



ISSUE 8: BROOKLYN INDUSTRIAL AREA – IMPROVING ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

July 2011

This newsletter provides updates on progress of activities to reduce noise, dust and odour from the Brooklyn Industrial Precinct.

BROOKLYN INDUSTRIAL PRECINCT

The Brooklyn Industrial Precinct is the triangular industrial area bordered by Kororoit Creek and the major thoroughfares Geelong and Somerville roads.

The precinct houses over 60 industries, including quarrying, former landfill, abattoirs, composting, material recycling, tallow producers, container storage, chemical manufacturing as well as numerous small businesses including light industrial, retail and manufacturing.

The precinct is under the management of Brimbank City Council. Hobsons Bay City Council, Wyndham City council and Maribyrnong City Council border the Brooklyn Industrial Precinct with some industries on the fringe of the precinct falling into their boundaries.

ENFORCEMENT NEWS - DUST

Pollution Abatement Notices (notices)

Since the last update EPA has issued three new notices to: Tasman Logistics Pty Ltd; Victorian Container Management; and Rafnet Pty Ltd to manage mud issues at their sites. The largest of the three notices requires Tasman Logistics to seal all roads and car parks onsite and install wheel wash and wheel grates to minimise dust and mud by the end of the year.

Since early 2010 EPA has issued a total of 27 notices relating to dust mitigation in the Brooklyn precinct.

Investigation and Surveillance

EPA is investigating additional sites located in Sarah Grove and Somerville Road where mud and dust has been identified as an issue. EPA will look to formalise requirements on these sites through a notice.

EPA continues to undertake surveillance on days when northerly winds are predicted. This includes routine surveillance on licence holders and sites with notices that are at risk of generating dust and odour.

ENFORCEMENT NEWS - ODOUR

Pollution Abatement Notices (notices)

EPA has issued Australian Tallow Pty Ltd with a notice requiring them to undertake substantial works at their Geelong Road site to address longstanding odour issues. The company has been prohibited from storing product and waste outside and will also need to undertake works to entirely seal the building and ensure all emissions are treated by an appropriate air treatment system.

Charges

EPA has laid charges against Australian Tallow for three separate incidents last year, two with regard to odour and the other, a tallow spill to Kororoit Creek.

Cargill's Enforceable Undertaking

In May, oilseed crushing plant Cargill Processing Ltd agreed to undertake more than \$600,000 in works to fix odour issues at its Somerville Road site.

The outcome was signed off after EPA accepted what is legally referred to as an 'Enforceable Undertaking' which is an agreement between the two parties for works to be undertaken.

The result follows odour incidents at the oilseed crushing and solvent extraction facility in May and August last year.

Cargill have started implementing some improvement actions, such as appointing a full time Environmental Supervisor and holding regular open days for the community at their site. Other improvement actions include equipment upgrades, regular auditing at the site to ensure the improvements being made are successful and a \$50,000 contribution to a local environment project.

FINES ISSUED

EPA has issued almost \$18,000 worth of penalty infringement notices to the following companies:

- Transpacific Waste Management Pty Ltd (TPI) fined \$6000 for breaching their licence permitting nuisance dust beyond the boundary of the Jones Road landfill

- Tasman Logistics fined \$6000 for failing to address an existing notice
- Chemprod Nominees fined \$6000 for discharge of contaminated water to storm water.

DUST MONITORING

EPA commenced a dust monitoring program in late October 2009 to measure levels of small sized particles in air emanating from the Brooklyn industrial estate. There are currently two monitoring locations in the area, these include Brooklyn Reserve and Sunshine West.

For the 2010-11 financial year there were 19 days where air quality did not meet the standards. While the number of exceedances sits below EPA's target of not exceeding 20 days per year, much of this can be attributed to the weather and rainfall over this time. It also serves to reinforce the importance of vigilance from industry and EPA.

Review of the air monitoring data to date suggests roads and/or re-suspension of dust from trucks driving along the roads in the industrial estate are a major source of dust; however stockpiles and site activities also contribute to total loads.

VicRoads recently committed to sealing road shoulders on Francis Street between Cemetery Road and Geelong Road. They have advised there will be a delay due to the presence of a major gas main that is located under the shoulders.

As well as particle monitoring (PM10 and PM2.5) the airborne concentrations of asbestos, respirable silica and specific elements are being measured to provide the data to undertake an air quality risk assessment to evaluate the health risk posed for the concentrations measured. Measurements of asbestos, respirable silica and specific elements to date have not detected levels of air quality concern; however a statistically sound air quality risk assessment cannot be made until about 12 months of data is collected.

Particle monitoring data (measured as PM10) from the Brooklyn air monitoring station is now available live on EPA's website:
www.epa.vic.gov.au/air/bulletins/aqhour.asp

EPA'S NEW PHONE NUMBER

1300 EPA VIC (1300 372 842)

EPA has a new 24-hour Pollution Hotline. The hotline features a new easy to remember **1300 EPA VIC** number so people can report pollution quickly and easily. The updated service is a step towards improving EPA's customer service and how we support our community. EPA aims to provide timely accurate advice, better feedback about pollution reports and ensure that we are accessible to all Victorians.

BCRG COMMUNITY FORUM

The BCRG Community Forum (Brooklyn Community Representative Group) is an opportunity for members of the community, industry, local and state government to discuss issues about the air quality of the general Brooklyn area. It also enables the communication of plans and progress by individual industries, local government and EPA Victoria. Meetings are held every four months with additional meetings scheduled as required.

RSVPs essential to: eo.bcr@gmail.com

- BCRG community meeting
Thursday 18 August 2011,
6.30pm – 9.00pm,
Brooklyn Community Hall,
Cypress Avenue, Brooklyn.

REPORTING POLLUTION

The community supports EPA by reporting pollution to the **Pollution Watch Line 1300 EPA VIC (1300 372 842)**.

EPA officers use information such as wind data, recent field investigations and information from the community to determine possible sources. Follow-up action may include on-site attendance, after consideration of the extent, nature and severity of pollution reports from the community.

Local government can also respond to and prosecute complaints if companies are in breach of their planning permits:

- Brimbank City Council – 9249 4000
- Maribyrnong City Council – 9688 0200
- Hobson Bay City Council – 9932 1000

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

- **Yarraville On The Nose (YOTN)**
Contact Bruce on 9332 2808 or email coord.onthenose@gmail.com (Yarraville and Kingsville area west of Williamstown Road).
- **Brooklyn Residents Action Group (BRAG)**
Contact Bert on 9314 1053 (AH) (based in the Brooklyn area bounded by Geelong Road and the West Gate Freeway).
- The Independent Chair is **Jen Lilburn, Kismet Forward** 0418 373 352, jen@kismetforward.com.au