund that)
 - o Personally address notifications to residents (requires funding)
 - o Dates and timing to be determined but maintain the usual time frames.

ITEM 9.

MEETING CLOSE

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

Meeting closed 8:45 pm

Meeting Attendance Record – March 5, 2025

30 people registered their attendance.

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Adele Vanliessum	Resident	Kristen Gilbert	Brimbank City Council
Andrea Mason	EO, BCRG	Leighton Black	Australian Tallow
Bert Boere	BRAG	Leon Calder	Resident
Brian Long	Resident	Marie Long	Resident
Callan Riley	Maribyrnong CC	Mary Iyer	Resident
Carmen Largaiolli	Resident	Martin Brownlee	JBS
Catherine Botta	BCRG Chair	Matt O'Mara	Brimbank City Council
Christian Buxton	Sunshine Groupe	Rayanne Hawli, Cr	Hobsons Bay CC
Donna Gray	CSF Proteins	Ruth Cronin	Resident
Gary Laidlaw	EPA Victoria	Sam Sparks	EPA Victoria
Geoff Mitchelmore	Resident	Tony Vescio	
Hayden Vowell	Resident	T Cunningham	Resident
Heather Humphreys	Resident	Vecron Patel	Resident
Jake Repacholi	Hobsons Bay CC	Victoria Borg, Cr	Brimbank CC
Jeremy Settle	EPA Victoria	Wendy Morris	Resident

Apologies

Name	Organisation
Katharine Nikolic, Cr	Brimbank CC

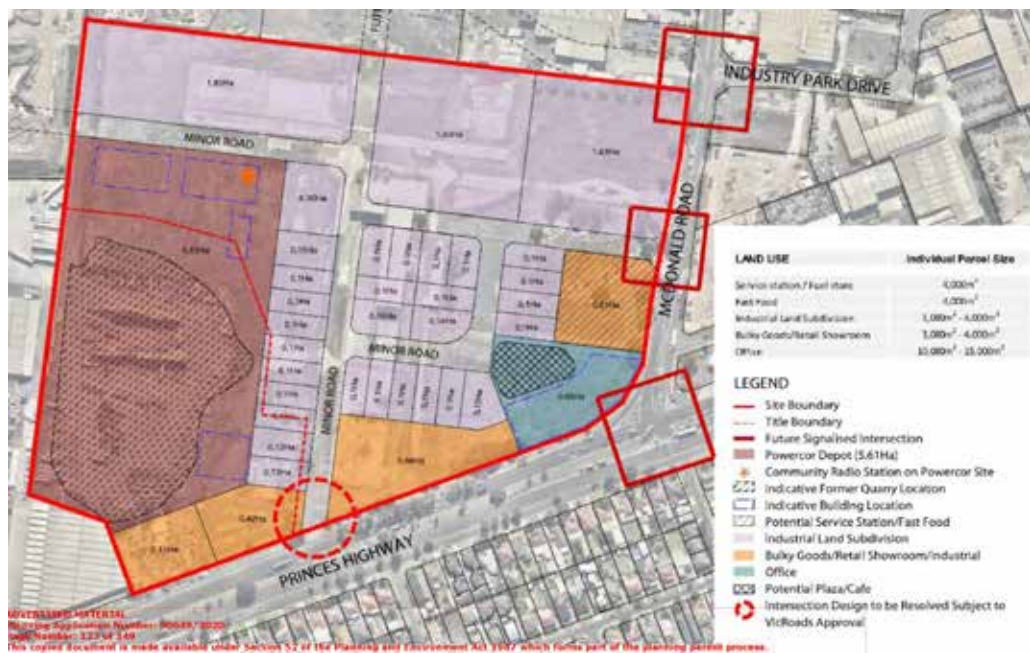
ATTACHMENT 1.
BROOKLYN COMMUNITY UPDATE
BCRG 5 MARCH 2025

BROOKLYN

Community Update – Carmen Largaiolli
BCRG 5 March 2025

Brooklyn Data Centres
Cnr Geelong & McDonald Rds

Original planning application (P649-2020 Brimbank City Council)







Saturday 1st March 2025



Saturday 1st March 2025





DATA CENTRES HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

- Diesel generators & servers = air (PM2.5) and noise pollution
- Electromagnetic emissions still a concern given large scale centers adjacent to homes
- High energy consumption = greenhouse emissions
- Large water consumption (cooling) = drain on local water resources
- Electronic waste

HOW DID IT UNFOLD?

- **March 2022** BCC reports to BCRG - planning application* under consideration for data storage centre at S/E cnr
*application reference number was not provided
- **March 2023** BCC reports to BCRG - Powercor sold land resulting in 3 lot sub-division - 1 lot already approved for data centre
Question at BCRG re application advertising/notices – action raised
- **June 2023** BCC responds to question stating letters sent to surrounding properties & HBCC in Feb 2022
1 objection from HBCC - no community objections
Nil evidence notification letters received by community
Data centre build already underway at this point
- **March 2024** Stage 2 data centre approved Feb 2024 – notifications??

CONCERNS:

- Planning approval has located centres in close proximity to residential
 - Local govt - duty of care for community
 - lack of community consultation (for **both** data centres)
 - Lack of transparency – generates a sense of development by “stealth”
- Pollution
 - Health & environmental impacts of large scale development
- Overdevelopment adding to existing pollution issues
 - Does not align with community expectations for BIP transformation
- What’s planned for the third sub-division?

ATTACHMENT 2.
HERITAGE PARK
FRIENDS OF LOWER KOROROIT CREEK INC.

Heritage Park

Friends of Lower
Kororoit Creek
Inc.



Before Development

North of Shared Trail





Pondage Reserve



Before Development

South of Shared Trail



Bluey
Gone!



YUK!!

VIEWS FROM
FEDERATION
TRAIL



OLD GEELONG ROAD

**DUST, DIRT
N
TRUCKS!!**



FOLKC
**Clean up
&
Planting**

TOYOTA

Volunteers

at work



Looking good



Old
Geelong
Road

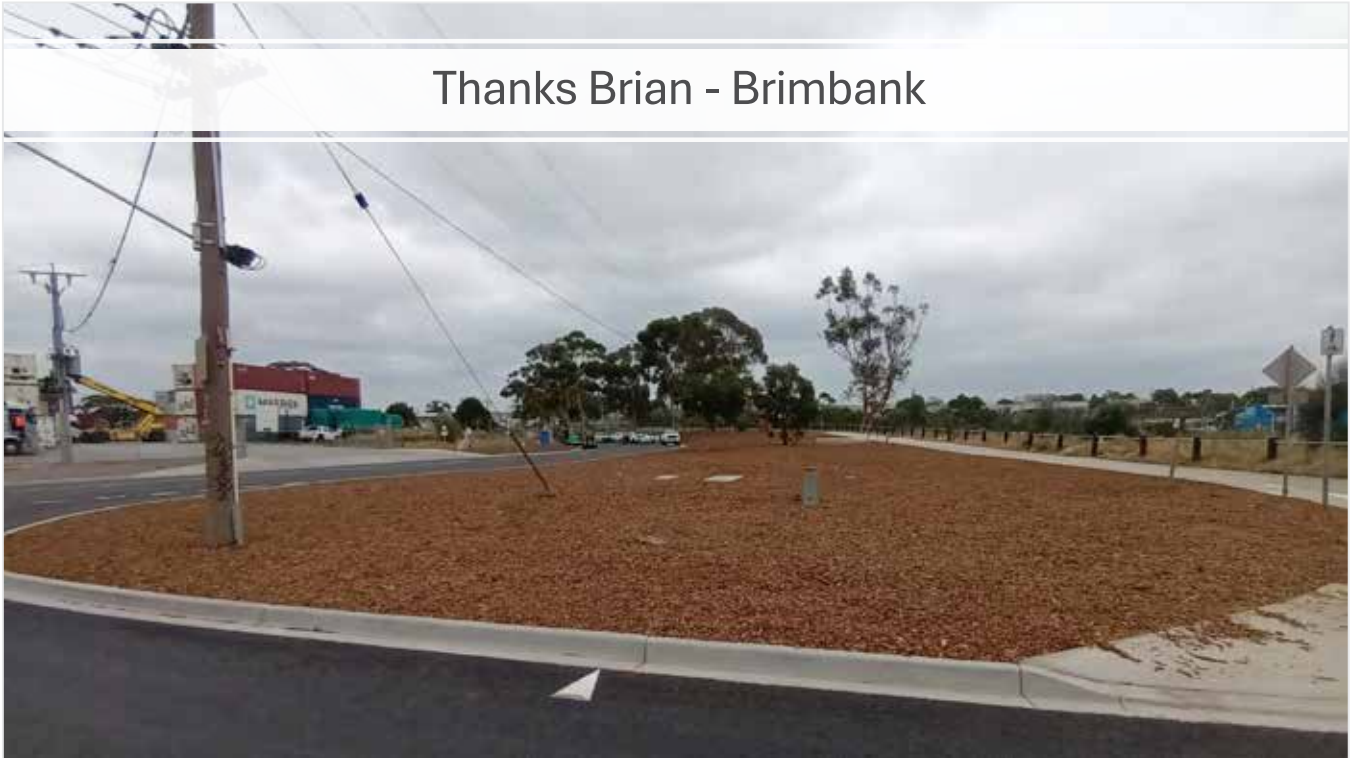


Planting Site

Toyota Volunteering Day

Friday 6th June 2025

Thanks Brian - Brimbank



Old Geelong Road

COMPLETE

Ready for planting

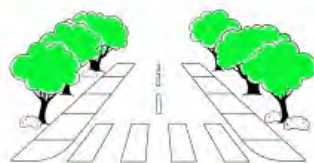




***Old Geelong Road Opening
Celebration and Tree
Planting Day***

9am to 1pm, Friday 6 June 2025

Pipeline Reserve, Old Geelong Road, Brooklyn



BRIMBANK SECTION PIPELINE RESERVE

Working with West gate Tunnel Project
to plant more trees during 2025



NEWSFLASH

Federal Government Active Transport Fund

\$5M to extend Kororoit Creek Shared
Bicycle / Walking Trail to Cherry Lake
linking Brooklyn community to the Bay

Thanks to Honorable Tim Watts MP



ATTACHMENT 3.

BROOKLYN COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE GROUP

5 MARCH 2025



Environment Protection Authority Victoria

Sam Sparks, Team Leader Environment Protection
5 March 2025

Brooklyn Community Representative Group



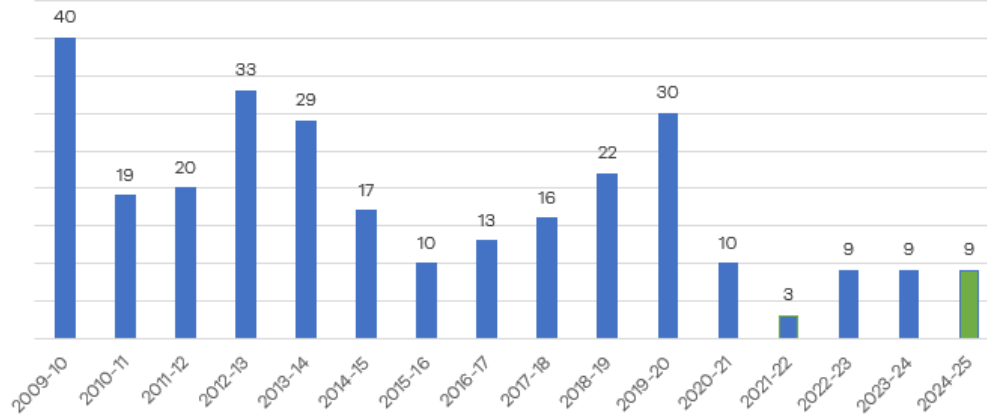
Please consider the environment before printing this file.
If printing is needed, please recycle when you're finished.



EPA acknowledges Aboriginal people as the first peoples and Traditional Custodians of the land and water on which we live, work and depend. We pay respect to Aboriginal Elders past and present and recognise the continuing connection to, and aspirations for Country.

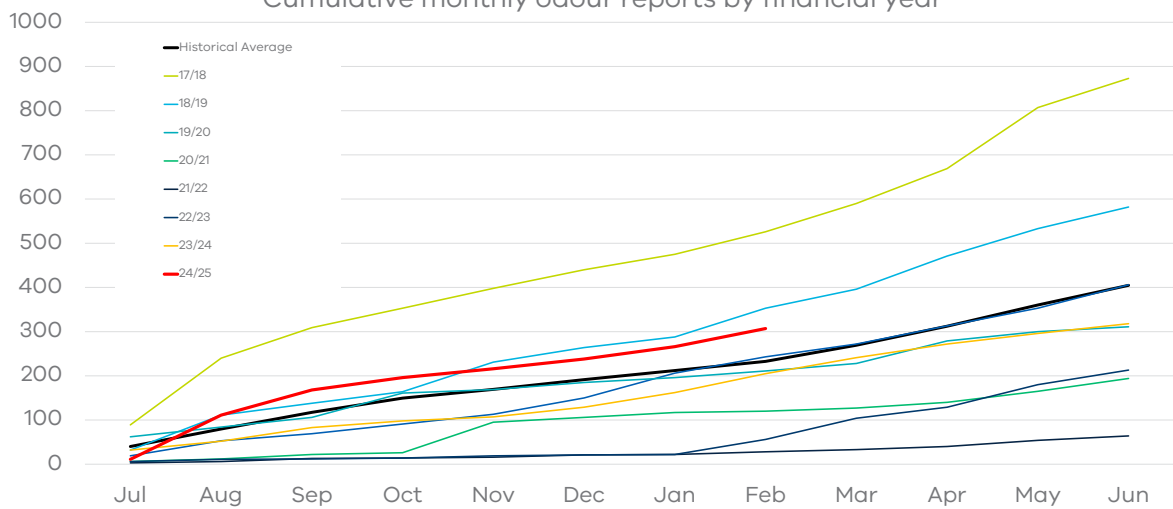
Air Quality

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

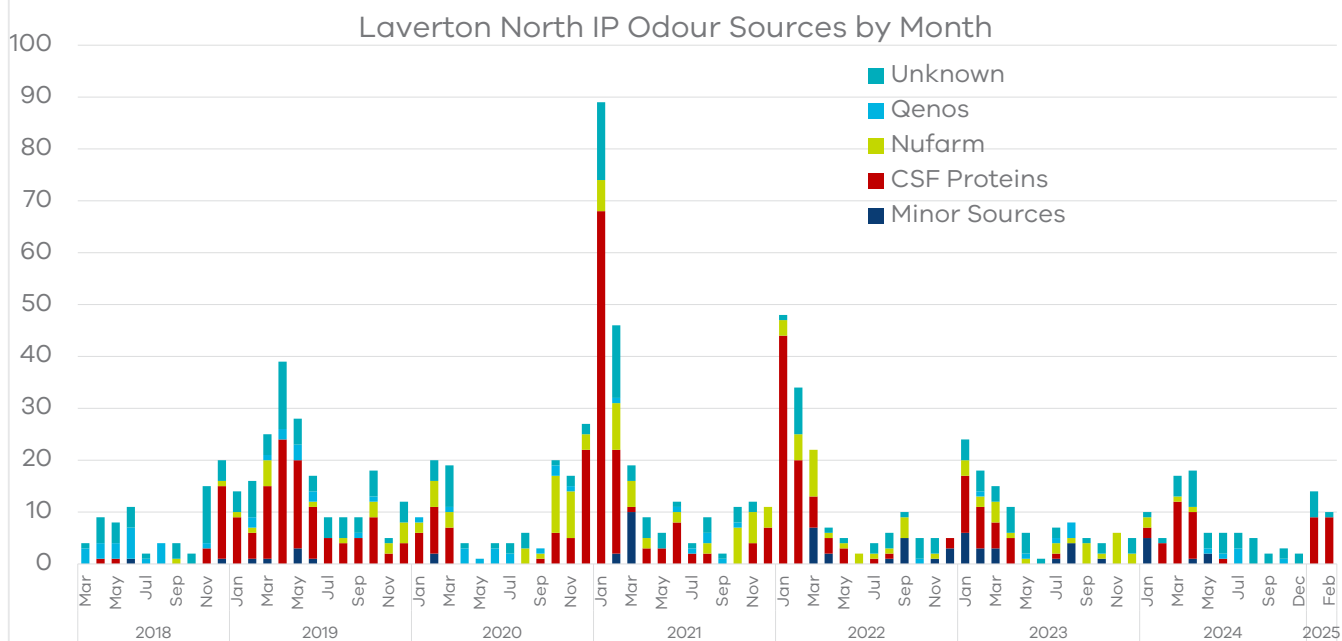


Brooklyn odour reports

Cumulative monthly odour reports by financial year



Laverton North odour reports



Compliance Report Q3 2024/25

What's been happening in Western Metro Region so far this Financial Year

Pollution Reports – approx. 3738 received
 Inspections – 466 inspections completed
 Notices - 104 notices issued in total.

Key programs updates

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



Compliance Report Q3 2024/25 Brooklyn Area

Brooklyn and Tottenham

31 Notices so far this FY

- 3 x Prohibition Notices
- 1 x Environmental Action Notice
- 18 x Improvement Notices
- 9 x Information Gathering Notices



Inner West Odour Update

Widespread Compliance and Enforcement work over Summer

Australian Tallow Producers: 2 x Improvement Notices

JBS Australia: Notice to Investigate, 3 x Improvement Notices

Cedar Meats: Notices to follow

CSF Proteins: 1 Notice to Investigate

More notices currently being drafted.

Enforcement updates to follow.

Local West Metro News

Tarneit man fined over burning industrial waste

21 November 2024

An industrial waste fire at Mt Cottrell has left EPA Victoria praising local CFA firefighters and issuing a fine on the Tarneit man who owns the property.

EPA's Western Metropolitan Regional Manager Jeremy Settle says while fighting the fire, the CFA crew made observations that provided vital information for the investigation.

Plenty of tyres, not enough records

14 February 2025

EPA Victoria has fined a Derrinut tyre recycler nearly \$70,000 for failing to keep proper records of its waste volumes of waste tyres and shredded material.

Failure to track waste leads to a fine

28 February 2025

EPA Victoria is continuing its fight against the improper or lack of tracking of reportable priority waste (RPW) materials including construction and demolition waste.

In the latest action, an individual has been fined \$10,000 after receiving RPW at their Hoppers Crossing site but failing to properly record the transaction.

EPA Environmental Justice Policy released

23 December 2024

Everyone depends on a healthy environment. As the state's environmental regulator, EPA Victoria is committed to environmental justice outcomes.

"We want an environment where all people enjoy equal protection from environmental harm and equal access to decision-making processes to maintain a healthy environment in which to live, learn and work. That is why EPA has developed the Environmental Justice Policy," said EPA Acting CEO Gary Nelson.

"EPA's Environmental Justice Policy identifies the elements of environmental justice and how these apply within the environment protection framework in Victoria. It outlines how we will prioritise and focus our efforts from 2025 to 2027."

Local West Metro News

Supreme Court order a \$650,000 win for EPA Victoria

19 February 2025

A heavy processing company will pay Victoria's environmental watchdog \$650,000 plus \$20,000 in costs over three industrial spills after a trial of its kind Supreme Court case.

The spills that threatened a creek and wetland were breaches of the General Environmental Duty (GED), a part of the Environment Protection Act 2021 that makes it everyone's responsibility to take reasonable steps to prevent pollution.

The case is a first of its kind. EPA decided to pursue a civil penalty proceedings and seek a significant civil penalty, sufficient to deter potential offenders from failing to meet their environmental obligations.

OneSteel ordered to fund community restorative project

28 November 2024

A Laverton North scrap metal recycling company will contribute \$20,000 towards a Wyndham City Council restorative justice project following court action brought by EPA Victoria.

OneSteel Recycling, trading as Infrabuild Recycling, was the site of a major fire in January 2021 at its Hoppers Crossing facility. It took 90 firefighters about three hours to bring the blaze under control.

The fire broke out in a stockpile of scrap metals, plastics, rubber, wood and cardboard metal likely due to an undetected waste battery igniting, however the cause, following an investigation, remains undetermined.

EPA orders Brooklyn clean up after shutting down recycler

5 December 2024

EPA Victoria has ordered industrial recycler Limbourne Group, trading as Apex Waste Control, to remove large stockpiles of industrial waste from its Bunting Hill, Brooklyn, premises.

The order, an Environmental Action Notice (EAN), comes after EPA revealed the company's permissions on 24 October 2024, effectively shutting down its operations.

Environment Protection Authority Victoria

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ATTACHMENT 4.
BROOKLYN RECYCLING GROUP
VICTORIA FIRST - BETTER ENVIRONMENT PLAN 2024



VICTORIAN FIRST

**BETTER
ENVIRONMENT
PLAN**

2024



INTRODUCTION

VICTORIA'S CIRCULAR ECONOMY



The Brooklyn Recycling Group (BRG) is a key part of the Victorian Government's Circular Economy strategy. Four businesses operating in the Brooklyn industrial precinct within the vicinity of Bunting Road, Brooklyn – Gypsum & Fertilizer (Sunshine Groupe), Delta Group, City Circle and ResourceCo – are collectively known as the Brooklyn Recycling Group (BRG).

In July 2024 the BRG members signed the state's first Better Environment Plan with EPA Victoria.

BRG members currently recycle more than half of Victoria's Construction & Demolition (C&D) waste, which includes concrete, brick, rock, masonry, timber, and soil. One hundred percent of this C&D waste is recycled and reused locally in Victoria. The major output from the BRG is recycled aggregates for road and civil works construction. In the past two years the amount of material recovered from processing has increased by 25%. Over 60% of all recycling in Victoria is processed by C & D Recyclers.



Figure 1 - Aerial photos showing complex mix of critical industries and around 40,000 people's homes located within three kilometres of the Brooklyn monitoring station. The four BEP participants and the location of the EPA monitoring station are marked. There are many other industries in the surrounding area.

In addition, BRG participant Gypsum & Fertilizer (Sunshine Groupe) also contributes to resource circularity by being Victoria's only plasterboard recycler. Recycled gypsum is in great demand by Victoria's primary producers who use it as a soil balancer and enhancer, taking material destined for landfill and producing a value adding material to support Victoria's primary producers.

Approximately six million tonnes of C&D waste is generated across Victoria each year. Without the BRG, and its role in delivering the Circular Economy, Victorian's 'Big Build' Infrastructure program would be significantly curtailed, in particular the recycled first procurement objective.

BRG's members are located in the Brooklyn industrial precinct, a kilometre north of the West Gate Freeway, a short drive from the CBD and surrounding suburbs as shown in Figure 1.

This proximity to their main suppliers and customers has enabled BRG to play a key role in recycling of Melbourne's C&D waste, and hence the economic viability of Victoria. The BRG has a track-record of investing in technology and solutions that improve outcomes, none the least being reduced particulate matter (PM) emissions.

THE EPA'S ROLE



The Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) is the State agency primarily responsible for monitoring, regulating, and reporting on the state's air quality including nearby the BRG's activities.

Underpinning the EPA is a range of legislation, including the Environment Protection Act 2017 (the Act) and various state environment protection policies and legislation initiatives that incorporate national standards, requirements and guidelines on ambient air quality.

EPA's Better Environment Plan (BEP) initiative is designed to facilitate voluntary agreements between EPA and industry participants. Participation in a BEP provides participants the opportunity to trial innovative solutions to environmental issues and exceed their environmental obligations. BEPs offer a way to think differently when approaching environmental problems. They encourage collaboration between participants and interested parties to find solutions to complex environmental issues.

BRG participants have, over the past three years, partnered with the EPA to develop Victoria's first BEP relating to dust mitigation activities at the Brooklyn site.

The key human health and environmental objective of the BEP is as follows:

- Investigate collaborative and innovative actions between the BEP participants aimed at mitigating the emissions to air of particulate matter (PM) from the Brooklyn Site.

Through the BEP, the individual companies within the BRG have committed to a number of new Group collective actions to meet the BEP's key objective and improve outcomes for all stakeholders. This is in addition to the current initiatives which have been implemented by the BRG members to reduce dust and the risk of impacts to the community.

The objectives and actions outlined in the BEP were developed with reference to the Victorian Government's Clean Air For All Victorians Strategy (2022) and the recommendations of the Inner West Air Quality Community Reference report, Group Air Pollution in Melbourne's Inner West: taking direct action to reduce our community's exposure (2020).

HEALTH:

Maintaining clean air is important for the health and wellbeing of people and is a matter of considerable concern for communities. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has reported compelling evidence supporting the significant correlation between poor air quality and negative impacts on health.

The earth's air is primarily composed of nitrogen, oxygen, carbon dioxide, water vapour and various inert gases. However, some pollutants generated through both human and natural processes, such as ozone and particulate matter, contaminate the air and can have adverse effects on the health of people and the environment.



AIR QUALITY:

Air quality in Melbourne's industrial west has historically been a source of concern for the local communities over many years. Recycling of C&D waste is undertaken by mechanical crushing and sorting, which by its very nature can create PM (commonly known as dust) – which in turn can impact air quality on site and in the immediate vicinity. BRG members are aware of the potential impacts this dust may have on local air shed quality.

An independent analysis carried out by environmental engineering firm, Synergetics Pty Ltd, in 2021 of publicly available EPA data from the Brooklyn air quality monitoring station has demonstrated that one of the biggest determinants of air quality at the Brooklyn Site and surrounding areas is weather. Hot, windy conditions can naturally present challenges for operators trying to mitigate the onsite generation, and offsite migration of, dust.

We know that a strong northeasterly wind will increase the risk of offsite migration of Particulate Matter (PM) as there is a direct line between the BRG sites and the nearby residential estate. This risk is further escalated on hot dry days when waste moisture levels are low, leading to more airborne particulate matter being produced. This is demonstrated in the recorded air quality data which shows concentrations reported in summer approximately 60% higher than those reported in winter. This highlights the need for dust suppression approaches to be designed with the local airshed and climate in mind. PM readings at the EPA Brooklyn monitoring station are impacted by many sources including:

- A complex mixture of many hundreds of industries and several thousand homes located within three kilometres of the monitoring station;
- Nearby road traffic especially the thousands of heavy vehicles traveling along the adjacent West Gate Freeway;
- Altona North landfill and the integrated chemical processing businesses to the south of the monitoring station; and
- Major infrastructure programs, especially associated with the Westgate Tunnel Project.





THE BRG

Collectively, the four BRG companies employ several hundred local community members. The BRG member's sites are strategically located in proximity to each other, and centrally located within Greater Melbourne, so that their services provide an affordable and integral part of Melbourne's waste management recycling - and a critical segment of Victoria's Circular Economy. This locality helps to reduce transport-related costs, emissions and traffic congestion.

In a screening assessment carried out by Synergetics (2021), all sites within 3 km of EPA Victoria's Brooklyn monitoring station (as seen in the aerial photo in Figure 1) likely to make a significant contribution to the measured PM10 concentration were identified. A total of 18 sites were identified as emission sources. The mass emission rates of the 18 sites were then estimated and ranked.

BROOKLYN RECYCLING GROUP MEMBERS:



The assessment found that the four BRG members' sites contribute only 8% (approx.) of the total PM10 measured. None of the BRG members appeared in the top 10 sites for emission sources.

Nevertheless, BRG members recognise they have an important role to play in the control and mitigation of PM10 connected to their activities at the Brooklyn site and to lead by example through continuous improvement and innovation through the Brooklyn BEP.

Innovation & the Brooklyn BEP

The Brooklyn BEP will encourage BRG members as BEP participants to continue to innovate and in doing so improve air quality and amenity in the immediate area. For the first time, innovation captures the four BEP participants working together to jointly innovate for improved outcomes.

Joint BRG Member Projects

BRG members (BEP participants) have confirmed a number of Group actions to achieve the objectives of the BEP.



GROUP ACTION 1

Develop and implement a shared incident and dust monitoring response system.

Dust control systems will inevitably be insufficient at times, particularly during periods of dry weather. Rapid identification of problems and implementation of backup measures can quickly correct these problems. An array of fit-for-purpose dust sensors will be distributed across the BEP participant sites providing an effective method to detect high dust events. When coupled with real-time weather data, the dust sensors will identify likely dust sources with precision, and automatically provide the relevant operational staff with an alert to investigate the potential sources, causes, and dust mitigation solutions.

The ability to utilise data from multiple BEP participant sites to assess sources across each site, and provide targeted, useful, advice will require considerable research and innovation and will be implemented as a three-stage project:

- Stage 1 - Research and planning;
- Stage 2 - Proof of concept; and
- Stage 3 - Full deployment.

The BEP participants have appointed Synergetics Pty Ltd to lead this research and innovation project.





GROUP ACTION 2

Develop and implement a vegetation planting and landscaping project to act as a wind break and, to the extent reasonably possible, capture airborne dust.

A comprehensive vegetation planting and landscaping project will be undertaken at the Brooklyn site. Although not commonly appreciated, vegetation such as trees and shrubs, which are sometimes used as wind breaks, can also capture airborne dust on their leaves. Vegetation also reduces wind speeds and hence reduces wind erosion (a source of dust emissions). Wind reduction and dust capture rates depend on plant species, moisture levels, windspeed, foliage dimensions, plant spacing and other factors.

Vegetation plantings can also reduce the visual impact of residual dust emissions and can build valuable support across the local community if planned and implemented collaboratively. Native and indigenous plantings will be prioritised to aid in biodiversity outcomes in addition to dust control. Vegetation will also aid in carbon capture with GHG offsetting benefits. The costs of vegetation planting and landscaping will be shared with Council and Governmental programs.

The Brooklyn site is currently plagued by feral goats, which have destroyed several past attempts at vegetating the site, despite considerable effort by several BEP participants and Council. These goats will need to be removed from the area, and an effective program put in place to ensure they do not return, prior to beginning vegetation planting and landscaping as described under this Group Action 2. This will require action from Council and other Government bodies, as the goats are primarily on Crown land.

Synergetics Pty Ltd will research and develop an effective vegetation planting and landscaping plan (with timelines) to control dust generation and capture.





GROUP ACTION 3

In consultation with Local and State Governments, establish a reporting system to expedite cleaning and repair of roads.

While BEP participants are currently working hard to reduce dust build up on local roads near the Brooklyn site by using wheel washers and covered trucks, among other techniques, many other businesses and associated vehicles use surrounding roads. Significant friable solids build-up and airborne particulate emissions are spilled from trucks generating airborne particulate by the thousands of passing vehicles on all roads leading to and surrounding the Brooklyn site.

BEP participants will liaise with Local Councils and State Government to assist them to setup an effective system for rapid and real time reporting to Council when road conditions surrounding the Brooklyn site are poor, and to assist Councils with scheduling road cleaning and maintenance to rapidly correct issues before they become significant. The BRG will liaise with Council and State Government and contribute to an effective road dust reporting system.

GROUP ACTION 4

Training

Existing training by BEP participants will be reviewed, and where necessary, additional training implemented to raise awareness of both dust health impacts and methods to control dust emissions, followed by training refreshments if required.





GROUP ACTION 5

Appoint a Community Liaison Officer to lead and facilitate BEP community engagement.

BEP participants recognise that respectful communication will be a key factor in improving and managing relationships with key stakeholders, particularly residents in nearby communities. The BEP participants will appoint a part time Community Liaison Officer whose role will be to engage with stakeholders and provide a two-way information source to ensure the community is heard and they understand the scope of operations that are conducted in the Brooklyn Precinct. The BEP participants recognise that proactive communication will ensure they are better understood, and that collective action and innovation will improve community outcomes.

GROUP ACTION 6

Develop and Implement a Community Consultation Program on Circular Economy.

The development and implementation of an innovative community consultation program focused on the Circular Economy in Victoria. It will use the activities of the BEP participants as a best-in-class case study for educational purposes. Materials to be developed would include a web site and associated social media collaterals, a series of fact sheets and educational content and curriculum for the purposes of use in Victoria's primary and secondary schools.





GROUP ACTION 7

Develop and implement a third-party audit program covering the participants' group and individual actions.

A cycle of annual third party audits will be implemented to check dust mitigation measures are performing optimally, and BEP obligations are progressing on schedule. BEP participants will appoint a specialist engineering firm to develop and conduct audits.

GROUP ACTION 8

Actively explore additional Group and individual BEP actions as part of an ongoing process of continuous improvement in dust mitigation and General Environment Duty (GED) compliance at the Brooklyn Site.

The BEP participants will actively explore additional Group and individual BEP actions as part of an ongoing process of continuous improvement in dust mitigation and GED compliance at the Brooklyn Site.





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The BRG acknowledges Aboriginal people as the first peoples and Traditional custodians of the land and water on which we live, work and depend.

We pay respect to Aboriginal Elders, past and present. As we pay respect to how Country has been protected and cared for by Aboriginal people over many tens of thousands of years.

We acknowledge the unique spiritual and cultural significance of land, water and all that is in the environment to Traditional Owners, and recognise their continuing connection to, and aspirations for Country.

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