

BCRG COMMUNITY FORUM 1/2013

Date: 13 February, 2013

Time: 6:00 for 6:30 – approx. 9:15 pm

Where: Brooklyn Community Centre, Cypress Avenue, Brooklyn

Meeting Purpose:

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

Chair: Jen Lilburn

Agenda Items and Actions from meeting
Welcome – Jen Lilburn
Richard Mataska - Resident update on Australian Tallow Producer's response
Bert Boere, Brooklyn Residents Action Group - Group Update
Bruce Light, Yarraville On the Nose - Group Update <i>Action 1: Simon Vittorio, Brimbank CC to provide an update on council investigations into the height of stockpiles prior to the next BCRG forum.</i>
Geoff Mitchelmore – Federation Trail update
Ray Martin, Infrastructure Development Coordinator, Brimbank CC Update on Jones and Bunting Rds <i>Action 2: Ray Martin to report to BCRG on the options for residents' submissions and relevant VCAT guidelines.</i> <i>Action 3: Ray Martin to attend the August BCRG forum to provide an update.</i>
Richard Marks, Manager Metro, EPA Victoria Update on dust, noise and odour program <i>Action 4: Richard to follow up and if possible supply the statistics comparing Brooklyn to other sites in Australia.</i> <i>Action 5: Jen Lilburn to supply information on Metropolitan Planning Strategy consultation.</i> <i>Action 6: Jen Lilburn to go back to VicRoads and invite them to the next meeting.</i>
Matt Stanelos, Veolia - Clean Up Australia Day
Peter Morley and Cathy Palmer, Australian Tallow Producers - Update
Christian Buxton, Sunshine Groupe – Update on underground fire & measures deployed
Panel questions/discussion , including a quick Council update by Foti Beratis (MCC), Malcolm Ramsay (HBCC), Simon Vittorio (BCC), Christian Buxton (Sunshine Groupe)
Brooklynip Update – Andrea Mason, BCRG - cancelled due to time restrictions BCRG for 2013.... Opportunities to make it more valuable <i>Action 7: Andrea to send Jen's request for feedback and the information related to the Brooklyn website in an email update.</i>
Close

Notes from this meeting will be posted on EPA Victoria's website and the Brooklyn Industrial Precinct website and will be available to the general public. Meeting participants should advise Andrea Mason or Jen Lilburn if they would like their name removed from this public document.

Item 1. Welcome, Jen Lilburn

Jen Lilburn (Convenor) welcomed everyone including Wade Noonan MLC, Cr Sandra Wilson (Hobsons Bay City Council) and Jane Nathan (newly appointed Administrator for Brimbank City Council). Jen also welcomed Directors and General Managers from each of the Councils (and thanked them for their commitment to attend BCRG in the future), members from the Brooklyn Residents Action Group and Yarraville On The Nose. (see Attendee list at the end of these notes).

The draft meeting notes from the previous meeting on the 14th November 2012 were confirmed as accurate. There was some discussion regarding the format of the meeting notes. It was suggested that the presentations be kept as separate documents and the notes streamlined as much as possible without losing the focus on the actions.

Item 2. Richard Mataska – local resident

Richard spoke of the positive response he has received from Australian Tallow since the last forum.. He explained how Peter Morley had met with him on site and opened a strong line of communication. Richard has had no further issues with odour since the last forum and thanked Peter for his cooperation and the positive outcome. He also acknowledged the work of the EPA and the role the BCRG forum has had in providing a platform for him and others to engage with industry.

Item 3. Bert Boere Brooklyn Residents Action Group (BRAG)

The BRAG members are preparing a submission to The Senate Community Affairs Committee Inquiry and report into the impacts on health of air quality in Australia. To contribute go to: http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate_Committees?url=clac_ctte/air_quality/index.htm. Submissions should be received by 08 March 2013.

Bert spoke of the ongoing lobbying by the community since 2005 for a full block width access from Cypress Avenue to link the Federation Trail and DN Duanne Reserve to the freeway overpass. Hobsons Bay CC has purchased 2 properties in Cypress Ave Brooklyn but the current proposal is only for 4m wide paths which the community feel is unsafe and will continue to fight against.

Bert then produced a bag of dirty tissues that have been used to clean the window tracks of his wife's car to illustrate the level of impact of dust and grit in the community still. Many windscreens and car paintwork are also being chipped from dust and in one example; a local employer has offered to pay for employees' car windows to be replaced.

Item 4. Bruce Light Yarraville On The Nose (YOTN)

Bruce spoke on the 10 years since YOTN was formed and the enormous improvements to the odour issues that have been achieved. However the noise issue from reverse beepers at night is still a problem. Bruce suggested that industry, in particular the container yards, still needs to step up to address this issue that should be easily fixed.

Dust is still the worst problem with exceedences often above World Health Standards – possibly worse now than 2 years ago. Three years ago, stockpiles were to be limited to 6.5m but currently some are some are significantly exceeding this limit and illustrate a continued disregard for the community.

There was also a commitment to plant trees on some of the sites but this still has not happened. Landfill sites are being capped for methane capture but still no grass has been planted to reduce the dust. Bruce asked that in 2013, industries focus on sealing or planting as much of their sites as possible to reduce dust. Bruce suggested that Brooklyn would benefit from a special environmental zone overlay which would insist on sites being sealed.

Action 1: *Simon Vittorio, Brimbank CC to provide an update on council investigations into the height of stockpiles prior to the next BCRG forum.*

Item 5. Geoff Mitchelmore – Federation Trail

Geoff's presentation can be seen in full in [Attachment 1](#).

Geoff's slide presentation illustrated the success of the wetland plants, ground covers and trees since the community planting last year. He thanked everyone who contributed.

Item 6. Ray Martin Infrastructure Development Coordinator, Brimbank CC

Ray's presentation can be seen in full in [Attachment 2](#).

Ray spoke on the Brimbank CC's proposal to implement a special charge scheme to cover the costs of improving Bunting and Jones Rd in Brooklyn. This process is governed by strict regulations. The process is now underway with some objections having been lodged mostly based on the timing and the effect of East West link, how the costs are shared and the level of "Special Benefit" derived. He also outlined the timelines and processes still to be undertaken.

Item 7. Questions

Question: What section of the land affected by the special charge scheme is public land?

Response (Ray Martin, BCC): Ray clarified his response following the meeting.

Based on Council's GIS data: -

- Federation Trail or the old Melbourne Outfall Sewer land is owned by the Crown i.e. State or Federal Gov't. Brimbank Council manages the land. In this case, Council will bear the contribution towards the Jones Road scheme. The land is not rateable.
- 459 Somerville Road is owned by VicTrack. The land is not rateable and therefore Council cannot impose special charges. However, Council will separately seek a contribution from VicTrack through another provision in the Local Government Act 1989.

Question: Does this mean we will get no relief from Bunting Rd for at least another 12 months?

Response (Ray Martin, BCC): That would be the earliest result.

Question: What is the time allowed for submissions to VCAT?

Response (Ray Martin, BCC): There is a period of 28 days to make a submission to VCAT.

Question: If there are enough objections and submissions would the scheme be abandoned?

Response (Ray Martin, BCC): Brimbank CC would need to reconsider the options if that were the case.

Question: Can residents go to VCAT regarding this process?

Response (Ray Martin, BCC): At this point I don't know. VCAT has a very strict set of guidelines.

Response (Stuart Menzies, BCC): The special charge scheme is a very different process from a planning process through VCAT.

Action 2: Ray Martin to report to BCRG on the options for residents' submissions and relevant VCAT guidelines.

After the meeting...

20/02/13 Ray Martin provided the following response: 'Only the owners of the properties who have been asked to pay the special charges have the right to appeal to VCAT about Council's decision to impose special charges.'

Having said that, the plight of the residents is now well documented and this will no doubt be discussed at VCAT.'

Comment: As this is to take over 12 months could we please ask businesses to do more about the dust on their premises which is still a major contributor to the problem while we wait for Bunting and Jones Rd to be sealed.

Question: What is the definition of 'special benefit'? **Response (Ray Martin, BCC):** 'Special Benefit' is determined by Council and then approved by VCAT. It is determined from factors including the size of property, vehicle numbers and the length of property frontage and therefore the level of the benefit to the owners.

Question: Shouldn't 'special benefit' include community benefit as it is very important in this case?

Response (Stuart Menzies, BCC): Council uses special rates schemes in many circumstances. The same formula is used for road construction in any area and is based on the economic benefit to the adjoining landowners. The scope of the special charge scheme is based on this. If it is argued that it is based on community benefit then it would follow that the community should contribute to the costs.

After the meeting...

26/02/13 Ray Martin provided the following information: The Local Government Act 1989 (the Act) requires Council to determine the level of community benefit and/or special benefit in order to determine who should pay for the proposed works. Council is suggesting by its proposed declaration that it considers that there is no community benefit, as defined by the Act and therefore there is no requirement for the community to contribute towards the cost. There are opportunities through the process laid out by the Act for objectors (i.e. the persons required to pay) to contest Council's proposal.

Comment: Businesses will also benefit from the improvements by improving their corporate social responsibility and receiving fewer complaints from the community.

Action 3: Ray Martin to attend the August BCRG forum to provide an update.

Item 8. Richard Marks, Manager, Metro, EPA Victoria - Update on dust, noise and odour program

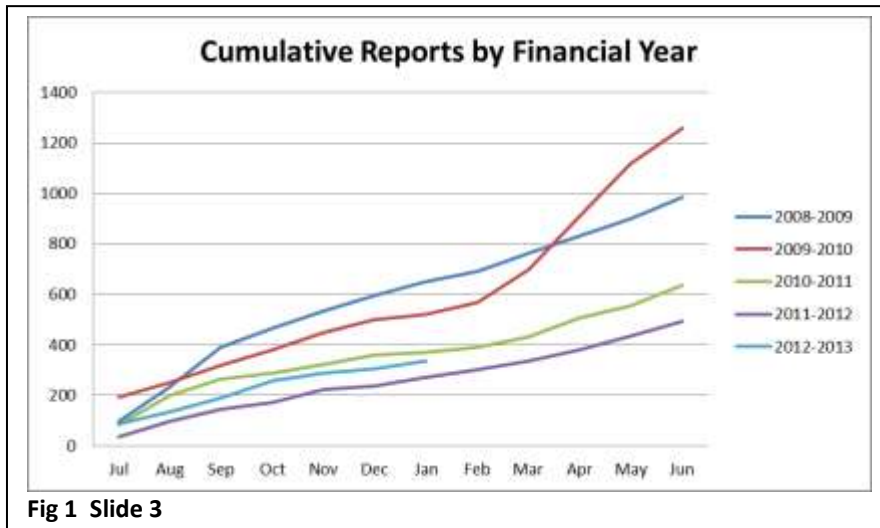
Richard's presentation can be seen in full in [Attachment 3](#).

Richard spoke on the changes to the odour reports over time, the Australian Tallow producers licensing, the fire at Western Land Reclamation and the ongoing processes to reduce dust from industries in the area.

Slide 2 Our Role

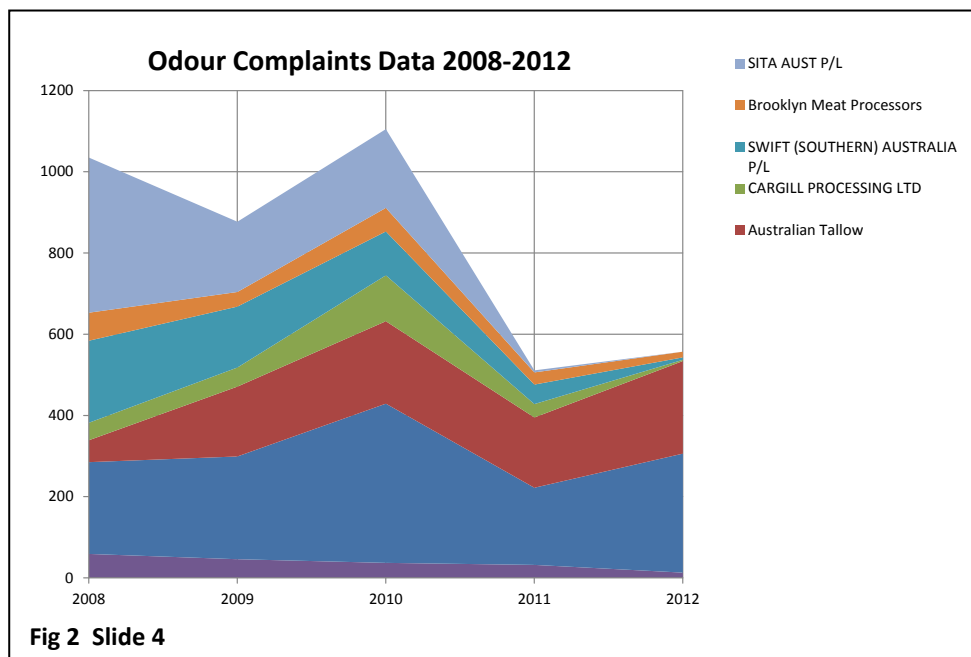
- Ensuring industry complies with the laws under the EP Act 1970;
 - Working collaboratively with co-regulators, e.g local government; and
 - Being accountable to the Victorian community
-
- Since EPA has been actively involved in this area, the community has been our benchmark in terms of how we are tracking – they hold us to account.
 - What we know is that odour and dust is generated from multiples sites and sources and the long term solution are about getting the right infrastructure in place.
 - EPA is responsible for ensuring that industry comply with laws to prevent pollution and impacts on the environment and the community. This is done by working with co-regulators in local and state government to ensure that the highest pollution risks caused through contravention of our laws are tackled.
 - Over the course of the years EPA has actively been involved in this, the community has been our benchmark in terms of how we tracking – they hold us to account.
 - What we've learnt is that there is not a one size fits all to address the odour and dust issues in Brooklyn – each site throws up its own individual challenges.

Slide 3 Odour update Odour cumulative report – measured by community complaints



- Compliance activities – strategy to action - odour
- EPA is aware that the community has experienced hardship from odour associated with the Australian Tallow site.
- In allowing the company to continue to hold its licence, Australian Tallow committed to take action to reduce the risk of odour impacts on the community; this includes changes to operations and processes. This includes:
 - Cutting production by 30 per cent;
 - No longer taking most offensive processing material;
 - Adding material to the odour treatment system (bio-filter) ; and
 - Making changes to their building to ensure odour is captured and not released.
- In early January, EPA inspected compliance with these terms but didn't observe any significant odours; EPA observed improvements in building ventilation and bio-filter operation.
- EPA received nine community reports alleging Australian Tallow as a source of odour.

Slide 4 Odour Update



This graph illustrates the improvement in Brooklyn over time as a result of EPA actions.

Western Land Reclamation:

- EPA has issued a notice requiring a fire at the landfill to be put out. EPA inspected on January 30 and the fire was out;
- EPA received seven complaints in January alleging odour from this source;
- Company has had difficulty extinguishing the fire;
- EPA inspected the site on 8 February; and is working with company to rectify the issue.

Slide 5 Days that exceed air quality objectives

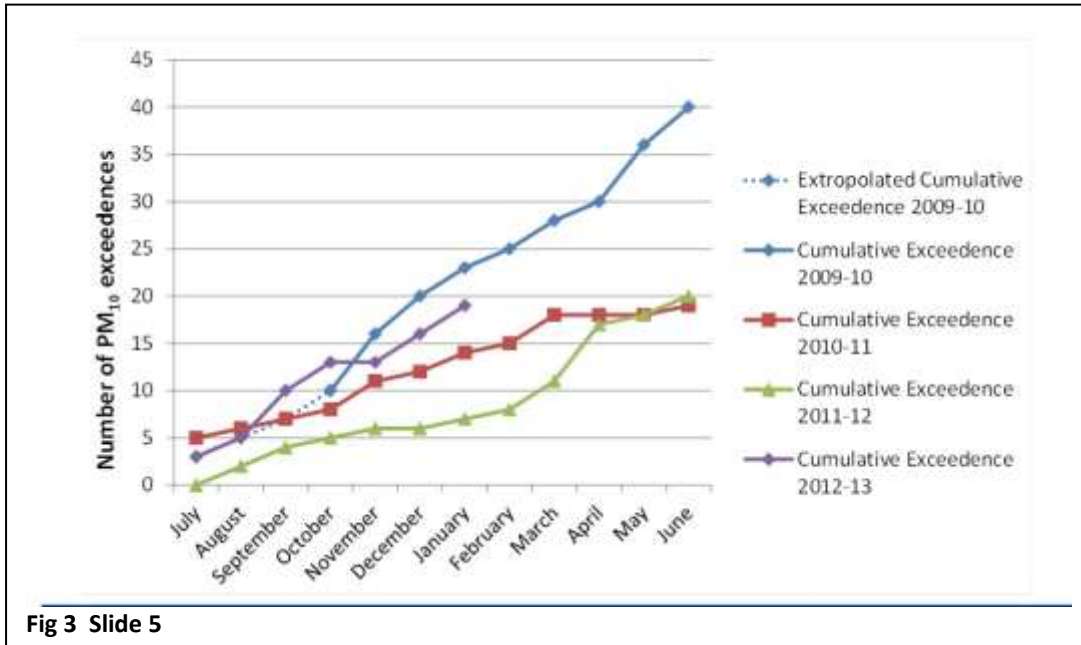


Fig 3 Slide 5

This graph shows each year of air monitoring since 2008 confirming that the high risk days are those when there is no rain.

- No rain for last ~3 days and strong, persistent northerly winds;
- Lower rainfall than past two years;
- Dust exceedences tracking slightly lower than 2009/10, but higher than 2010/11/12; and
- Poorest conditions are usually during the morning from 6-10am and this is due to traffic movement, primarily going in and out of industrial sites.

Comment: The Victorian Policy Goal is for no more than 5 exceedences per year above the 50 micrograms/m³ standard, we have exceeded the standard 21 times already in 2012/13

Slide 6 Days that exceed air quality objectives

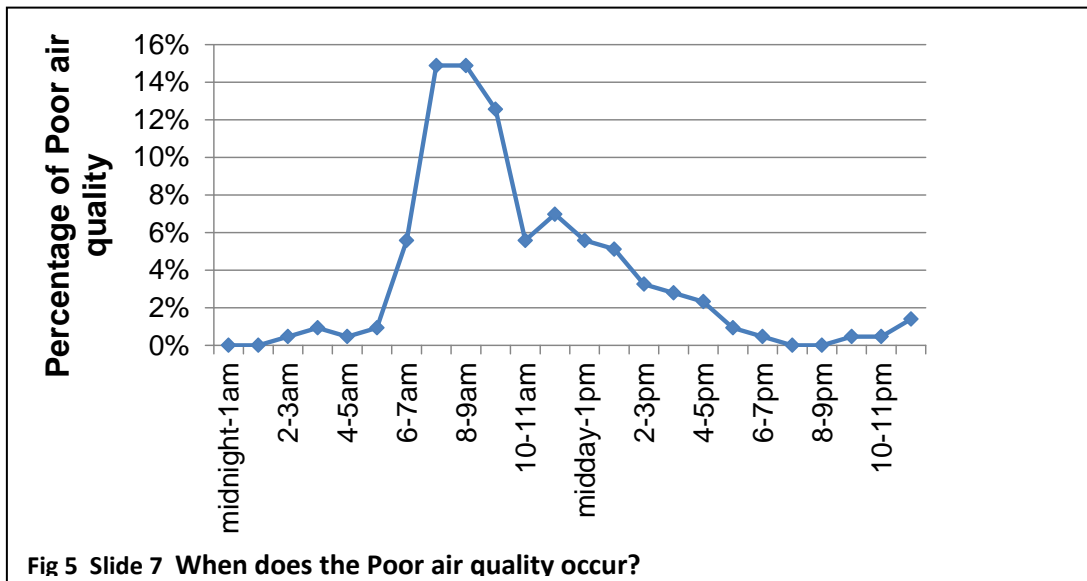
Time Period	Number of days that exceeded PM ₁₀ air quality objective	Number of dry days with consistent northerly winds that exceeded the PM ₁₀ air quality objective	Total number of dry days with consistent northerly winds	% of dry days with consistent northerly winds that exceed the PM ₁₀ air quality objective	Rainfall (mm)
Nov 2009 – Jan 2010	13	6	8	75%	132
Jul 2010 – Jan 2011	14	7	23	30%	526
Jul 2011 – Jan 2012	7	5	33	15%	354
Jul 2012 – Jan 2013	19	14	36	38%	193

Fig 4 Slide 5 Days that exceed air quality objectives

- More days with the right conditions to exceed
- Less rainfall, dryer ground conditions
- More of these types of days converted to exceedences.

Comment: The rest of Melbourne shows no exceedences because they are not near Brooklyn! These results are no better than 2 years ago. Need to pressure industry to act.

Slide 7 When does the Poor air quality occur?



- EPA continues to conduct surveillance activities on forecast high dust days
- Incidences of off-site dust continue to be observed
- Many companies are not implementing dust controls

Controls need to happen in the early morning to be effective.

Slide 8 From strategy to action - dust

- 7 Premises have already been issued PANs
 - Tasman Logistics (now in compliance)
 - Victorian Container Management
 - Container Logistics
 - Simsmetal
 - Slidexcross Transport
 - Allied Container Services
 - Delta Pty Ltd
- 5 Draft PANs issued in last approx. 4 weeks:
 - FBT Transwest
 - Western Land Reclamation
 - Brooklyn Materials Recovery
 - Tasty Chips (Michael Santalucia)
 - Rocke Brothers P/L
- A further 6 notices are planned before the end of March.
 - Chalmers
 - Onesteel
 - Transpacific Waste
 - Transpacific Cleanaway
 - Melbourne Reefer Services
 - Arrow Worldwide
- Requirements will include engineered controls

Comment (Jen Lilburn): More industries are attending BCRG including many listed by EPA which is important as it is providing an opportunity for industry to talk with the community.

Comment : There are still more business that are high risk and not being made to comply.

EPA Response (added when these notes were compiled). The list above includes the first phase of notices and are of higher priority (they include the larger companies in the area or companies where EPA has observed off-site dust and mud during surveillance operations in the area). EPA will eventually approach all companies with a risk of off-site dust in Brooklyn this includes approximately 30+ sites overall.

Slide 9 Why We Need to Keep Improving - Brooklyn is still well behind the rest of Melbourne

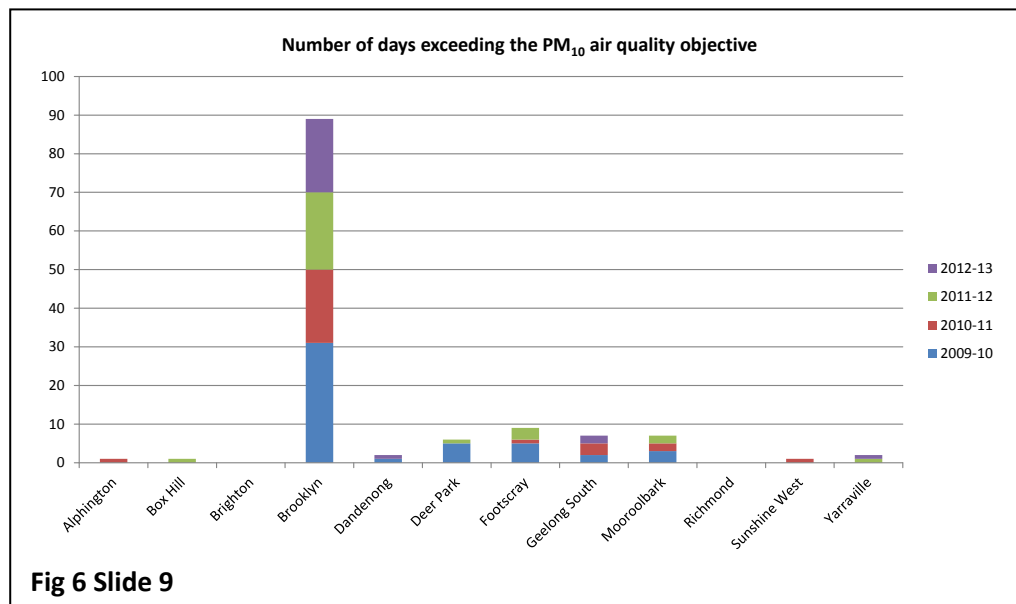


Fig 6 Slide 9

- Priority 2 of EPA strategy was working with the co-regulators to get improvements on the roads
- Meetings held with Councils and VicRoads
- Outcomes include commitment to ongoing relationship regarding roads maintenance and works
- Increase in road maintenance and commitment to road works
- Joint action plan being developed.

Question: In relation to a submission to the Senate enquiry, are you aware if this is the worst case of its kind in Australia?

Response (Richard Marks, EPA): I don't have that information but the EPA scientists may.

Action 4: Richard to follow up and if possible supply the statistics comparing Brooklyn to other sites in Australia. (It was agreed that this action would not be undertaken if it was deemed to be an onerous exercise).

Question: What progress is the EPA making with the container park operations that are still on unsealed premises in Hobsons Bay?

Response (Richard Marks, EPA): The EPA is working through the list of sites that seem to be the worst. It is also looking at longer term strategic controls which can be achieved through the planning scheme at Council level to prevent future permits being issued under similar circumstances to now. Currently there is a Practise Planning Note which exists but this can only be invoked if there is a planning permit application.

Question: Are these container parks operating under a current planning permit?

Response (Simon Vittorio, Brimbank CC): It is possible that at the time they were granted a permit, there may not have been requirement to seal the site. Council can't enforce the sealing of such sites after the permits were issued.

Comment: There are sites within Hobsons Bay where the permit requirements to seal their sites are not being met. We need the Councils to investigate these sites.

Comment: There are sites in South Brooklyn in particular along Clelland Rd where almost the whole block is totally unsealed and many with trucks entering.

Response (Chris Bydder, EPA): EPA uses a systematic approach and considered approximately 50 sites initially before focusing down on 18 priority sites (as presented earlier). These sites are mostly to the north of Brooklyn residents and therefore of higher risk. , We will be working through the list of other sites of lower priority beginning with surveillance, then further action. The message to smaller operators is that the EPA will eventually focus on those operations too.

Question: Is there a monitoring station and data from North Altona?

Response (Chris Bydder, EPA): There is a station at North Altona but the equipment is different at that station. All data from the monitoring stations is available on the [EPA website](#).

Question: There are 24 actions recommended in Brimbank's Brooklyn Evolution strategy for the medium to longer term which will require working with many agencies and take some time to progress. What is the EPA's perspective on the work currently being done with industry in relation to the long term objectives?

Response (Richard Marks, EPA): The long term objectives are important but we can't wait for the planning changes to be made as there is a known health impact occurring now and the EPA is working within the current legislation. The EPA is also working with Councils and VicRoads to try to amend the planning scheme in the medium term and the Brooklyn Evolution is working towards the long term solutions.

Question: How is the EPA interacting with the State based agencies in relation to the roads and dust so that industries can be assured that the roads will also be addressed?

Response (Richard Marks, EPA): The EPA Director and staff have met with senior VicRoads officials recently to discuss the issue of road verges and dust controls with positive messages resulting. One issue is the allocation of funding and the competing importance of Blackspot Funding for high road accident zones versus the dust and health impacts from roads.

Comment: Community consultation for the Metropolitan Planning Strategy is coming up.

Action 5: Jen Lilburn to supply information on Metropolitan Planning Strategy consultation.

Comment: The community is mostly interested in the short term solutions. VicRoads think they are doing a good job sweeping once a month but this not enough.

Response (Richard Marks, EPA): VicRoads has indicated that they are going to increase their sweeping. The EPA is going to add VicRoads to the contact list for notification of predicted extreme days.

Action 6: Jen Lilburn to go back to VicRoads and invite them to the next meeting.

Comment: Many of the industries north of Geelong Rd have a lot of complaints about dust and can't display their stock because of it however they don't know where to go to find help at EPA and Brimbank CC – there is a hole in the communication strategy.

The Community groups met last year with Anthony Elsbury MLC to discuss the dust and related health issues but have heard nothing heard back. Governments need to take action to resolve these issues.

Question: There have been many notices in the paper recently from Brimbank CC of enforcement being undertaken in the North Sunshine area and it gives the impression that there is a 'whole area' approach in Sunshine – can this approach be used in Brooklyn?

Response (Richard Marks, EPA): The North Sunshine experience is based on what has been done in Brooklyn. The issues in North Sunshine differ in that they relate to an industrial area with historically unregulated and illegal activities taking place and planning permit noncompliance.

Response (Simon Vittorio, Brimbank CC): Brimbank CC is focussing on both areas and a similar enforcement program will be undertaken in Brooklyn in the future.

Item 9. Matt Stanelos, Veolia - Clean Up Australia Day

Matt spoke of Veolia's long term Gold level sponsorship of Clean Up Australia Day. One of the sites this year is north and south of Federation Trail, Brooklyn, on March 3rd at 10am. 30-40 staff from Veolia will be in attendance. EPA, JBS Australia, Sunshine Groupe, BRAG, Brimbank CC have also been approached. All welcome. The full flyer is available in [Attachment 4](#).

Item 10. Cathy Palmer, Director, Australian Tallow Producers

Cathy's presentation can be seen in full in [Attachment 5](#).

Cathy gave an insight into the background of the family business, the current board structure, what their core business is, their partners and their commitment to the community. She also spoke at length about the environmental team at ATP and the work that is being done with the EPA to meet their licensing requirements.

In particular they are:

- Building a better "open door" relationship with the team at the EPA.
- Xmas 2012 - In agreement with the EPA, ATP reduced production over the Xmas period to minimise any potential risk of a negative impact on the local community.
- EPA now informs ATP of odour complaints enabling them to deal with them immediately.
- ATP is in constant communication with the EPA regarding the ongoing improvements to plant and site, they are making.
- ATP wants to further community engagement via open communication.

Other initiatives discussed included:

- The engagement of external professionals to assist with improving storm water and ducting
- The biofilter was recently refluffed
- Decision not to renew contract with a supplier
- Public face of ATP – Cathy or Leighton can be contacted directly any time!
 - Odour complaints direct to ATP:
 - Leighton Black – 0409 372 535
 - Cathy Palmer – 0417 504 579
 - www.australiantallow.com.au
- An offer to establish a sub-committee with residents if there was interest.

Question: As many of the odours are reported at night, what measures are in place for overnight issues?

Response (Cathy Palmer, ATP): Leighton Black is the first person to call, any time, and then Cathy Palmer. The plant operates overnight so he would then call the plant to investigate. If the plant was broken down for several hours then Leighton would notify the relevant agencies.

Comment: In the past odours have not always occurred when the plant is in operation but from waste outside. Leighton has been there when the community have detected odour and on one occasion Peter Morley attended and was not able to detect the smell himself indicating that perhaps he has become accustomed to the smell.

Response (Peter Morley, ATP): We will continue to respond to calls from the community to investigate incidents in the future.

Comment: Local business owner and resident Michael Sfetkidis commented on an incident in December when his staff of 20 was going to walk out due to the odour from ATP. Peter Morley came on site to investigate but was not able to detect the odour. Since then, Peter has responded to his calls and ensured action. Unfortunately the odour has often gone by the time by the time ATP is notified and someone comes to investigate. Michael is committed to supporting the residents of Brooklyn and fears that there will be more odour incidents in the future. He is also concerned that the EPA is a 'toothless tiger' and not as effective as other regulatory bodies such as WorkCover.

Response (Richard Marks, EPA): EPA is restricted in what it can do and can only succeed with cases that can be progressed through the courts and result in sufficient fines. EPA is working to help change the legislature. The community can write to their local Members to keep these issues on the agenda.

Comment: The community would like the State government to address the issue of 'prior use' permits – perhaps by introducing a sunset clause for those permit holders. It is not good enough that offending businesses are affecting the other businesses in the area and still affecting residents.

Question: What is going to be different in the response of ATP in the future?

Response (Cathy Palmer, ATP): Firstly, any complaints related to odour from urine and animals are not coming from ATP as there is no stock on the site. ATP has committed considerable expense to improving the biofilters which in the past 2 months has had a massive impact. There have only been 2 complaints with EPA since then. It was mentioned that someone had called ATP 10 times with no response. This is not acceptable and won't be tolerated. Cathy has also provided her own mobile number so that if Leighton is not available, she can respond herself.

Question: The production rate of the plant was reduced by 50% over Christmas. Is this a more realistic capacity for the plant, is it reducing the odour and what is long term future plan?

Response (Peter Morley, ATP): The commitment was to reduce overall production by a third while investigating the biofilter issues. It is intended to return production back to 100% with no odours. This involves looking at options regarding capacity and what investment is required for full odour control. Production will be balanced to ensure minimal impact.

Question: When did you come to Brooklyn - the company must have started below world standards?

Response (Cathy Palmer, ATP): ATP has been in Brooklyn 17 years. Before then it there was an abattoir and rendering plant and there were no odour controls in place at that time.

Question: Although you do not have livestock on site, the materials are still those from animals. How would you describe the odour from ATP?

Response (Cathy Palmer, ATP): There are livestock trucks that sometimes park out the front of ATP. The plant at ATP smells of cooking meat. Tallow does not have an unpleasant smell. The raw materials are stored in containers inside the plant and processed within 24 hours of delivery.

Comment: Part of the problem is that people struggle to properly describe the odour – they may think it is from urine but it may not be the case.

Response (Richard Marks, EPA): That is correct. The EPA gave some of its odour data to ATP to help them investigate potential sources of odour however it may be that the descriptions of odour are not accurate in the community reports.

Question: Why is cooking meat not on mentioned in your presentation as it is a terrible smell?

Response (Cathy Palmer, ATP): We acknowledge that the cooking meat smell is from our plant. Livestock odour is not from ATP.

Question: Do you notice odours from your neighbours? Once SITA left their site, the mask from the composting operation was removed and other odours became apparent. Need to separate the odours and their sources.

Response (Cathy Palmer, ATP): Part of the offer to form a residents committee would be to take tours of the site to highlight the proximity to and issues related to our neighbours such as Cedar Meats. The aim is ensure it is crystal clear when an odour is coming from ATP itself.

Question: When ATP is back in full production, how many hours a day will that be?

Response (Cathy Palmer, ATP): 24 hours a day including cleaning.

Comment: With respect to the proposed Subcommittee, we feel that the BCRG forum fulfils that role. There are over 40 industries in Brooklyn and the community could not begin to commit to attending these separately. However, we appreciate your invitation. There was general agreement to this comment.

Response (Cathy Palmer, ATP): Cathy will be attending BCRG forums in the future and thanked everyone for the feedback.

Question: Do you know what ATP's neighbouring businesses operating hours are as many of the odour complaints are after midnight – who is operating at that time?

Response (Cathy Palmer, ATP): I believe Cedar Meats operate from 5am to 3pm but don't know about the others.

Response (Peter Morley, ATP): It is important that the community contact ATP so each incident can be investigated e.g. as in the case with Richard Mataska, it was eventually identified that the smell he reported wasn't coming from ATP. Please contact ATP and we will respond.

Item 11. Christian Buxton, General Manager, Sunshine Groupe

Christian's presentation can be seen in full in [Attachment 6](#).

Christian spoke briefly on the background of the family-owned business and its operations. He gave detailed information on the nature of an underground fire in one of the cells in the landfill site that had been reported on the 22 November, 2012 and the measures deployed over 6 weeks to extinguish and monitor that fire. He also reported on the monitoring and compliance undertaken with the EPA in relation to the odour from the fire.

Item 12. Panel questions/discussion, Foti Beratis (MCC), Malcolm Ramsay (HBCC), Simon Vittorio (BCC), Christian Buxton (Sunshine Groupe).

Question 1 for Christian Buxton: The residents could smell the fire for over 12 months before your response 22 November 2012. How could you have missed this and did you only respond because the EPA approached you?

Response (Christian Buxton): I can only confirm that on 22 November we found there was an issue and have taken measures to address the issue. As it was submerged we didn't know it was as extensive as it was. This was a new issue for us and we were grateful for the help from the experienced EPA staff.

Question 2 for Christian Buxton: The odour from the fire was apparent for over 4 months and it took some time to identify it as coming from the landfill. Is there staff on site and if so how could it not have been noticed?

Response (Christian Buxton): There is one staff member on site who is responsible for site security. After 86 years in Brooklyn, Sunshine Groupe wants to be seen as responsible and so is generally vigilant for community concerns. I work on site but the fire was not noticed before November 22.

Question 3 for Christian Buxton: Can you confirm that Sunshine Groupe does not take putrescible waste?

Response (Christian Buxton): We do not take putrescible waste but our licence does allow us to do so. The licenses are publicly available on the EPA website.

Question 3 for Christian Buxton: In 2008 you applied to keep the ability to continue that waste - why?

Response (Christian Buxton): It was considered an advantage at the time but Sunshine Groupe has no intention of taking putrescible waste in the future.

Response (Chris Bydder, EPA): If another company takes over the site they would have to get a new license i.e. the license is with the company not the land.

Question 4 for Malcolm Ramsay: Do you know when the drinking fountains will be installed in DN Duanne Reserve?

Response (Malcolm Ramsay, HBCC): They should be installed in about 2 weeks.

Question 5 for Richard Marks: Is the EPA going to keep pressure on ATP beyond the next 6 months?

Response (Richard Marks, EPA): It is the role of the EPA to continue to monitor and enforce the licensing compliance. Engineering solutions will be required to stop incidents such as staff leaving doors open.

Update from Foti Beratis, Maribyrnong CC

Maribyrnong CC has met with VicRoads, EPA and industry to discuss the issue of road verges and suitable treatment to footpaths and nature strips. It is planned to reconstruct Alick Rd to deal with the verge issue, Council is working to undertake new tree planting project along Somerville Rd. Council has developed in conjunction with VicRoads the Brooklyn Amenity Improvement Project which if successful (subject to funding) will assist in dealing with the amenity issues associated with Brooklyn.

Update from Simon Vittorio, Brimbank CC

Simon's full report can be seen in **Appendix A**.

Since the last BCRG forum, a working group from BCC, EPA and MCC have met to discuss the issue of mud on the road verges. The dirt will be scraped from the verges of McDonald Rd, Somerville Rd and Market Rd. The costs will be covered by VicRoads or shared between VicRoads and Brimbank where appropriate.

Update from Malcolm Ramsay, Hobsons Bay CC HBCC are making a submission to the Senate enquiry into air quality.

The final two agenda items were put off due to time constraints.

Action 7: Andrea to send Jen's request for feedback and the information related to the Brooklyn website in an email update.

Meeting Closed: 9: 20

Meeting Attendance Record – 13 February, 2012

42 people registered their attendance at the desk:

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Alex Kozeniauskas	Delta Group	Jan Cole	Resident
Andrea Mason	Executive Officer, BCRG	Jane Nathan	Brimbank City Council
Anita Scorelia	EPA Victoria	Jen Lilburn	BCRG Chair
Annette Patrick	BRAG	Leighton Black	Aust Tallow Producers
Anthony Foley	Delta	Malcolm Ramsay	Hobsons Bay City Council
Bert Boere	BRAG	Martin Hermans	Resident
Bill Cole	Resident	Matt Rocke	Rocke Brothers
Brian Long	BRAG	Matt Stanelos	Veolia
Bruce Light	On The Nose	Michael Sfetkidis	Charters Paper
Bruce Howden	OneSteel	Olga Ghiri	Transpacific
Carmen Largaiolli	Resident	Peter Gaschk	Hobsons Bay City Council
Cathy Palmer	Aust Tallow Producers	Peter Morley	Aust Tallow Producers
Chris Bydder	EPA Victoria	Phillip McDonald	Hobsons Bay City Council
Christian Buxton	Sunshine Groupe	Richard Marks	EPA Victoria
Clare Lombardi	City West Water	Richard Mataska	Resident
Colin Frost	Resident	Sandra Wilson (Cr)	Hobsons Bay City Council
Foti Beratis	Maribyrnong City Council	Simon Vittorio	Brimbank City Council
Geoff Mitchelmore	Resident Altona North	Stuart Menzies	Brimbank City Council
Heath Davis	OneSteel	Susan Fitton	Brimbank City Council
Hector Burton	JBS Australia	Troy Kraska	EPA Victoria
Ian Butterworth	Maribyrnong City Council	Wade Noonan MP	Member for Williamstown

Apologies			
Colleen Gates (Cr)	Hobsons Bay City Council	Le Ha Le	Brooklyn Strategy Committee
Nick Fisher	VicRoads		

Notes were taken by Andrea Mason. Presenters were given the opportunity to review the notes relating to their item to ensure the discussion was accurately recorded. Additional comments received after the meeting have been highlighted as such.

Attachment 1 The presentation from Geoff Mitchelmore BRAG can be seen in full online at <http://www.brooklynip.com.au/bcrg-community-forum/>

Attachment 2 The presentation from Ray Martin, Brimbank CC can be seen in full online at <http://www.brooklynip.com.au/bcrg-community-forum/>

Attachment 3 The presentation from Richard Marks, EPA can be seen in full online at <http://www.brooklynip.com.au/bcrg-community-forum/>

Attachment 4 The Clean Up Australia flyer from Matt Stanelos, Veolia can be seen in full online at <http://www.brooklynip.com.au/bcrg-community-forum/>

Attachment 5 The presentation from Cathy Palmer, Australian Tallow Producers can be seen in full online at <http://www.brooklynip.com.au/bcrg-community-forum/>

Attachment 6 The presentation from Christian Buxton, Sunshine Groupe can be seen in full online at <http://www.brooklynip.com.au/bcrg-community-forum/>

Appendix A The following report was distributed by Simon Vittorio, Brimbank City Council.

Summary

The Council and EPA are continuing to work together on enforcement activities in the Brooklyn Industrial Precinct in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which acknowledges the joint responsibility Brimbank Council and the EPA have to improve the environmental outcomes within the municipality.

Under the MOU, Brimbank and EPA will jointly investigate and enforce complaints and collaborate on submissions and applications to VCAT. EPA also provides technical support to help guide Council in planning applications within buffer zones.

Council and EPA have been working closely to update the current MOU to ensure it remains relevant and achieves the best result for the community in Brooklyn, as well as other parts of Brimbank. It is anticipated that the revised MOU will be finalised within the next month.

Enforcement Activity

Since the last BCRG meeting Council's Planning Compliance Department has continued to pursue compliance with the Brimbank Planning Scheme in the Brooklyn Industrial Precinct by:

- Undertaking in-excess of 125 inspections of the Brooklyn Industrial Precinct to investigate potential non-compliant industries, complaints from the community and to meet with land owners and business operators to discuss opportunities to minimise off-site impacts of their operation.
- Working with the land owner of 69 Bunting Road to obtain compliance of all the current land uses on the site and to facilitate a longer term land use and development plan for the site.
- Continuing discussions with Powercor Australia to have the fence at the rear of 598C Geelong Road closed to prevent trucks accessing this site via 69 Bunting Road, which is contributing to dust on Bunting Road.
- Meeting with the EPA to share information and discuss how to tackle problem industries in the Brooklyn Industrial Precinct and other areas within Brimbank.

Road Verges in the Brooklyn Area

- Council initiated a working group with VicRoads, EPA and Maribyrnong City Council to discuss the issue of soil build up on verges along McDonalds, Somerville and Market Roads, and other roads within Brooklyn located outside of Brimbank.
- Council and VicRoads have agreed to jointly remove the soil build up along McDonalds, Somerville and Market Roads. The project will commence shortly and will be managed by VicRoads. The project is expected to cost between \$50,000 and \$80,000 and will be shared by both Council and VicRoads.
- The working group will meet again in mid-March and then on a quarterly basis to monitor progress and explore other options for improvement.

Bunting & Jones Road Scheme

- Council resolved to provide public notice of its intention to declare the Special Charges for Jones and Bunting Roads on 16 October 2012.
- An initial notice about the scheme was published by Council on 20 November 2012.
- A further notice was published on 4 December 2012 and letters were sent to "persons required to pay" for the Scheme.
- The date for written submissions closed 4 February 2013 and Council received both objections and requests "to be heard" in support of the Scheme.
- It is anticipated that a Special Committee of Council will hear submissions in April 2013.

Planning Compliance Team February 2013