

July 2013

This newsletter is produced and distributed by Brooklyn Residents Action Group Inc. to inform our sponsors /supporters of some of the exciting and interesting developments that are occurring along the Federation Trail in the Brooklyn area.

\$900K State Government funding to bust Brooklyn's dust problems.

On 17 July 2013 the State Government's Environment and Climate Change Minister, Ryan Smith MP, visited the Brooklyn Industrial Precinct to announce significant funding to assist Brimbank City Council undertake major upgrades to clean up Jones and Bunting Roads.

These two roads are unsealed and have been identified as major contributors to dust in Brooklyn.

The road upgrades include sealing and improvement works and will cost in the order of \$2.3 million. Of this the State Government has committed \$900,000, with around \$500,000 from Brimbank City Council and the remainder from contributions from adjoining landowners.

Mr Smith said in his press release on 17 July that the Coalition Government recognised 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.

"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."

"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."



Minister Ryan Smith with members of BRAG.

In response, local State Member, Wade Noonan MP, welcomed the State Government's decision to provide funding, saying: "The decision by the State Government to provide funding to support sealing works for Bunting and Jones Road is a victory for the local community."

"I welcome the Minister's personal support for these improvement works." Mr Noonan said.

"It needs to be understood that there are over fifty recommendations in the Brooklyn Evolution Strategy that target infrastructure, urban design, environmental improvements, monitoring and enforcement, and planning. Fixing a couple of roads is only part of the solution and a wise government would acknowledge that there is still a great deal of work to be done to turn around decades of environmental neglect across the industrial precinct."

"I acknowledge that local residents have lived under a layer of dust and with putrid odour for far too long and they want change. My job is to help deliver that change."

"I particularly want to thank and congratulate the hard-working volunteers of the Brooklyn Resident Action Group and On the Nose. None of this would have been possible without their relentless push for change."

Nanny state at an end for feral goats:

Article courtesy of Goya Dmytryshchak, Maribyrnong & Hobsons Bay Weekly



Time's up: The herd of feral goats in Brooklyn numbered about 80 before the animals were captured.

No kidding, it was a sight to behold.

About 60 feral goats were rounded up on Sunday along the Federation Trail at Brooklyn.

The herd is believed to have originated from four goats that possibly escaped from a nearby abattoir or paddock. The herd grew to about 80, eating their way through trees along the creek and intimidating cyclists and pedestrians on the Federation Trail.

Melbourne Water engaged a contractor who managed to round up about 20, but some slipped through the net, and with National Tree Day approaching, Friends of Lower Kororoit Creek president Geoff Mitchelmore wasn't taking any chances. On July 28, his group will plant about 1500 trees and shrubs - not for the goats to eat.

So Mr Mitchelmore enlisted a helping hand from Tallarook in central Victoria. "He's a goat farmer," Mr Mitchelmore said. "They came down on Sunday and rounded them up with a dog and loaded them up in a trailer." The billies - there were about 20 - will go to an abattoir. The nannies will be reunited with their kids and enjoy life at a children's farm in Tallarook.

People are invited to join the "friends" in revegetating the creek corridor from 10am on July 28. The meeting point is Clelland Road in Altona North, with a free barbecue to follow. (It won't feature goat.)

Brooklyn Industrial Precinct Strategy:

The City of Brimbank engaged Meinhardt Infrastructure and Environment P/L to prepare a structure plan for the Brooklyn Industrial Precinct in 2011, the Plan and Urban Design Framework along with an implementation plan being adopted by Brimbank Council in October 2012. [http://www.brimbank.vic.gov.au/About Council/Governance/Council Policies, Strategies Plans/Council Strategies/Brooklyn Industrial Precinct Strategy/Brooklyn Industrial Strategy](http://www.brimbank.vic.gov.au/About%20Council/Governance/Council%20Policies,%20Strategies%20Plans/Council%20Strategies/Brooklyn%20Industrial%20Precinct%20Strategy/Brooklyn%20Industrial%20Strategy).

Brooklyn Overall:

The changes and activities by the State and Local Government Agencies in the Brooklyn area over the past two years have seen the environment around Brooklyn being altered dramatically for the better. It is essential that BRAG Inc. is supported by you, the Brooklyn community, to ensure that the effort being made by these bodies continues, thus further improving our environment. If you can attend the BRAG Inc. meetings, and have your say, it would be very much appreciated as the more visible the support, the easier it will be to achieve continuing and further improvements in our area.

BRAG Inc. General Meeting Dates: <http://www.brooklynip.com.au/brag-news/>

The BRAG Inc. General Meetings are held quarterly, our next meeting to be held at the Brooklyn Hall, Cypress Avenue, Brooklyn, commencing at 7pm is scheduled for Wednesday 25 September 2013 – **PLEASE COME.**

This newsletter has been printed courtesy of Wade Noonan MP, State Member for Williamstown.