



# Media release

The Hon Ryan Smith MP  
Minister for Environment and Climate Change  
Minister for Youth Affairs

Wednesday 17 July 2013

## Coalition Government funding to bust Brooklyn's dust problems

Environment and Climate Change Minister Ryan Smith today announced funding of \$900,000 from the Victorian Coalition Government's Sustainability Fund to Brimbank City Council to support sealing and other improvement works to Brooklyn's dustiest roads.

Mr Smith said the Coalition Government's action to fix air quality problems, which have plagued Brooklyn's residents over many years stood in stark contrast to the previous Labor Government's inaction during its 11 years in office.

"The Coalition Government promised at the last election to fix Labor's problems and today's funding announcement to assist Brimbank Council in tackling a major source of dust in the area will go a long way to improving local residents' quality of life," Mr Smith said.

Mr Smith said EPA research undertaken last year found about 50 per cent of dust in Brooklyn was caused by onsite industrial activity – with the remaining 50 per cent identified as coming from unsealed roads.

"The Coalition Government recognises the significant impact dust from unsealed roads is having on local air quality and is acting to address Brooklyn's dust issues by supporting practical, on the ground action."

"This funding contribution will support Brimbank City Council to seal problem roads such as Bunting and Jones Road as part of the Brooklyn Evolution Plan – Council's strategic vision to improve liveability in the area," Mr Smith said.

Mr Smith said the Coalition Government through the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) had worked closely with the Brooklyn community on both odour and dust issues in recent years.

As a result of this work, odour reports are at the lowest level since the EPA's reporting system began in 1996, however, dust remains a significant issue.

Since the EPA began dust monitoring in October 2009 there have been in excess of 100 days in which dust particles have exceeded the national clean air standard for PM10, which sets an air quality goal of no more than five days of exceedences annually.

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The PM10 measurement refers to particle matter 10 micrometres or less in size and is a key measure of air quality.

“Brooklyn residents have every right to feel frustrated at the ongoing dust problems impacting their community and the Coalition Government is committed to working in partnership with Brimbank Council to assist them in dealing with the issue,” Mr Smith said.

“I am confident in Brimbank City Council’s and the EPA’s strategic approach, which has been to systematically pinpoint and regulate dust and odour producing industry in Brooklyn.”

The EPA has issued close to 50 notices to businesses in the area to improve their onsite dust management practises.

Industry and residents have lived side by side in Melbourne’s western suburbs since the 1870s. There are more than 60 industries, including quarrying, a former landfill, abattoirs, material recycling, tallow producers and container storage.

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