

Agenda and Meeting Notes: Brooklyn Community Reference Group Meeting

6:00 – 8:00pm Wednesday 3 December 2008

Maribyrnong Council Offices

Cnr Napier St and Hyde St

Chair: Jen Lilburn

Invitees

- Yarraville 'On the Nose' group
- Brooklyn Residents Action Group
- Sunshine Residents and Ratepayers Association
- Maribyrnong CC
- Hobsons Bay CC
- Brimbank CC
- Brooklyn Industries
- EPA Victoria
- Broader Community

Attendees

- Tom Buxton, Western Recycle
- Marc Hewitt, Sims Metal
- Greg Hughes, Sims Metal
- Mark Globan, Sita
- Michael O'Keefe, Sita
- Adrian Masterman-Smith, Altona North
- Lowen Clarke, Altona North
- Jan Norton, Brooklyn
- Rhys Anderson, EPA
- Noel Ryan, Huntsman Chemicals
- Carey Patterson, Brimbank City Council
- Carmen Largaiolli, BRAG
- Bruce Light, Yarraville
- Martin Hermans, Yarraville 'On the Nose' Group
- James Fraser, Yarraville 'On the Nose' Group
- Linda Trewern, Brooklyn
- Malcolm Ramsay, Hobsons Bay City Council (left at 6:45pm)
- Foti Beratis, Maribyrnong City Council
- Sue O'Halloran, CMI Forge
- Belinda Nolan, Star News Group
- Matt Ead, Veolia Environmental Services
- Gerard Frewen, Swift Australia
- Kevin Anna, Swift Australia
- Val Bezzak, Veolia Environmental Services
- Jo Stokes, EPA
- Sylvia Armand, EPA

Apologies

Carey Patterson (City of Brimbank) made a general apology for attendance by Brimbank councillors, given the very recent elections and the swearing-in process.

Meeting purpose

- To present the new BCRG action plan and provide updates against due items.
- To provide an update on statistical information on complaints EPA receive in regard to odour, dust and noise issues from the Brooklyn Industrial area.
- SITA to present future works.
- Discuss future role of BCRG.

Brooklyn Community Reference Group Meeting 3 December 2008 Agenda

5:45pm	Arrival and refreshments	
6.00pm	1. Welcome from Chair and round table introductions; role of chair; meeting purpose and agenda	Jen Lilburn (15 mins)
6:15pm	2. Minutes from 17 September BCRG meeting; reporting on actions in future meetings.	Jen Lilburn (5 mins)
6:20pm	3. Outcomes from sub-committee meeting held 29 October. Purpose: Intro new BCRG Action Plan Agreement on acceptance	Jen Lilburn (20 mins)
6:40 pm	4. Updates on BCRG actions from - Brimbank Council - EPA (inc. monthly stats) - Sub-community rep Purpose: Members updated on requested items and actions from previous meeting	(10 mins per presentation)
7:10 pm	5. Industry updates on actions/incidents since Sept meeting. SITA – future works Other industry news/views Purpose: Community, Councils and EPA updated on latest actions/improvements	SITA (10 mins)
7:25pm	6. Discussion on BCRG role in the Future Purpose: To agree on BCRG ongoing role, and next steps.	All (30 mins)
7.55pm	7. Next Steps, evaluation and Close	Jen (5mins)

Meeting Notes

Item 1 – Welcome from the Chair and Introductions

Jen Lilburn welcomed attendees to the meeting and confirmed the BCRG's purpose and principles for conducting the group meetings, as follows:.

The purpose of the BCRG (as outlined in the Terms of Reference) is to “foster collaboration between community, industry and government to ensure ongoing clean air in the Brooklyn area”.

Comment was made that the use of the word 'ongoing' in the purpose statement was misleading as clean air was yet to be achieved. The Purpose statement was otherwise accepted by the group.

Participants also confirmed that the values as set out in the BCRG Terms of Reference constituted appropriate meeting principles. These values are:

- Working in partnership
- Open communication
- Shared accountability

The Terms of Reference also states that diversity of opinion within the BCRG is expected, with members being required to uphold the values of the group, respect the views of others at all times and contribute to discussion in a manner that provides for equal share of voice.

Attendees were invited to introduce themselves and table any items they felt were not covered by the agenda. No extra agenda items were raised.

Item 2 – Minutes from 17 September BCRG meeting

The draft minutes were accepted as an accurate record of 17 September meeting. Brimbank City Council Engineer Ray Martin provided further explanation on the planning issues regarding Bunting Rd dust issues

Ray outlined council statutory responsibilities for Bunting Rd and highlighted that the costs for sealing the road would most likely lie with owners of properties abutting the road. Ray highlighted that there are two ways the road can be fully constructed

- By owners constructing it to Council's standard. If this is done the council would normally take over the responsibility of maintenance.
- By Council initiating a Special Charge Scheme in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989. The first 200 metres of Bunting Rd was constructed via a Private Street Scheme.

With respect to Council initiating a Special Charge Scheme Ray Martin stated that Council cannot merely impose this on the abutting landowners and there were a number of matters that need to be addressed before Council could progress a Special Charge Scheme for Bunting Rd. The three main matters were:

- Not all abutting properties have rights of access to the road – therefore Council would need to determine legal right to impose Special Charge Scheme.

- The rail spur running along Bunting Rd is a significant issue – it will be necessary to determine how this land will be treated especially where vehicles cross over the rail line.
- Council resources and priority – Council has limited resource to investigate and implement schemes and gives higher priority to those locations where owners have given a high level of support for a scheme. Currently Bunting Rd is not a high priority.

Ray Martin acknowledged Bunting Rd is a contributing factor to the dust problem in the area but not the sole cause.

Tom Buxton from Western Recycle stated that sealing does not last and is costly. However, Tom stated Western Recycle is committed to investigating resealing costs and exploring alternative access to the site.

Action: Western Recycle to investigate costs and alternative access possibilities and present update at next BCRG meeting. Western Recycle to minimise dust issues over summer by spraying water on the roads.

Action: EPA committed to on-going dust monitoring of the area and presenting updates to the group.

James Fraser raised the issue of responsibility for sealing of Francis St verges; Malcolm Ramsay reported that Hobsons Bay CC had no official responsibility for maintaining the street

Action: Bruce Light to seek clarification from councils on responsibility for upgrades and maintenance of Francis St

Item 3 - Outcomes from sub-committee meeting held 29 October.

Minutes and BCRG Action Plan accepted as a strong outcome of the sub-committee meeting.

Jen Lilburn acknowledged the valuable work undertaken by members of BRAG and On The Nose prior to the sub-committee meeting, which had a significant impact on the scale and content of the meeting's outcomes.

Updates on December actions were provided round the group (see Rolling Actions List).

Item 4 - Updates on BCRG actions

4.1 Brimbank Update

Carey Patterson briefly updated the group on Action Plan actions (see Rolling Actions List).

4.2 EPA Update

See copy of presentation attached.

EPA reported a major outcome of the industry meeting on 7 Nov was the potential for industries to jointly fund the position of liaison officer to work with the community in addressing issues of odour, noise and dust.

BCRG members raised the possibility of merging the potential industry liaison and council liaison positions. Issues to consider included having one point of contact and perceived independence of an officer partially funded by industry.

EPA informed the group of proposal by Transpacific Cleanaway (TPI) to develop an alternative waste treatment facility in the area.

EPA presented statistics on odour reports by suburb and month from July 2007 to Nov 2008.

Action: EPA to take issue of merging liaison roles to the next meeting for discussion

Action: EPA to organise for TPI presentation on proposed alternative waste treatment facility for next BCRG meeting

Other discussion

Community members requested update from Maribyrnong City Council on noise pollution negotiations with Victorian Container Management vehicle reversing beepers. Foti Beratis from Maribyrnong City Council stated that concerns had been taken to the company but that council was unable to force the company to purchase alternative broadband beeper technology.

Community members asked if council could cover the cost of purchasing better beepers. BCRG suggested the broadband beepers were relatively cheap and could be purchased in bulk from manufacturer Jim Roylance.

Action: Foti Beratis committed to initiating further discussions with Victorian Container Management and to raising the idea of purchasing beepers with Councillor Michael Clark.

BCRG members queried practices at SIMS site. Sims stated that beepers automatically switched on when vehicle lights were switched on.

Action: Sims to update on enforcement of company policy regarding beeper noise at next BCRG meeting

Item 5. Industry updates on actions/incidents since Sept meeting

5.1 Sita – future works

Mark Globan from Sita gave update on process improvement plan (submitted to EPA Dec 08). Main targets under the plan are:

- End December 08 - SITA to submit to the EPA a Process Improvement Plan;
- 30 April 09 - SITA to apply all water and liquid wastes - excluding Grease Trap waste - to windrows through an injection device;
- 1 July 09 – Grease Trap waste must be stored in vessels with all air emissions ducted to appropriately sized odour equipment;
- 1 July 09 - SITA to have a weighbridge installed;
- 1 Sept 2010 – SITA to have constructed an in-vessel (enclosed) facility

Michael O'Keefe from Sita stated the targets were dependent on EPA approval of licence and planning permit. Michael stated it was unable to provide a guarantee of no odours prior to the introduction of the enclosed technology in 2010.

Community members felt the timeframe for constructing enclosed facility was too long and Sita should compensate residents for continued exposure to odours. Sita stated compensation for individuals was unlikely however the company would consider establishing a community fund for affected areas.

Action: Sita to develop the community fund proposal for discussion at the next meeting.

Community members queried whether Sita had taken steps to identify and reduce waste streams producing the most odour. Sita provided details on steps taken to reduce waste with most odours. EPA confirmed odour monitoring has shown a reduction in odour reports from the Sita site.

Action: Sita to present a DVD on new enclosed facility technology at the next BCRG meeting. Sita also agreed to provide updates on the Sydney plant which is about to introduce enclosed technology.

Action: EPA to continue providing odour monitoring updates during and following the introduction of planned Sita initiatives

5.2 Other industries

In response to questions, Gerard Frewen from Swift acknowledged company responsibility for a recent incident of odours emanating from its facility. Gerard committed to ensuring processes for managing odours on site to be more tightly controlled and monitored to prevent future problems.

Community members queried whether odours coming from a rail drain near Swift could be a drainage issue from the plant. Gerard Frewen stated he had no knowledge of the issue.

Action: EPA to investigate the rail drain issue

6. Discussion on BCRG role in the Future

BCRG members were positive about 'reporting back' function of the BCRG and felt there was a role for the group in ensuring accountability of sub-groups. Also felt the BCRG helped to 'keep the pressure up'. Sims requested smaller focus groups to deal with separate issues to avoid fragmented approach to each issue in the larger BCRG group. There was general agreement on developing sub-groups on different themes. BCRG members noted that industries would need to be defined for each theme.

The number of BCRG meetings was discussed. Agreement was reached on hold 2 BCRG meetings per year with different sub-groups meeting on a bi-monthly basis to progress actions.

Action: Jen Lilburn to circulate proposed meeting schedule and locations for 2009 by 30 Jan 09

Item 7 – Next Steps, evaluation and close

7.1 Next Meeting

Next BCRG meeting to be held in Brooklyn

Next sub-committee meeting to be held in Feb 09

7.2 Closing

All attendees were given opportunity to raise any final issues or make any comment before closing.

Comments included:

- constructive meeting, well organised
- meetings well run, thankyou

- could a BCC councillor attend future meetings?
- More focussed meetings are important
- Sita offered open invite for any of the group to visit the company site
- Sims felt it was good for their company to be involved in this process
- What about suspect waste piles on 730 Geelong Road?

Action: All Council reps to follow up with councillors re attending meetings

Action: Carey Patterson to provide an update on 730 Geelong Road waste piles issue.

Written evaluation

Jen Lilburn stated that it was important that BCRG and sub-group meetings to be as effective for all members as possible. She invited participants to make comments on the meeting process, both in terms of what they would like to see continued, and what should be done differently in the future.

The following comments were received:

Please continue

- to hold industry to committing to timelines

Do differently

- anyone presenting must provide a one page report beforehand
- sub-group meetings be issue specific e.g. 1. odour, 2. noise, 3. dust
- encouraged/require companies to attend (those that are not presently attending)

Meeting closed at 8:05pm;

Notes taken by Liz Franzmann

Meeting Notes to be read in conjunction with Rolling Action List