



BCRG COMMUNITY FORUM 2/2025

MEETING 60

WEDNESDAY

23 July, 2025

6:00pm til 8:15pm

Brooklyn Community Hall, Cypress Ave

Chair: Sam Sparks, EPA Victoria

Notetaker: Andrea Mason



MEETING PURPOSE

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

1	Welcome Meeting purpose and overview of agenda items Introductions <i>Sam Sparks</i>
2	Rolling Actions Update <i>Andrea Mason</i>
3	Council Updates <i>Jake Repacholi, Hobsons Bay Council</i>
4	Council Updates <i>Callan Riley, Maribyrnong Council APOLOGY</i>
5	Council Updates <i>Matt O'Mara and Kristen Gilbert, Brimbank Council</i>
6	EPA Victoria Update a. compliance activity, b. Strategic initiatives and programs <i>Sam Sparks, Team Leader, Western Metropolitan Region</i>
7	Industry Updates a. BRG BEP - <i>Dr Dave Collins, Synergetics</i> b. Australian Tallow Producers, Brooklyn – <i>Leighton Black and Jim Demetriou</i> c. JBS Holdings - <i>Troy White, Environment Manager & Riverlea Pork, Alan Bittisnich</i>
8	Community Updates and queries <i>Carmen Largaiolli</i>
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.

eo.bcr@gmail.com | www.brooklynip.com.au | 0427 338 482

ITEM 1.

WELCOME (Sam Sparks)

The final notes from the March 2025 meeting are available from the [Brooklynip website](#).

Sam 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.

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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 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.

Dr Dave Collins to deliver at BCRG 23/07/2025

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

EPA to deliver at BCRG 23/07/2025

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ITEM 3.

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

- 12 air quality complaints in May and 11 since June. This is a spike from the 3 received in Jan and 7 in Feb and is attributed to wood heater usage in cooler months
- 7 burning off complaints in Jun and 2 since June (incinerators)
- 39 noise complaints since 1 May, music noise remains a strong feature in complaints
- 6 construction noise complaints were received by Councils Building Site Control team for May and Jun – all were resolved by the issue of onsite warnings/education and there were no repeat offenders. Council received 9 for across Jan and Feb earlier this year and Officers are working to keep the number as low as possible.

After-hours enforcement

Since the March BCRG, Council Officers have recently been undertaking after-hours work to investigate reports of vibrations and unreasonable humming noise emanating from Ajax Rd and impacting nearby residential properties. This investigation is being led by EPA but the after-hours component is also being supported by Council.

This activity included Council Officers inspecting a factory at 12:30am Saturday morning and attending residential premises most recently on Wednesday morning at 1am. It's a great example of the two organisations working closely together to address community concerns.

Air Quality Impacts

On 14 March, a letter from Council was sent to businesses across Altona North and Brooklyn Industrial Precinct that impact air quality. The letter:

- Affirmed the right of Hobsons Bay residents to breath clean air
- That the current status quo of air quality is not acceptable
- Urged businesses to improve their operations and follow best practice
- Encouraged participation where possible in the Brooklyn Recycling Group Better Environment Plan.

Testing of dust samples

Dust samples from a resident brought to the March BCRG were analysed in a NATA accredited laboratory and the results have been sent to the resident and EPA.

COMMUNITY COMMENT: *The levels of dust itself are still too high for residents to be breathing in.*

BRG Better Environment Plan

Council is committed to ongoing participation in the Brooklyn Recycling Group (BRG) Better Environment Plan (BEP). Since the last BCRG two meetings of the group have occurred, one in April (9th) and the other in June (11th). Updates include:

- Training program to mitigate dust has been developed and delivered to all staff across participating sites
- Additional dust sensors are being planned at all sites as part of the dust monitoring plan
- Additional tree planting is scheduled for the ResourceCo site, but control of feral goats remains an ongoing problem
- Efforts continue to integrate the groups street sweeping program with that of Councils contractors remain ongoing
- ResourceCo has purchased an additional street sweeping machine to assist with dirt control and suppression
- City Circle has completed bitumen works on site and installed shelters around transfer points (particularly screen decks) to reduce dust emissions
- Delta Recycling has concreted and additional 300m² of their yard (non-ferrous area) and installed more speed humps to slow truck movements onsite

The BRG is currently in discussions with several companies about joining the group and further updates will be provided as they become available.

QUESTION: What is BRG doing about monitoring the dust leaving the site?

Jake Repacholi, HBCC: There are three layers to the dust monitoring action plan:

- Active measuring
- Enforcement of Material taken offsite
- DEECA grants includes wheel washing stations on site for those who don't have them already.
- Acknowledged Dr Collins was in the room and would speak to further details of the plan during the meeting.

QUESTION: Does HBCC know how the dust is coming off the sites from conveyor belts that are 60m in the air. These seem to old methodology...they have had 16 years to modernise.

Jake Repacholi, HBCC: It is understood that actions within the BEP to address these issues are in different planning stages and will be implemented in a graduated approach. HBCC is actively advocating for the community in the BEP meetings.

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ITEM 4.

COUNCIL UPDATE (Callan Riley, Manager City Sustainability, Maribyrnong City Council)

Callan was an apology and provided an update via email.

1. In June 2025, Council collaborated with others on two funding applications for submission to Air Quality Improvement Precincts Grants 2025.

– Community Led Air Quality Monitoring Network

Lead by RMIT, the project aims to establish a decentralized air quality monitoring network using low-cost sensors. Key objectives include the development of a Best Practice Resource Kit, the establishment of a shared data and advocacy platform for governments, and the generation of high-resolution data to inform land-use and transport planning decisions.

– Idle Off: Addressing the Health Impacts of Traffic-Related Air Pollution on Children

Lead by University of Melbourne, this project seeks to improve the health of children and young people in their local spaces by reducing their exposure to traffic-related air pollution. To achieve this goal, we will disseminate an anti-idling campaign to local daycare centres that builds on a targeted, validated school-based intervention; and identify local government policy levers for structural change to support safer and healthier local spaces for children.

2. Maribyrnong's annual progress report on its Air Quality Improvement Plan will be tabled at Council meeting in August or September and made available on Council's website.

ITEM 5.

COUNCIL UPDATE (Matt O'Mara, Coordinator Planning Compliance Brimbank City Council)

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

- P266/2025 – 720 Old Geelong Road, Brooklyn - Construction of works to a depot in a Land Subject to Inundation Overlay and an Environmental Significance Overlay Schedule 6
- P117/2024 – 730 Geelong Road, Brooklyn - buildings and works for the construction of a vehicle store and associated workshop, earthworks, signage and fencing – application received 04/04/2024. Still undetermined however 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 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

- P73/2025 – 174 Old Geelong Road, Brooklyn – 2 lot subdivision and creation of a carriageway easement. Permit issued on 10/04 /2025 (Cleanaway site)
- P449/2024 - 11A McDonald Road, Brooklyn – Buildings and Works for Earthworks (retrospective application) – Permit issued on 07/03/2025.

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 – Planning Permit P449/2024 issued for Buildings and Works (issued 7/03/2025).
- 69 Bunting Road – MR – The previous occupier, Limbourne Group Pty Ltd have now vacated the site. A new skip bin operator has taken advantage of the existing recycling permit. Council and the Planning Compliance team are continuing to monitor due to compliance history.
- 125 Bunting Road - ResourceCo
- 159 Bunting Road (and 84-90 Jones Road) – Sunshine Groupe. Continuing to monitor alongside EPA.
- 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 with the grand opening taking place 6th June, with Geoff Mitchelmore attending alongside the Mayor and MPs, announcing his ‘retirement’. Good luck and enjoy ‘retirement’.

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. Action ongoing.

720 Old Geelong Road Brooklyn – Notices have been sent for rectification of non-compliances. As a result application P266/2025 was submitted for works. Based on the outcome of the application, Enforcement Orders may need to be sought from VCAT.

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

QUESTION: Is there a heritage overlay over any of the sites applying for planning permits?

Matt O’Mara: Of the applications mentioned above, only 454 – 460 Somerville Road Brooklyn lies within a Heritage Overlay. Many applications come in to Council that are within a Heritage overlay, particularly the older residential areas within Sunshine and Albion. If anyone wishes further information, Council can confirm overlay information if given a specific address.

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ITEM 6.

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

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

Sam provided an overview of the past financial year and the plans for the new year.

2025-26 Action Plan for EPA

State-wide Regulatory Priorities:

1. Permission Compliance Assessments
2. Preventing fires at industrial and waste and resource recovery sites
3. Disrupting illegal waste disposal
4. Reducing the risk of harm and impacts from landfills
5. Reducing impacts of pollution and waste from construction

Western Metropolitan Region Priorities:

A mix of proactive strategic inspections (including RPAS/drones) and reactive work.

1. Inner West Air Quality
2. Inner West Odour

Compliance Report 2024/25

Key stats for the Region:

Region-wide:

Pollution Reports – approx.5808 received

Inspections - 781 inspections completed.

Notices - 297 notices issued in total.

Brooklyn:

83 inspections completed.

36 notices issued.

Air Quality Compliance and Enforcement 2024-25

- 39 inspections focused on dust and odour in 2024-25.
- 17 notices issued on dust and odour in 2024-25.
- More than \$130000 in infringements issued.

Some notable actions:

- ResourceCo:
 - o Notice to install chutes and enclose conveyor and crushing systems
 - o Notice to install further wheel washing systems.
- Cleanaway Brooklyn:
 - o Notice to install further wheel washing systems.
- ICON Si (Aust) Pty Ltd, Brooklyn:
 - o Notice to install further wheel washing systems.

- City Circle Recycling:
 - o Notice to seal haulage roads at the site.
- Revocation of Limbourne Group Permission.
- Review of strategic approach being formalised.
- Will allow for better tracking and reporting of actions.
- Will include reactive work, proactive inspections, permission compliance, RPAS etc.

Odour

In Brooklyn the cumulative monthly odour reports for 2425 FY were back to higher levels of over 500 to June 2025. In Laverton North, there were still spikes in odour reports predominantly reported as from CSF Proteins.

Odour Compliance and Enforcement

- JBS Australia:
 - o 3 Improvement Notices:
 - » Biofilter monitoring
 - » Negative Pressure monitoring
 - » Seal gaps in plant.
 - o 1 Notice to Investigate offsite odour
- Australian Tallow Producers:
 - o 4 Improvement Notices
 - » Maintenance and monitoring program for plant
 - » Biofilter monitoring program
 - » Seal gaps in plant
 - » Repair biofilter

News

Sam highlighted several news articles relevant to Brooklyn including illegal dumpers, new CEO recruitment underway and the Cherry Creek Court Case.

QUESTION: What standards for work practices apply to ResourceCo and which conveyor belts are in the notice they received?

Sam Sparks, EPA: ResourceCo operate under an operating licence which includes a general environmental duty. One of the conveyor belts was included in the notice as it was observed to be emitting dust by the EPA RPAS/ drone.

QUESTION: What is the schedule for the drone use and is it achieving more results in detection?

Sam Sparks, EPA: RPAS are being deployed at least fortnightly. It allows a lot more surveillance in a shorter time and with better visuals. EPA is also using it for odour detection to observe holes in the roof of facilities.

QUESTION: What stage is the ResourceCo application for a soil wash at? Are they already operating? How will the community be notified when its finalised?

Sam Sparks, EPA: I don't believe they are operating. The application can take years as more information is being requested.

Julia Gaitan, EPA: EPA can do this through their communications channels to let community know. If it's a development licence community engagement would be included as part of the assessment process.

Gary Laidlaw, EPA: There are new community guidelines
<https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/community-engagement-requirements>

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ITEM 7.

BRG BEP - Dr Dave Collins, Synergetics

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

Introduction

Dave is an environmental engineer with over 50 years' experience and is currently working with the Brooklyn Recycling Group (BRG) on their Better Environment Plan (BEP). He provided an overview of the four businesses currently in the BRG, their location and the challenges they are facing providing construction waste recycling service for Melbourne's construction projects. He thanked the community for their ongoing efforts to liaise with businesses in this forum.

Analysis

Synergetics carried out an analysis of airborne PM₁₀ data measured at EPA Victoria's Brooklyn monitor from 2009 onwards. Each of the major potential PM₁₀ sources within a 3 km radius of the Brooklyn monitoring station, including the BRG members, were identified. There are about 40,000 residents within 3km of the EPA monitor.

The nearest and most representative wind direction data was available from Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) Station at Laverton, Station ID: 087031 approximately 8km from the Brooklyn EPA monitor. The winds at Laverton are predominately from the north, south and west.

By matching hourly EPA PM₁₀ data with hourly BOM wind direction data it was possible to determine which PM₁₀ sources were likely to be responsible for each PM₁₀ peak.

This analysis found that there are many particulate sources in the region in all directions. The BRG members, Delta, City Circle, Resource Co and Sunshine Groupe, were found to contribute about 8% of the total PM₁₀ measured by the EPA monitor.

Solutions

Engineering controls – The BRG has developed action plans to reduce the impact of particulate emissions from their businesses, including the use of upwind and downwind vegetation barriers, and engineering particulate controls such as water sprays, truck wheel wash, hard stand roads, and real time PM₁₀ monitoring. An effective real time PM₁₀ monitoring and alarm system will enable BRG staff to take immediate actions to minimise elevated particulate events.

Vegetation barriers – Plants are very effective at reducing airborne PM₁₀. Downwind vegetation throughout the community will filter out airborne particulate. Planting upwind vegetation is even more effective. Because upwind vegetation slows the wind speed over dusty surfaces, it can dramatically reduce entrainment of airborne particulate. The BRG businesses have plans for establishing both upwind and downwind vegetative barriers on their sites. The industrial and residential landholders should also be incentivised to contribute to these effective controls with more plantings private, Council and roadside land.

COMMUNITY COMMENT: *The amount of development in the area, particularly multi-dwelling allotments, greatly negates the opportunity to plant new trees.*

Dave Collins: It would be great to see initiatives in Brooklyn similar to the Greening Melbourne program.

Jake Repacholi, HBCC: HBCC has a strategy to increase tree coverage from 7% - 30% with every tree being monitored.

QUESTION: What is being done to stop the terrible dust emissions from the tall conveyor belts dumping the materials from heights well above tree height?

Dave Collins: The businesses need to introduce effective engineering controls or stop operating those conveyor belts on high wind days.

QUESTION: The data shown is for a 3 km radius, but the BRG sites are only 400m from our homes. Aren't the locals the culprit?

Dave Collins: Under certain wind directions and at certain times, then yes that can be the case. Our study is only for the Brooklyn area and our data is constrained by the present EPA monitoring systems. The planned expansions of EPA monitoring in the area will help especially if they are located at the most exposed residents likely to be at major road intersections.

Cr Elena Peyera, MCC: Maribyrnong CC is developing its integrated transport strategy with plans to include urban greening and water retention to mitigate flooding, stormwater and therefore benefit air quality. It would be good to work with HBCC and attract funding for more vegetation projects.

COMMUNITY COMMENT: *The amount of dust that residents are continuing to breathe in the Brooklyn area has not changed. Although recent samples showed the content of the dust as less of a concern, the sheer volume of dust that is being emitted and impacting the residents is still detrimental to our health. Community cannot change how businesses undertake their work practices – it is up to business to change.*

Dave Collins: Industry is learning and changing. For example stockpile modelling shows that the particulate is predominantly generated by the uppermost edges of stockpiles and so industry can use water most efficiently by targeting these areas.

Vegetation control modelling shows the reduction of wind speed by vegetation breaks.

Monitoring Stations - A total of 20 monitoring stations are planned by BRG – partly funded through grants.

QUESTION: Why not monitor dust particles greater than PM₁₀?

Dave Collins: PM₁₀ and smaller is the size of particulate that is more likely to get into your lungs and is more detrimental to your health. The EPA's automated monitors also measure PM₁ and PM_{2.5}. Larger particles, or total suspended particulate matter (TSP), is more difficult and costly to monitor.

Jim Demetriou: There are monitoring systems that can measure TSP on the market.

COMMUNITY COMMENT: *Larger dust particles including PM₁₀, including the 8% from BRG businesses, are still an issue for the community and levels continue to be high. Businesses should have no emissions beyond their boundaries.*

Dave Collins: EPA licences are usually designed to achieve compliant community exposures not zero emissions.

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ITEM 8.

AUSTRALIAN TALLOW PRODUCERS, BROOKLYN – Leighton Black, Environmental Manager and Jim Demetriou, AOS Specialist

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

Jim acts as a consultant to Australian Tallow Producers and is overseeing improvements to the ATP plant. He provided an update on recent improvements and upgrades being undertaken including Buildings, Biofilters, Ducting and General systems. Generally, there are few odours being emitted from the site over the past 3 months.

Buildings – substantial works have been undertaken to replace the roofing, seal gaps and leaks, and evaporative coolers have been installed to keep staff cool and reduce the need to open doors.

Biofilters – extra water atomisers after extraction fans have been added, humidity monitoring has been improved, extra maintenance undertaken to improve performance of fan to biofilter 1 and are-fluff and replacement of top bimedia layer for both biofilter 1 and 2 has been completed.

Ducting – all joints have been welded, odour loads have been balanced between the two biofilters, new point source capture ducts have been installed, and monitoring has been increased.

General – there are improved monitoring and inspection systems to find faults faster, monthly 3rd Party audits and inspections are being undertaken, there is better and consistent performance of the biofilters and a gain of 30% increase in vacuum across the process buildings.

Future – redesigning the meal loading facility so that all loading of meal is undertaken within the building will reduce odour emissions.

Community – ATP continues to work with the community to maintain open communication.

Jim invited everyone to use the ATP complaints system – ATP will then get complaints directly and can investigate them promptly. This feedback is vital to improving any issues.

Complaints should include basic information such as what time and approximate location to assess.

<https://austal.com.au/community-notice-board>

COMMUNITY COMMENT: *ATP has been generous in allowing access to the site for residents. The improvements are welcome and hopefully will inspire other businesses to invest in improvements.*

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ITEM 9.

JBS HOLDINGS - Troy White, Environment Manager & Riverlea Pork, Alan Bittisnich

The full presentation is available in [Attachment 4.](#)

Troy and Alan wished to inform the community, as part of their stakeholder engagement, of their plans to build a new rendering plant for pork products in Laverton North in Wyndham Shire. This plant is to be built within the existing abattoir site, reflecting industry best practice and modern design to mitigate offsite odour and other environmental emissions.

They are in the very early stages of the planning and approval process, working closely with the council and EPA to ensure the community is being included in the process, and that community concerns are being considered. They want to be able to respond to any concerns or questions that arise and provide the opportunity for feedback.

Alan provided some detail about the site location and the planning stages for the project.

QUESTION: What is the expected input into the plant?

Troy White: This facility will render the inedible byproducts from pork abattoir facilities only.

QUESTION: Will the receival facility be fully sealed?

Troy White: Yes, the receival will be 100% enclosed. We have a lot of knowledge from our other older sites, but this facility is being built from scratch which means it is easier to plan for best practice.

QUESTION: What sort of turnover is expected and how does that compare to the ATP plant?

Troy White: It is expected to process 200 tonnes per day which is smaller than ATP in Brooklyn. As this new facility will be located onsite with the existing pork abattoir there will be no need to transport the input material off site. It is designed for porcine product only from other abattoirs to help reduce issues around Halal contamination in other shared facilities with beef and lamb.

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ITEM 10.

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

The full presentation is available in [Attachment 5](#).

Carmen Largaioffi

As an adjunct to her last presentation at the March meeting, Carmen gave a comprehensive overview from a resident's point of view to the impact of data centres currently being developed in the Western suburbs, particularly in Brooklyn, where two hyperscale data centres are currently under construction within close proximity to the residential area. She highlighted the inequity of locating the two data centres at Brooklyn (approved by adjacent municipal councils Brimbank and Maribyrnong), causing negative impact to Brooklyn residents within the neighbouring municipality of Hobsons Bay. Additionally, it was revealed that Hobsons Bay Council collaborated in approving additional stages of the Microsoft data centre (Francis St), thereby sanctioning the geographic spread of this development over the Maribyrnong municipal boundary into Brooklyn, without providing planning notification to Brooklyn constituents via BCRG or otherwise. She spoke to the disproportionate placement of the data centres within the relatively small suburb of Brooklyn, and noted it was the only suburb amongst the 12 suburbs in the Hobsons Bay municipality hosting such data centres. She proposed that local authorities have added to legacy pollution issues by approving development of hyperscale data centres in Brooklyn, that there is a lack of public information & planning transparency, a culture of failing to address Brooklyn community's best long-term interests and called for smarter land use i.e. nonpolluting operators.

11A McDonald Road, Brooklyn

During her presentation Carmen asked Brimbank CC if construction of the data centre was to continue towards the third sub-division (11A McDonald Road, Brooklyn)

After the meeting: Kristen Gilbert, Brimbank CC confirmed that no planning permit has been issued, and no planning application has been made, for the use and/or development of 11A McDonald Road, Brooklyn, for a data centre.

Planning permit P449/2024 was issued for buildings and works (earthworks) for 11A McDonald Road, Brooklyn, on 7 March 2025 following compliance action being taken due to earthworks occurring on the site without the required permit. No further applications have been made for this site.

At the July BCRG forum Matt O'Mara indicated that he believed (pers comm) the intention of the owner of 11A McDonald Road, Brooklyn, was to build a data centre, however at no time did he state that a permit had been issued for this. In terms of the activity occurring on the site at the moment, it is being used as the staging area and site office for the construction occurring at 598B Geelong Road, Brooklyn. This is a temporary use that will end once construction is completed.

Future application:

If an application is received for the use and development of 11A McDonald Road, Brooklyn, the following provisions of the Brimbank Planning Scheme relate to public notification (i.e. advertising):

Pursuant to Clause 33.01-4 "Buildings and Works" within the Industrial 1 [Zone](#):

An application is exempt from the notice requirements of section 52(1)(a), (b) and (d), the decision requirements of



section 64(1), (2) and (3) and the review rights of section 82(1) of the Act. This exemption does not apply to an application for a building or works within 30 metres of land (not a road) which is in a residential zone or land used for a hospital or an education centre or land in a Public Acquisition Overlay to be acquired for a hospital or an education centre.

This site is more than 30m from land within a residential zone meaning the buildings and works component of the application would be exempt from public notification.

Pursuant to Clause 33.01-2 "Use" within the Industrial 1 Zone, an application for use of the land is not exempt from notification which means that Council would need to consider Section 52 of the *Planning and Environment Act* 1987 to determine whether notice of the application should be given and if so, to whom it should be given. If any objections were received they could only be based on the proposed use of the land and how this would affect the objector/s.

Data Centres Health & Environmental Impacts

- Current developments adding to existing Brooklyn pollution issues
 - o Consistent operational noise once established (24/7)
 - o Electromagnetic emissions a concern given large scale centers near homes
 - o High energy & water (cooling) consumption = greenhouse emissions
 - o Onsite storage of diesel fuel e.g. 510,000 litres at proposed site Sunshine
 - o Diesel generators are regularly fired up for maintenance = increased PM2.5
 - o Does not align with community expectations for BIP transformation
- Drain on local resources
- Become strategic Infrastructure targets in times of conflict.

Filter the Stacks

Carmen urged residents to please sign the petition at:

<https://www.filterthestacks.com.au/>

ITEM 11.

MEETING CLOSE

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

Meeting closed 8:15 pm

Meeting Attendance Record – July 23, 2025

25 people registered their attendance.

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Alan Bittisnich	Riverlea Pork	Julia Gaitan	EPA Victoria
Andrea Mason	EO, BCRG	Laurie Bell	Resident
Bert Boere	BRAG	Leighton Black	Australian Tallow
Bhargya Herath	Sims Metal	Lisa Fields	BRG
Brian Long	Resident	Matt O'Mara	Brimbank City Council
Carmen Largaiolli	Resident	Rayanne Hawli, Cr	Hobsons Bay CC
Cr Elena Pereya	Hobsons Bay CC	Ruth Cronin	Resident
Gary Laidlaw	EPA Victoria	Sam Sparks	EPA Victoria
Gerton Mulder	JBS Pork	Sharbel Sassine	
Heather Humphreys	Resident	Troy White	JBS
Jake Repacholi	Hobsons Bay CC	Troy Ruediger	Sims Metal
Jian Tian	Nufarm	Victoria Borg, Cr	Brimbank CC
Jim Demetriou	AOC Specialist		

Apologies

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Callan Riley	Maribyrnong CC	Donna Gray	CSF Proteins
Geoff Mitchelmore	Resident	Jeremy Settle	EPA Victoria
Dr James Brett	Synergetics	Kristen Gilbert	Brimbank City Council
Martin Brownlee	JBS		

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ATTACHMENT 1.

BROOKLYN COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE GROUP

SAM SPARKS, TEAM LEADER ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION



Environment Protection Authority Victoria

Sam Sparks, Team Leader Environment Protection
23 July 2025

Brooklyn Community Representative Group



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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.

2025-26 Annual Plan

State-wide Regulatory Priorities:

1. Permission Compliance Assessments
2. Preventing fires at industrial and waste and resource recovery sites
3. Disrupting illegal waste disposal
4. Reducing the risk of harm and impacts from landfills
5. Reducing impacts of pollution and waste from construction

Western Metropolitan Region Priorities

A mix of proactive strategic inspections (including RPAS) and reactive work.

1. Inner West Air Quality
2. Inner West Odour

Compliance Report 2024/25

Key stats for the Region:

Region-wide:

Pollution Reports – approx. 5808 received
 Inspections – 781 inspections completed.
 Notices – 297 notices issued in total.

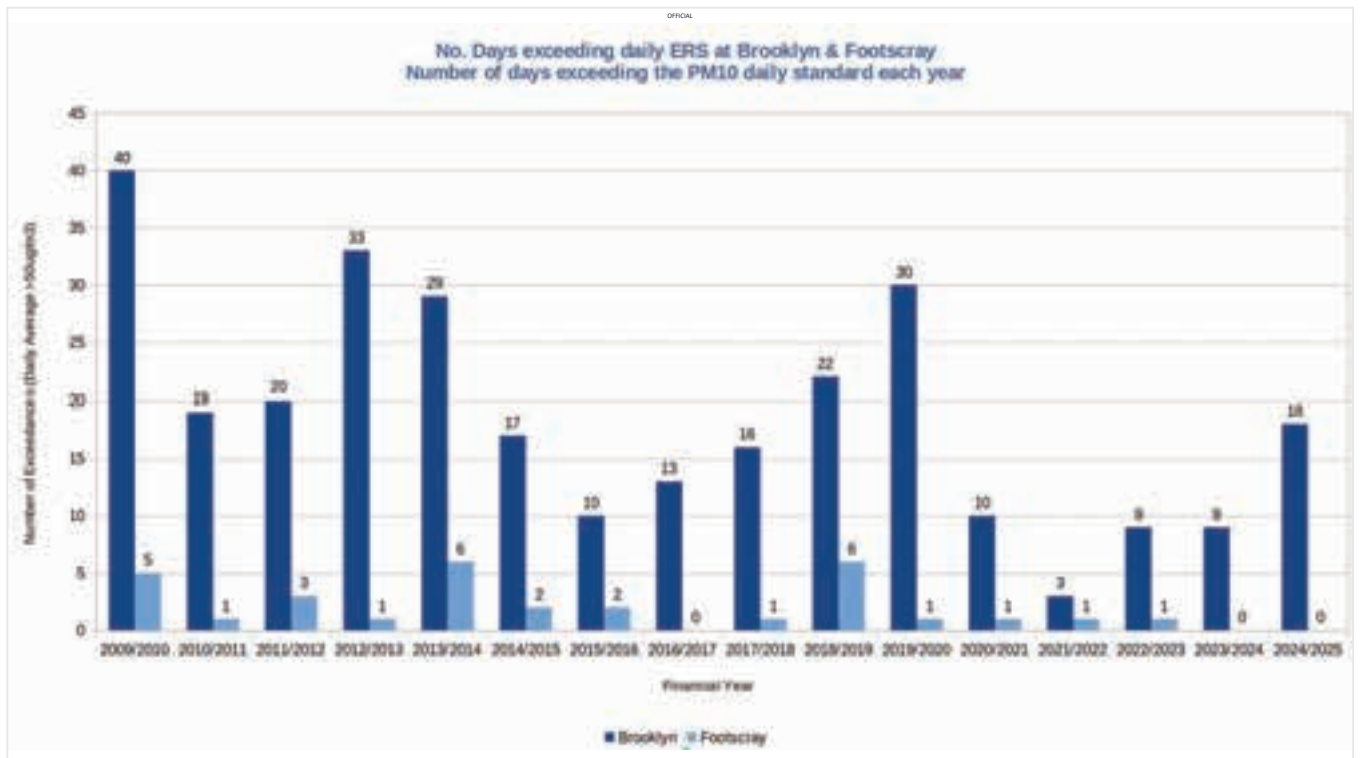
Brooklyn:

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Air Quality

EPA VIC | BCRG - 23 July 2025



Air Quality Compliance and Enforcement

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 - Notice to install further wheel washing systems.
- Cleanaway Brooklyn:
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 - Notice to install further wheel washing systems.
- City Circle Recycling:
 - Notice to seal haulage roads at the site.
- Revocation of Limbourne Group Permission.

Air Quality Compliance and Enforcement

- Review of strategic approach being formalised.
- Will allow for better tracking and reporting of actions.
- Will include reactive work, proactive inspections, permission compliance, RPAS etc.



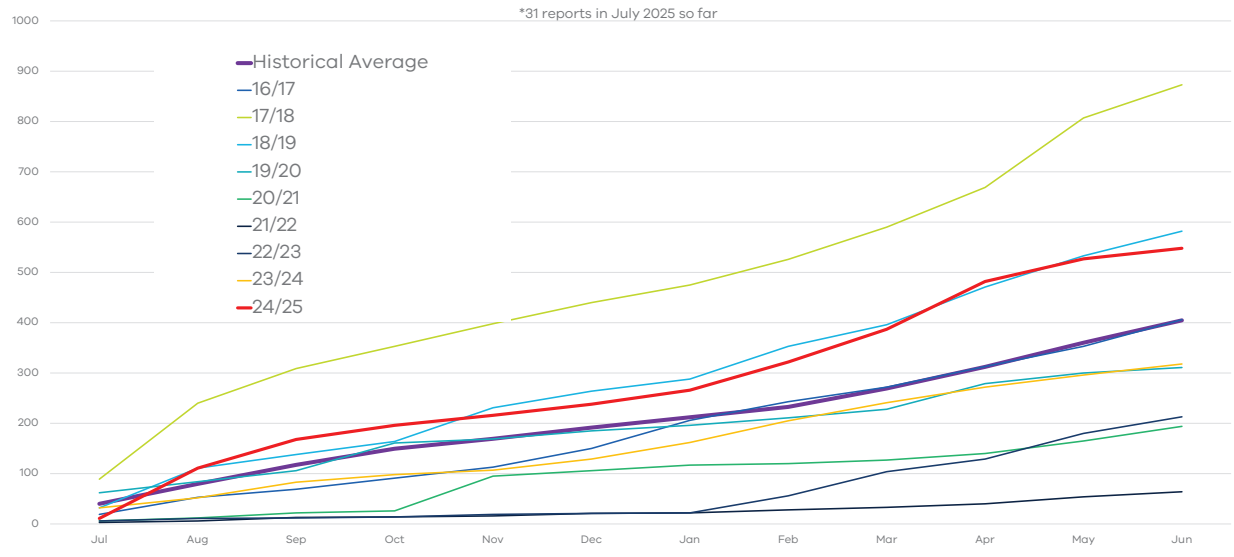
Odour

EPA VIC | BCRG - 23 July 2025

Brooklyn odour reports

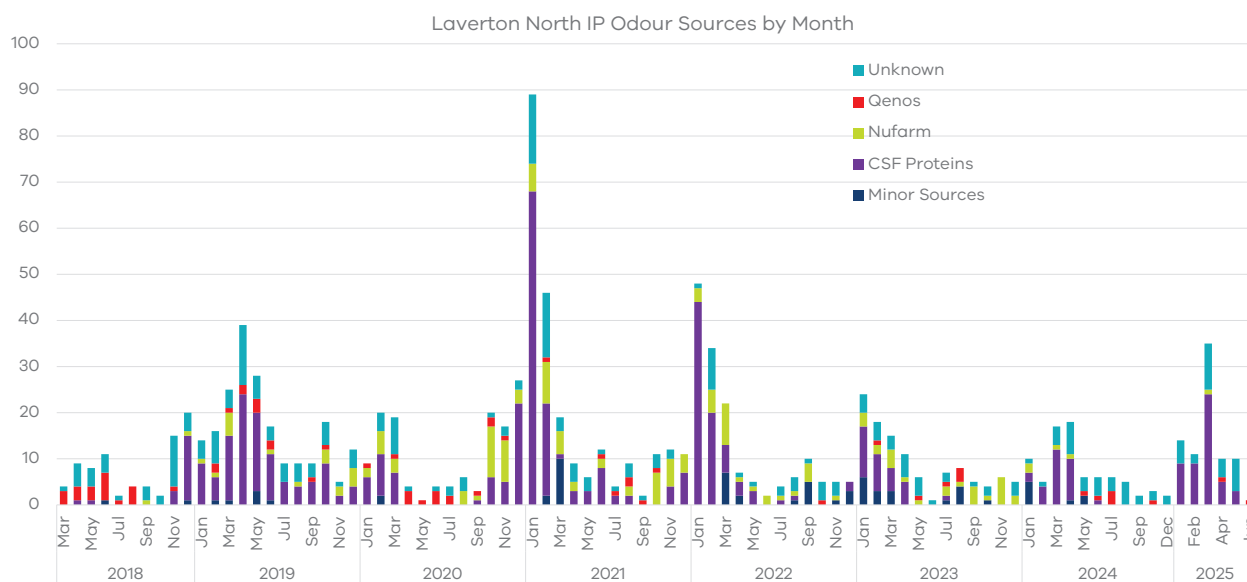
Cumulative monthly odour reports by financial year

*31 reports in July 2025 so far



EPA VIC | BCRG - 23 July 2025

Laverton North odour reports



EPA VIC | BCRG - 23 July 2025

Odour Compliance and Enforcement

• JBS Australia:

- 3 Improvement Notices:
 - Biofilter monitoring
 - Negative Pressure monitoring
 - Seal gaps in plant.
- 1 Notice to Investigate offsite odour

• Australian Tallow Producers:

- 4 Improvement Notices
 - Maintenance and monitoring program for plant
 - Biofilter monitoring program
 - Seal gaps in plant
 - Repair biofilter

EPA VIC | BCRG - 23 July 2025

Odour Compliance and Enforcement

- **CSF Proteins:**
 - o 1 Notice to Investigate offsite odour
 - o Enforcement investigation almost complete.
- **Bardee:**
 - o 1 Improvement Notice to conduct an odour risk assessment
 - o 8 pieces of Compliance Advice
- **Nufarm:**
 - o Repair Effluent Holding Tank

EPA VIC | BCRG – 23 July 2025

Local West Metro News

Federation Trail targeted by illegal dumpers

13 March 2025

Illegal dumping on Federation Trail has been targeted by the Victorian Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) following reports of illegal dumping in the area. The EPA has issued a notice to the responsible party to investigate and remove the waste. The notice also requires the responsible party to implement measures to prevent further illegal dumping. The EPA has also issued a public warning to the community to report any illegal dumping to the EPA. The EPA has also issued a public warning to the community to report any illegal dumping to the EPA. The EPA has also issued a public warning to the community to report any illegal dumping to the EPA.

EPA Victoria CEO Lee Miezi takes up a new role

30 April 2025

EPA Victoria congratulates outgoing CEO Lee Miezi on the appointment as the new CEO of the Victorian Government. Lee Miezi has been appointed as the new CEO of the Victorian Government, replacing the outgoing CEO, Lee Miezi. Lee Miezi has been appointed as the new CEO of the Victorian Government, replacing the outgoing CEO, Lee Miezi. Lee Miezi has been appointed as the new CEO of the Victorian Government, replacing the outgoing CEO, Lee Miezi.

Media Statement: Cherry Creek Court Case

15 April 2025

The Victorian Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued a media statement regarding the Cherry Creek Court Case. The statement outlines the EPA's position on the case and the steps it is taking to address the issue. The EPA has issued a media statement regarding the Cherry Creek Court Case. The statement outlines the EPA's position on the case and the steps it is taking to address the issue. The EPA has issued a media statement regarding the Cherry Creek Court Case. The statement outlines the EPA's position on the case and the steps it is taking to address the issue.

EPA VIC | BCRG – 23 July 2025



Environment Protection Authority Victoria

1300 372 842

contact@epa.vic.gov.au

epa.vic.gov.au

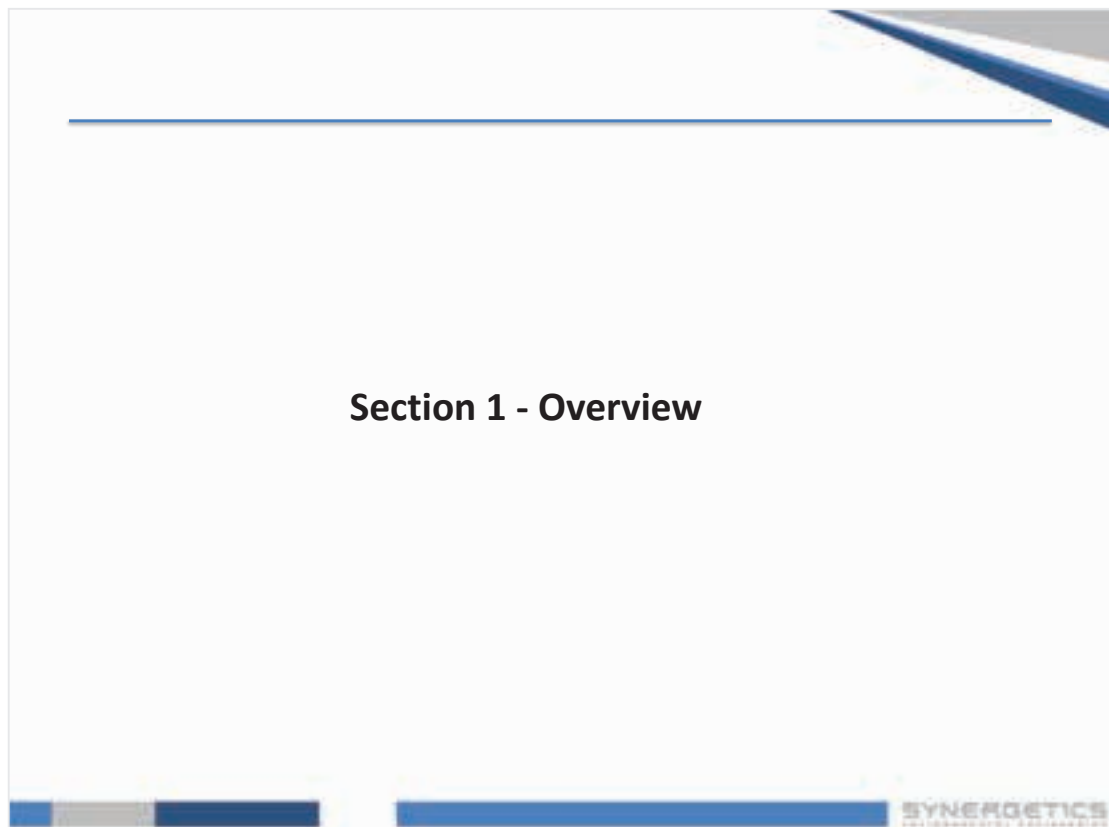
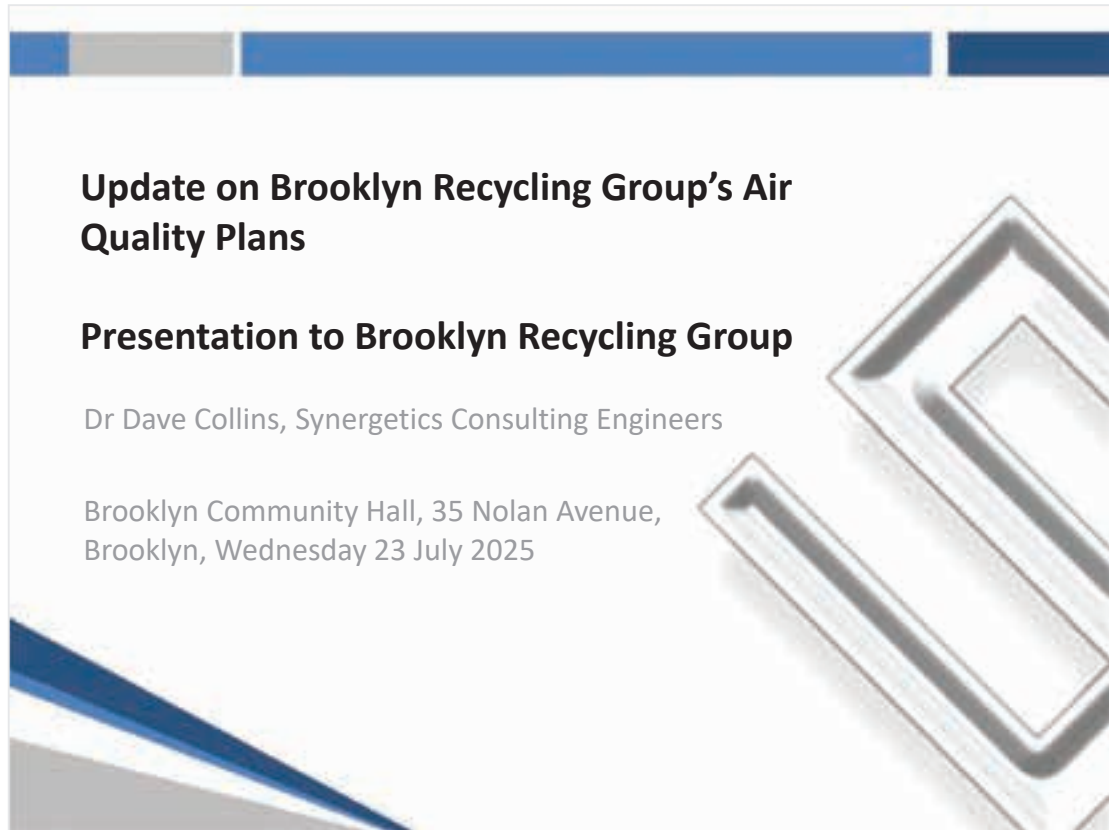


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ATTACHMENT 2.

UPDATE ON BROOKLYN RECYCLING GROUP'S AIR QUALITY PLANS PRESENTATION TO BROOKLYN RECYCLING GROUP DR DAVE COLLINS, SYNERGETICS CONSULTING ENGINEERS



Brooklyn Recycling Group (BRG) Location



SYNERGETICS
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Closeup of BRG Land use



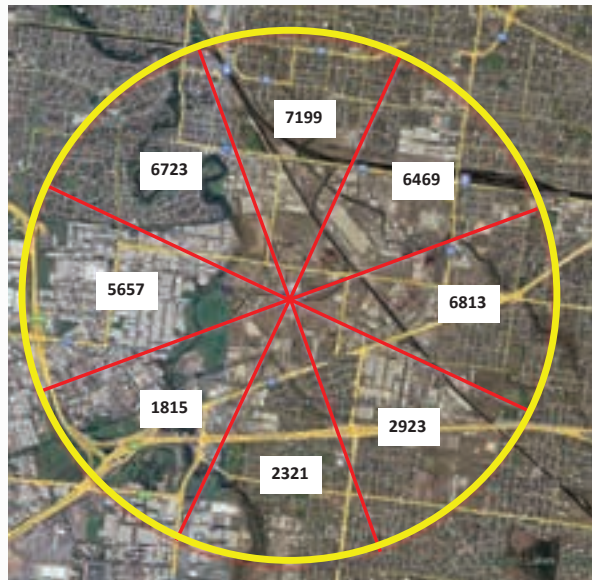
SYNERGETICS
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

SYNERGETICS

SYNERGETICS



Population near Brooklyn PM₁₀ sources

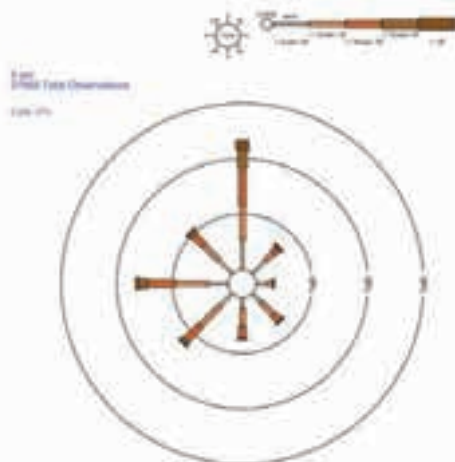


Notes: 1) Total population is approximately 40,000 in the 3 KM radius.

SYNERGETICS
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTISTS

Frequency of winds at BOM Laverton

Rose of Wind direction versus Wind speed in knots (01 Aug 1981 to 31 Aug 2011)
LAVERTON SAAP
Data for 1981 - 2011 (01 Aug 1981 - 31 Aug 2011) - 31 years of data
The rose is a polar plot of wind direction and speed. The length of the petals indicates the frequency of wind blowing from that direction. The color of the petals indicates the wind speed in knots. The scale is in knots. Other important info about this plot is available in the accompanying notes.



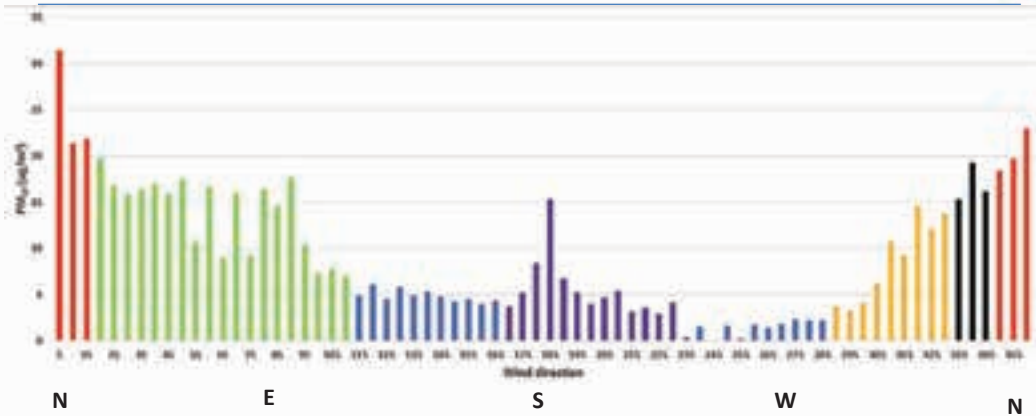
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LAVERTON SAAP
Data for 1981 - 2011 (01 Aug 1981 - 31 Aug 2011) - 31 years of data
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Notes: 1) ~ 8 KM from EPA Brooklyn , 2) N, S and W winds are common.

SYNERGETICS
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTISTS

Brooklyn PM10 concentration minus Brooklyn background PM10



- Including Sims Metals, Tank Services and Veolia
- Including Apex and Andy's Autos
- Including Delta Group, Hanson, City Circle, Cleanaway and Sunshine Group
- Including Altona North Landfill, Four Seasons Waste and Mobil refinery
- Including VCM, ANR Freight and West Gate Freeway
- Miscellaneous earth works and West Gate Freeway

SYNERGETICS
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Section 3 – Solutions

SYNERGETICS
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Example of Vegetation Barrier



SYNERGETICS
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

BRG Vegetation Plans



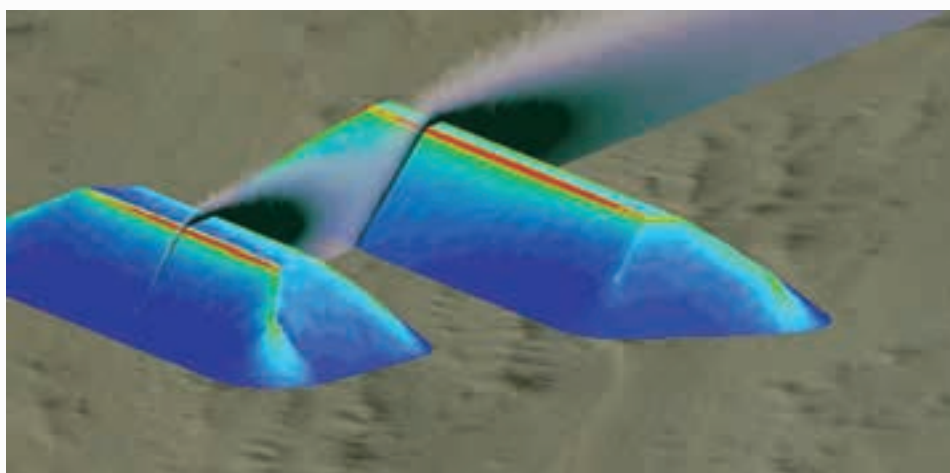
SYNERGETICS
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Challenges at Brooklyn



SYNERGETICS
ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS

Stockpile emissions modelling



SYNERGETICS
ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS

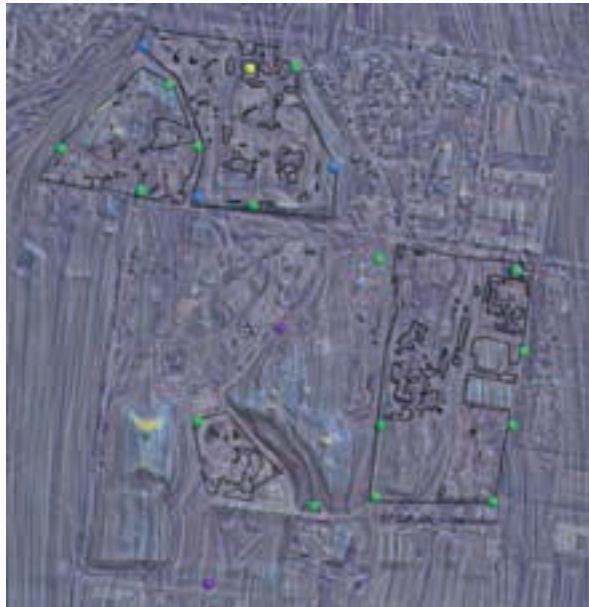
Vegetation control modelling



Real time monitoring sensors



Planned Sensor Locations



SYNERGETICS
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Follow-up

Dr Dave Collins
Synergetics Consulting Engineers
www.synergetics.com.au
davec@synergetics.com.au
m0438394191

SYNERGETICS
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

ATTACHMENT 3.

RECENT ATP IMPROVEMENTS

Recent ATP Improvements

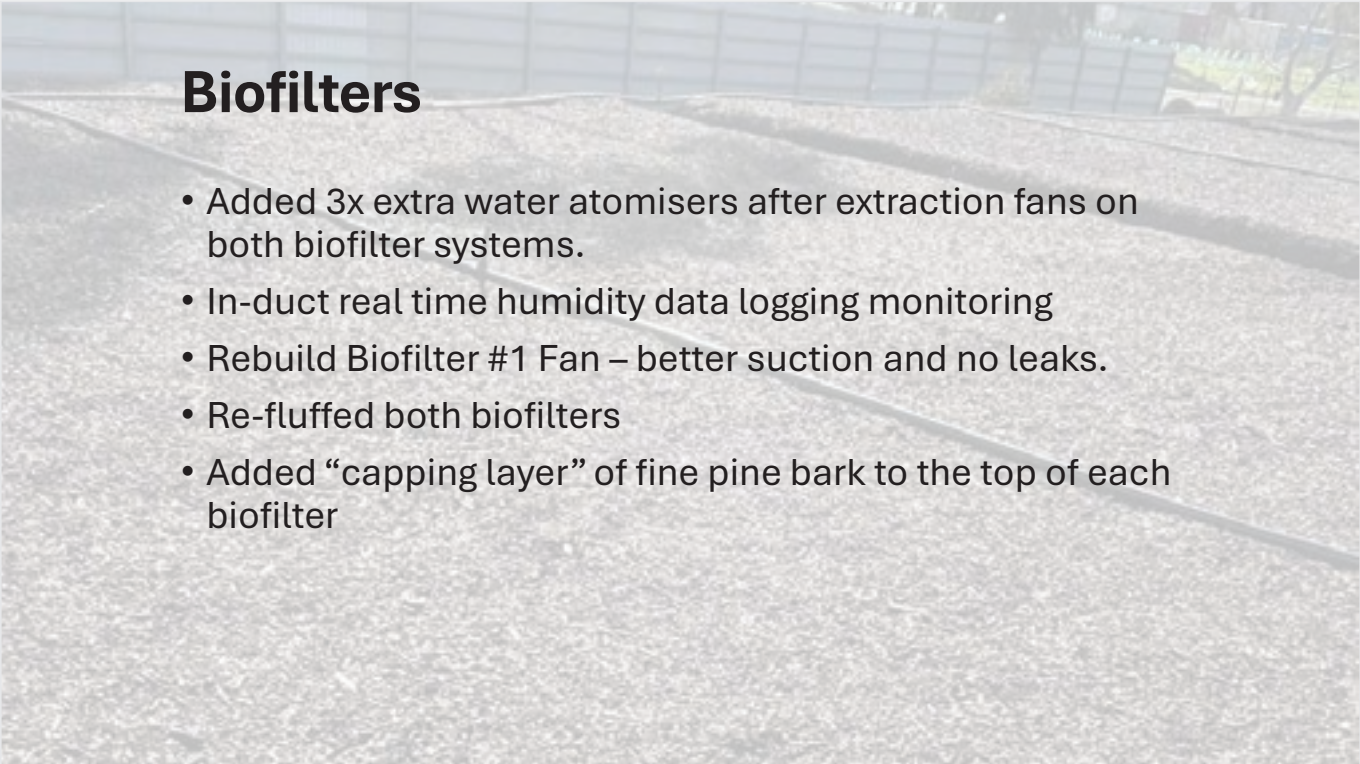
- Buildings
- Biofilters
- Ducting
- General
- Future
- Community



Buildings

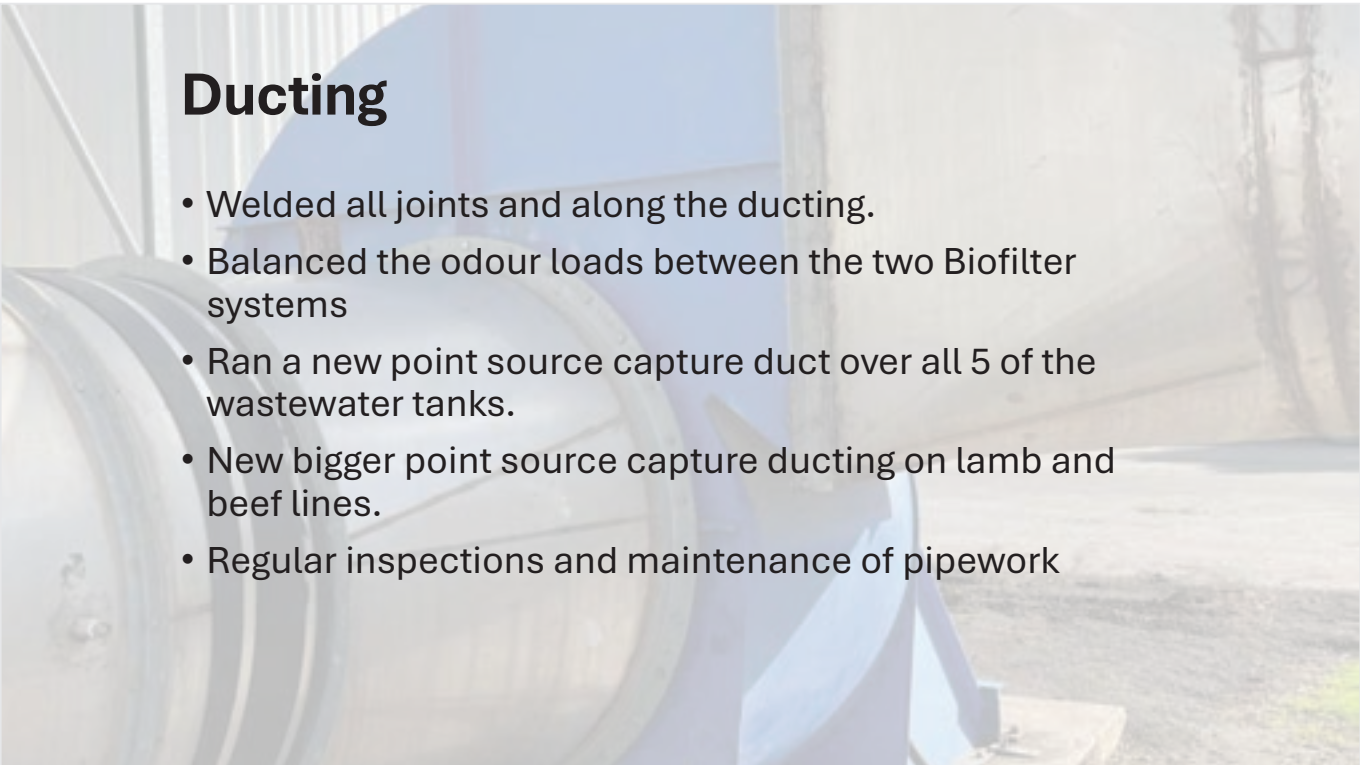
- Spent over \$300K on replacing roofs
 - During the last Christmas Shutdown New Roofs installed over the whole raw materials processing
 - New Roof Installed over the wastewater treatment plant
 - New roof on the production up stairs
- Sealed building gaps and leaks
- Installed industrial evaporative cooling reduce risk of personal opening doors in summertime





Biofilters

- Added 3x extra water atomisers after extraction fans on both biofilter systems.
- In-duct real time humidity data logging monitoring
- Rebuild Biofilter #1 Fan – better suction and no leaks.
- Re-fluffed both biofilters
- Added “capping layer” of fine pine bark to the top of each biofilter



Ducting

- Welded all joints and along the ducting.
- Balanced the odour loads between the two Biofilter systems
- Ran a new point source capture duct over all 5 of the wastewater tanks.
- New bigger point source capture ducting on lamb and beef lines.
- Regular inspections and maintenance of pipework

General

- Improved monitoring and inspection systems to find faults faster
- Monthly 3rd Party audits and inspections
- Far better and consistent performance of the biofilters
- Gained 30% increase in vacuum across the process buildings.

Future

- Redesigning the meal loading room and to load 100% inside
 - New loader has been purchased
 - working on installation into the existing shed.

Community

- Continuing to work the community to maintain open communication
- Invite everyone to use the complaints system – we will get complaints direct and can investigate promptly.
 - We need basic information
 - what time and approximate location to assess.

<https://austal.com.au/community-notice-board>

ATTACHMENT 4.

RENDERING PLANT

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Rendering Plant

Brooklyn Community Representative Group



Stakeholder Engagement



Key Message – New Rendering Facility

- Proposed new rendering plant in Laverton North will reflect industry best practice and modern design.
- We want to help build the capacity of stakeholder and local community understanding of the rendering process and the benefits of utilising animal by-products into valuable everyday products.
- Rendering is essential in producing sustainable animal feed ingredients like pet food, and other non-food products for consumers every day, like cosmetics. Rendering byproducts also diverts valuable resources from landfill, minimising greenhouse gas emissions which is ultimately better for the environment.
- Specifications for the new facility are currently being designed to mitigate offsite odour and other environmental emissions.
- We are in the very early stages of the planning and approval process, working closely with the council and EPA to ensure the community is being included in the process, and that your concerns are being considered. We want to be able to respond to any concerns or questions that arise and provide the opportunity for feedback



2

Planning Stages

Stage	Tasks
1	Planning Pre application
2	EPA Licence Pre application Permissions Proposal Pathway
3	Stakeholder Engagement
4	EPA Development Licence Application Studies
5	EPA Development Licence Application
6	Planning Application
7	Planning Application Assessment
8	Development Licence Assessment and Notice
9	Post approval endorsements and Management Plans



3

Diamond Valley – JBS Pork Australia Operations



Laverton North



4

ATTACHMENT 5.
BCRG COMMUNITY UPDATE
CARMEN LARGAIOLLI
BROOKLYN DATA CENTRES

BCRG Community Update

Carmen Largaiolli
23 July 2025

Brooklyn Data Centres



Data Centre Brooklyn



Diesel emission stacks (Geelong Rd)?



View from
Corrigan Ave
Brooklyn



View from Heather Ave Brooklyn





Data Centre Francis St Brooklyn under construction



Data Centre Cawley Rd Yarraville



DATA CENTRES HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

- Current developments adding to existing Brooklyn pollution issues
 - Consistent operational noise once established (24/7)
 - Electromagnetic emissions a concern given large scale centers near homes
 - High energy & water (cooling) consumption = greenhouse emissions
 - Onsite storage of diesel fuel e.g. 510,000 litres at proposed site Sunshine
 - Diesel generators are regularly fired up for maintenance = increased PM2.5
 - Does not align with community expectations for BIP transformation
- Drain on local resources
- Become strategic Infrastructure targets in times of conflict

Local authorities have added to legacy pollution issues by approving development of hyperscale data centres in Brooklyn

Lack of public information & planning transparency

Does not address Brooklyn community's best long-term interests

Smarter land use - non polluting operators

Filter the Stacks petition

Please sign the petition at:

<https://www.filterthestacks.com.au/>

[MTAG newsreel](#)

[Countries that filter their stacks](#)

(do not display – reference only)

- ### Nil evidence notification letters received by community

(do not display – reference only)

