

BCRG COMMUNITY FORUM 2/2014

14 May, 2014

6:00pm for 6:30 – 8:40 pm

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

1. Welcome, Jen Lilburn

Apologies, Confirm previous draft meeting notes.

Use of information from BCRG - keeping communication open

Action 140514_1: Jen and Andrea to add a statement to the meeting notes that the intention of the notes is to promote open communication.

2. YOTN Update, Bruce Light

Action 140514_2: Jen to write to John Merritt extending our thanks from the BCRG members.

3. BRAG Update, Bert Boere

Action 140514_3: Andrea to promote the planting event via enews update.

4. Living Brooklyn Update, (Tashia Dixon, Brimbank City Council)

5. Cargill - Update on Odour Management Program, (Joe Coleiro, Environmental Supervisor, Cargill)

6. Update on audit of stockpiles and managing them into the future, (Simon Vittorio & Susan Fitton, Brimbank City Council)

Action 140514_4: Jen to invite potential nominees via email to be part of a working group dedicated to crafting an appropriate letter to councils from BCRG.

7. EPA Victoria Update on dust, noise and odour program (Richard Marks, Manager – Metro, EPA)

8. Regeneration Project and Landfill Rehabilitation Works (Kieren McDermott, Environmental Specialist, TPI)

9. Panel

Malcolm Ramsay (Hobsons Bay CC), Ian Butterworth (Maribyrnong CC)

Simon Vittorio (Brimbank CC), Richard Marks (EPA)

Joe Coleiro (Cargill), Kieren McDermott (TPI)

Action 140514_5: Andrea to provide the email subscription url and appropriate text to interested BCRG members, councils representatives and community groups for their websites and other communications.

The intent of these meeting notes is to promote open communication between local business, local and state government, community and the EPA. They are not to be used in a manner that compromises this objective.

Notes from this meeting will be posted on 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 to the forum and reminded everyone of the forum's purpose. Jen took the opportunity to ask everyone to introduce themselves. Jane Nathan was congratulated on receiving the Victorian Planning & Environmental Law Association, Richard J Evans award.

Jen led a discussion on the value of having open communication and the dilemma of the notes being used recently during a VCAT hearing. Do the comprehensive nature of the notes leave it open for people to be compromised by this high level of detail – where is the balance?

Comments included:

- Compliments were extended on the nature of the minutes.
- As this is only one example in the whole time of BCRG and given its value as an open communication it shouldn't be allowed to impact on the current system.
- The notes are reviewed by the speakers before they are distributed to ensure that they are correct and not misinterpreted by the note taker.
- Was someone really compromised to the extent that there needs to be a change?
- There hasn't been a need in this forum to invoke confidentiality before.
- The notes foster links between industries, community and government departments.
- The notes are a valuable resource to those who can't get to the meetings.
- We should continue with the current standard but with a statement that clarifies the intent of the notes.

Action 140514_1: *Jen and Andrea to add a statement to the meeting notes that the intention of the notes is to promote open communication.*

Apologies received included Minister Ryan Smith, Andrew Elsbury MLC and Cr Michael Clarke. (see Attendee list at the end of these notes). Tashia Dixon, Living Brooklyn was unable to attend and was withdrawn from the agenda. Jen thanked Foti Beratis (Maribyrnong CC) for his work with BCRG over many years given his advice that he will be a less regular participant.

The draft meeting notes from the previous meeting on the 12th February 2014 were confirmed as accurate.

Item 2. Bruce Light, Yarraville on the Nose (YOTN)

Bruce acknowledged and extended his thanks on behalf of YOTN to John Merritt who has moved from CEO of EPA Victoria to CEO of VicRoads. The success of BCRG in part reflects the work John has done leading cultural change within EPA which enabled many of the changes to compliance and enforcement and has greatly improved the Brooklyn area.

Action 140514_2: *Jen to write to John Merritt extending our thanks from the BCRG members.*

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

Bert provided an update on the next public planting day on Federation Trail on the 29th June.

He thanked all the contributors to this project including Friends of Lower Kororoit Creek, Yarraville On the Nose, VicRoads, Melbourne Water, Brimbank CC, EPA Victoria, Sunshine Groupe, Transpacific Industries, APA Groups, Delta Demolitions, Australian Tallow Producers, Cedar Meats, Burns Earthmoving, Cargill Australia, City Circle Demolitions, JBS Australia, Veolia Environmental Services, Sims Metal Management Marks Henderson, Fulton Hogan, Toyota, Millers Inn, Bakers Delight, Dept of Primary Industries 2 Million Trees Project and Corrections Victoria.

Geoff Mitchelmore added that he will be asking businesses, agencies and others to participate on the day.

***Action 140514_3:** Andrea to promote the planting event via enews update.*

Item 4. Tashia Dixon, Living Brooklyn was a late apology.

Item 5. Joe Coleiro, Environmental Supervisor, Cargill – Update on Odour Management Program

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

Joe gave an overview of the history and current operation of Cargill at their Brooklyn plant and the journey the company has undertaken in order to address the issue of odour emissions that impact on the Brooklyn community. In particular he discussed the failure of early engineering interventions, subsequent improvements to plant infrastructure and biofilter systems, establishment of a dedicated odour unit, changes required in work practices and work culture and ongoing monitoring of these programs.

Environmental impact and odour control is now firmly established as core business at Cargill.

Question: Is it the case that apart from the external influences of EPA monitoring and community complaints, increases in production at the plant and therefore odour would have forced Cargill to acknowledge that change was required?

Response (Joe Coleiro, Cargill): The volume in production has not changed significantly in 30 years although the type of seeds crushed has changed from soy and sunflower to canola. The crush rate has increased in recent times but the odour footprint hasn't changed greatly.

Response (Kim Woodburn, Cargill): The culture is changing continuously. The Cargill staff lacked awareness in environmental issues and the staff was conditioned to the smell and didn't notice it! They needed to be made aware of the impact and the environmental footprint of the plant. There is an ongoing need to re-educate all new staff to the plant to maintain the new standards of operation.

Comment: Yarraville On the Nose appreciates the efforts Cargill makes to engage with community, hold open days and the general readiness of the business to acknowledge and act upon the concerns of the community.

Comment (Jen Lilburn): It is a welcome change for BCRG to be approached by an industry keen to talk at the BCRG forum about the journey they have embarked upon as Cargill has done.

Comment: The Cargill Open days held every six months are well worth attending to see the improvements first hand.

Question: Have there been any odour complaints since 2011?

Response (Joe Coleiro, Cargill): There haven't been any odour complaints for several years. Cargill is in a 'sustaining' phase at the moment.

Response (Kim Woodburn, Cargill): Cargill cannot become complacent and believe that there won't be odour ever again. Cargill needs to continue to increase our awareness and stay one step ahead to prevent future odour events.

Item 6. Simon Vittorio, Strategic Coordinator Planning Compliance and Susan Fitton, Strategic Sites Officer, Brimbank City Council - Update on audit of stockpiles and managing them into the future
Simon's presentation can be seen in full in [Attachment 2](#).

Jen Lilburn discussed the advice received from the planning legal team at Department of Transport Planning and Local Infrastructure regarding existing use rights and the difficulties that prevent changes being made to that legislation. This information was sent out in [BCRG Update 07 2014](#). The Brimbank CC team and the Living Brooklyn project are endeavouring to facilitate a positive change in the way industry operates.

Comment: This issue is still important because there remains the potential in the future of having industries, not just in Brooklyn, operating under conditions that are 20 years out of date. Current legislation needs to be changed.

Simon discussed the progress to date in addressing the issue of stockpiles. In particular BCC has had discussions with Delta and City Circle in relation to improvements and amended planning permits to address stockpile height and bund wall maintenance. The emphasis is on reducing the impact of wind on stockpiles, landscaping and improved drainage to reduce mud.

BCC discussions with Sunshine Groupe remain positive and it is hoped that an amended planning permit application will be lodged soon.

BCC is continuing to work with EPA to improve off site dust issues in the area.

Susan outlined the work BCC officers are undertaking discussions in conjunction with EPA to improve management tools for the stockpiles such as the practice notes, guidelines, and advisory notes but all these require Ministerial intervention to achieve results. Many of these tools cannot be applied retrospectively. All the active sites Simon mentioned have existing permits allowing the current operations. Through discussion with EPA, Brimbank CC concedes that is not in a position nor has the expertise to undertake changes to the legislation. BCC would be able to write a letter to the Minister for Planning and the Minister for Environment about these gaps in the planning scheme related to the stockpile issues. The community to assist through some form of advocacy.

Question: If Council is writing to the Ministers, what form of advocacy and what is the best way forward for the community?

Response (Susan Fitton, Brimbank CC): BCRG and the community are better placed to decide how that advocacy could take place.

Question: What is the timeframe in which BCC will write to the Ministers and when would the community need to prepare the support measures?

Response (Jane Nathan, Brimbank CC): In order to initiate the letter, Brimbank CC and the other councils need some form of request from BCRG or the community outlining the issues such as the gap in planning regulations in relation to the management of the stockpiles and asking the councils to address these with the relevant Ministers.

Response (Chris Bydder, EPA): Perhaps it would be better to ask for nominations to form a mixed group to craft a letter and utilising the expertise and strength of BCRG including councils, industry, and community.

Question: Will industries support this proposed letter when some are breaching their permits by allowing dust to impact offsite?

Response (Simon Vittorio, Brimbank CC): Generally industries should be supportive. All new permits do stress that impacts must not be allowed outside the property. Most industries do undertake dust mitigation on windy days. The bund walls are to be used to help reduce the wind.

Question: Is there enough time to craft such a letter from BCRG before the next BCRG?

Response (Jen Lilburn): We can endeavour to do this but it must be remembered that BCRG has no formal membership and no decision making authority.

Action 140514_4: Jen to invite potential nominees via email to be part of a working group dedicated to crafting an appropriate letter to councils from BCRG.

Question (Wade Noonan MP) It is important that the link between this process and the environmental impact clearly shows the reasons why you would reduce stockpiles. Has there been any research undertaken that can substantiate this? Ministers must be clear that there will be an environmental change for the advocacy to be effective.

Response (Chris Bydder, EPA): There have been studies undertaken in the USA but not in this area. EPA has evidence of dust leaving these sites.

Comment: The process undertaken when the PM₁₀ standards were established in Australia would probably have drawn on evidence from overseas. There is a link between PM₁₀ particles and health issues which could support the claims.

Response (Richard Marks, EPA): Although there is certainty around the link between PM₁₀ and health issues, it would be difficult to link this to bund walls and dust impacts in Brooklyn.

Question: What is the base level for the stockpile at Delta? What happened to the baseline settings?

Response (Simon Vittorio, Brimbank CC): Base levels have been set and vary from site to site. City Circle will always appear to be higher as its base level is taken from the top of the old landfill whereas Delta is operating from ground level.

Response (Susan Fitton, Brimbank CC): City Circle cannot dig into landfill to reduce the height. Its base level is 6m above the Jones Rd height.

Question: What are the requirements for Fulton Hogan?

Response (Simon Vittorio, Brimbank CC): Fulton Hogan currently has no controls on their planning permit. BCC strategy is to focus on those businesses with permits first before addressing those that do not.

Item 7. Richard Marks, Manager - Metro, EPA Victoria, Update on dust and odour

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

Odour update

Richard reported that the number of odour reports is currently the lowest in six years averaging 10- 15 reports per month.

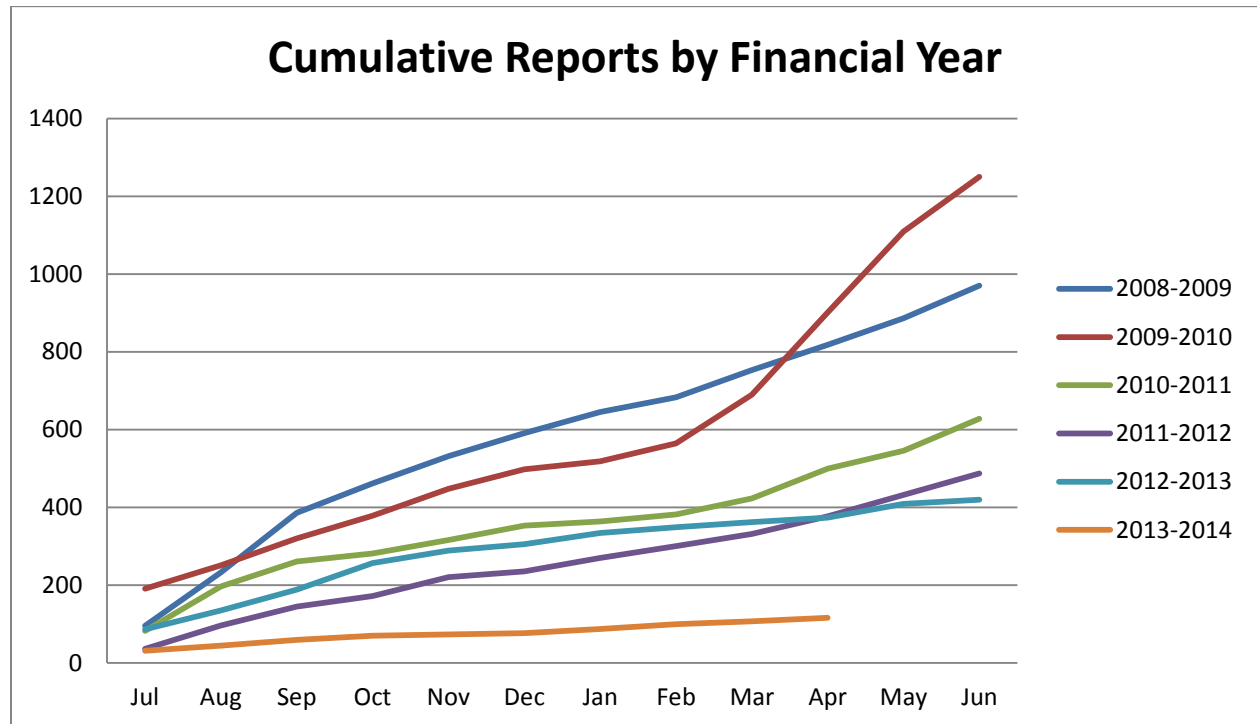


Fig 1. Cumulative odour reports

Dust update

Air quality exceedences in January and February of this year were the worst since monitoring began. The overall results showed a positive trends as long term improvements continue to be installed.

- 14 exceedences during Q3 2013/14
 - 13 between Jan and Feb
 - 5 due to other factors – bushfires in Feb, dust storms in January
- Likely contributors:
 - Dry conditions (7th driest Jan-Mar period since 1941)
 - Long term engineered controls yet to be implemented
 - Dust produced from main unsealed roads (planned to be sealed – assistance through \$900,000 from State government)

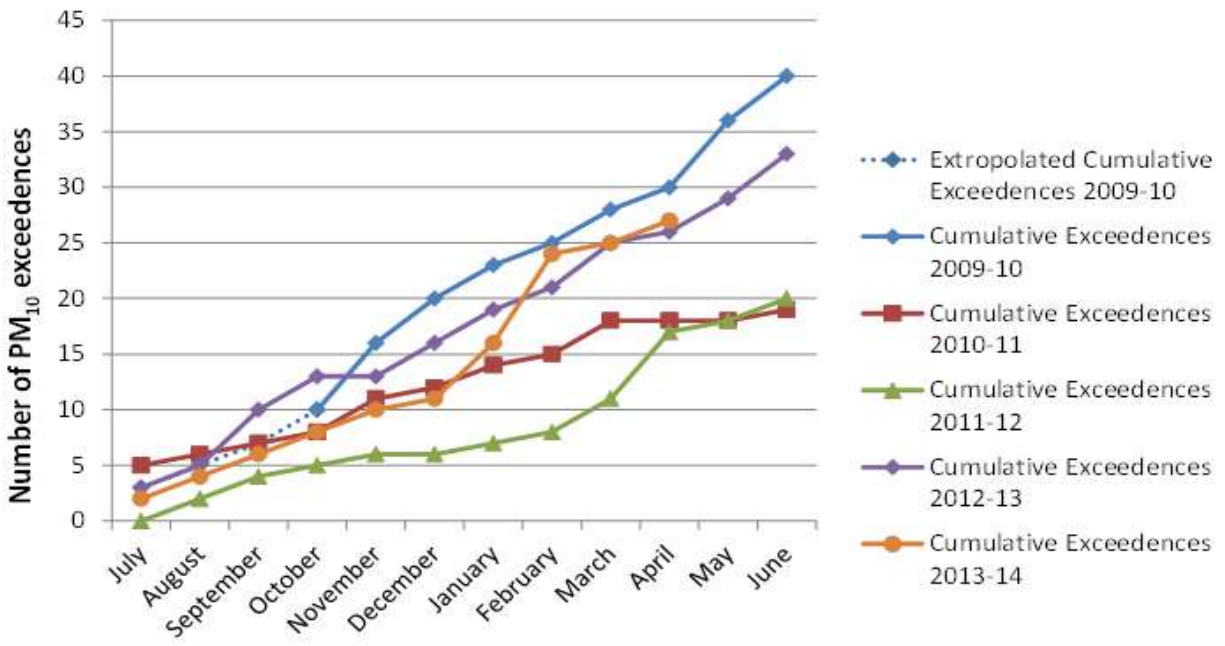


Fig 2 Days that exceed air quality objectives

Roads Update

The Brimbank, Maribyrnong and Hobson Bay councils and VicRoads are working together to address the mud and dust on the road verges.

Engineering works on roads:

- Verges on Somerville Road and McDonald Road,
- Fixes on Francis St
 - works to be completed by July 2014

Planned:

- Alick/Frederick Road
- Jones Road and Bunting Road (long term)

Progress (industrial sites)

- 15 inspections during Quarter 3
 - 6 new Pollution Abatement Notices
 - 5 PAN revoked due to being complied with
 - Delta Recycling Pty Ltd
 - Onesteel
 - Simsmetal
 - N Santalucia and Sons P/L
 - FBT Transwest
 - 3 sites being investigated (likely enforcement action)
 - Tracking of approx. 30 current Pollution Abatement Notices through ongoing inspections



Fig 3 Dust Compliance Activity – Brooklyn

Key: Yellow - inspections completed, Green – final notice issued, Purple – complied with notice, Blue – under or proposed permit control, Red – verges/road upgraded

EPA is still inspecting all sites shown in Figure 3 including those with their Pollution Abatement Notices (PANs) revoked. Investment by industry to comply is significant amounting to millions of dollars

Lesson – industry must continue to invest and work to control and implement change.

Feedback - Social Research

This research project used an agency to call approx. 200 people and ask a series of questions related to EPA organisational change and community perception. It targeted the Brooklyn and Clayton South areas and included people who have actively reported incidences to EPA plus randomly selected community members.

Key findings include:

- 40% of Brooklyn residents living less than 500 metres from a known pollution source felt that the odour in their area had improved over the last 12 months

- At least half of all reporters and residents in Brooklyn felt that each of EPA activities they were aware of had helped improve the local environment
- Reporters mainly agreed that directing funds from prosecuted companies toward local environmental projects had helped improve the local environment

Discussion point:

- Reporters mainly disagreed that the action plan to address dust had helped improve the local environment, and that EPA issuing 25 new pollution abatement notices would help improve the community in the future.

Richard thanked Troy Kraska from the EPA for his work in developing the social research project and liaison with the councils. Troy will be moving to another position in EPA and will no longer be involved with the Brooklyn project.

Industry and community environmental citizenship awards.

This award was presented by the EPA and the recipients had been nominated by EPA staff. Richard congratulated Bert Boere and Geoff Mitchelmore on receiving this award and thanked them for their hard work over many years.

Question: Has there been any announcement regarding the old Powercor site??

Response (Jane Nathan, Brimbank CC): There is no official news at present.

Question: Why are the scraped roadside verges still covered in dirt with no plant growth and still quite high?

Response (Chris Bydder, EPA) The work is still underway and planting will occur when conditions allow. VicRoads and MCC are doing a good job and it is expected to be complete by the end of financial year.

Item 8. Kieren McDermott, Environmental Specialist, Transpacific, Regeneration Project and Landfill Rehabilitation Works

Kieren's presentation can be seen in full in [Attachment 4](#).

Kieren gave an update on the rehabilitation works on the Old Geelong Landfill site that adjoins Kororoit Creek. (TPI also owns property in Market Rd which is currently being capped and Kieren hopes to give a presentation on this in the future.)

The sites have now all had top soil applied. Stages 1 & 2 have been seeded and Stages 3 & 4 are mostly top soiled and seeded and the final areas will be completed as soon as weather conditions are favourable.

A landscaping trial area of 1 to 2 ha along the Kororoit Creek embankment, based on Ian Taylor's plans and using local plant species, will be undertaken with community consultation and involvement. The balance of the landscaping (approx. 8 ha) will take place in 2015 based on learnings from the trial. Plans are to be finalised next week then distributed to stakeholders including community groups and Melbourne Water.

Kieren also gave an overview of the changes to the stockpile management. The massive wood pile was unsightly but is now being chipped which improves the look of the site and helps reduce litter.

Other improvements included new gas wells to monitor unexpected gas migration off site, purchase of a sweeper and water truck and sealing of the transfer station front entrance by the end of July 2015.

Question: Are you planning to plant in August as that is very late for that site? June July would be optimal.

Response (Kieren McDermott, TPI) Planting should be completed by the end of July however Transpacific is guided by Ian Taylor and Melbourne Water.

Question: Are goats still there and a threat to the revegetation?

Response (Kieren McDermott, TPI) The goats have been removed.

Question: What are the plans for the escarpment at Jones Road plans?

Response (Kieren McDermott, TPI) There are no plans developed yet but TPI will consult with the community as part of the Kororoit Creek planting and some landscaping will be able to be done to improve the Jones Rd embankment.

Item 9. Panel questions/discussion Ian Butterworth (MCC), Malcolm Ramsay (HBCC), Simon Vittorio (BCC), Richard Marks (EPA), Joe Coleiro (Onesteel), Kieren McDermott (TPI)

Question 1 for Richard Marks (EPA)

There is a large and unmade site on Paramount Rd with a history of illegal dumping of tailings, then it was capped with gravel and now dirt. A lot of mud is being tracked onto the road. What measures are being undertaken to address this?

Response – Richard Marks. The two companies occupying that site have both been issued with Pollution Abatement Notices to address this issue.

Question 2 for Richard Marks (EPA)

Do you know what is being currently built on a site along Somerville Rd between McDonald and Market Roads?

Response – Chris Bydder: The site is being developed by Container Logistics who are moving to a purpose-built sealed site using best practices for container parks. It is in a high profile location and will be a great example of the type of change we need for Brooklyn.

Question 3 for Kieren McDermott (TPI)

Did TPI require a planning permit from Brimbank CC to undertake the improvements at the entrance to the Old Geelong Rd Transfer station?

Response – Kieren McDermott: No permit was required for sealing the road to control the dust and there is no shed or other infrastructure being built that would require a permit. These improvements are part of the long term vision for TPI in Brooklyn.

Comment: If Brooklyn is to continue to be a recycling collection point for Melbourne then the facilities need to be of 21st century standard.

Question 4 for Simon Vittorio (BCC)

Can you give an update on the Jones and Bunting Rd process at VCAT from here?

Response – Chris Bydder: VCAT is half way through the Jones Rd hearing and the Bunting Rd hearing is expected to take place in September. The dates of hearings are publically available on the [VCAT website](#).

Question 5 for Jen Lilburn

What is the number of people and the reach of the email updates through BCRG and what can we do to increase that?

Response – Jen Lilburn: There are approximate 240 addresses on the list but BCRG does not send unsolicited emails. It is possible for existing subscribers to forward the email updates on. Newcomers can subscribe directly to the email list and there is a link that can be used on any website or newsletter e.g. the councils, industries and community groups that allows people to subscribe to the updates.

Action 140514_5: *Andrea to provide the email subscription url and appropriate text to interested BCRG members, councils representatives and community groups for their websites and other communications.*

Community satisfaction

Jen asked participants to put dots on the survey on their way out to gauge community satisfaction regarding processes to resolve odour and dust problems in the general Brooklyn area. See the results in [Appendix A](#).

Jen thanked everyone for their contribution throughout the meeting.

Meeting Closed: 8:30pm

Attachment 1 The presentation from Joe Coleiro, Cargill can be seen on the [Brooklynip website](#)

Attachment 2 The presentation on the stockpile update from Simon Vittorio, Brimbank CC can be seen in full on the [Brooklynip website](#)

Attachment 3 The presentation from Richard Marks, EPA Victoria can be seen in full on the [Brooklynip website](#)

Attachment 4 The presentation from Kieren McDermott, Transpacific can be seen in full on the [Brooklynip website](#)

Meeting Attendance Record – 14 May, 2014

35 people registered their attendance.

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Andrea Mason	Executive Officer, BCRG	Joe Coleiro	Cargill
Anita Scordia	EPA Victoria	John Fawcett	City West Water
Ashley Hansen	Brimbank City Council	Kieren McDermott	Transpacific
Ashley Laubsch	Cedar Meats	Kim Woodburn	Cargill
Bert Boere	BRAG	Laurie Bell	BRAG
Bill Cole	Resident	Leighton Black	Australian Tallow Producers
Brendan Murphy	Hobsons Bay City Council	Malcolm Ramsay	Hobsons Bay City Council
Bruce Light	On The Nose	Mark Caval	Stan Cash
Carmen Largaiolli	Resident	Matt Skidmore	City Circle Demolitions
Cathy Palmer	Aust Tallow Producers	Olga Ghiri	Transpacific
Chris Bydder	EPA Victoria	Richard Marks	EPA Victoria
Geoff Mitchelmore	Resident Altona North	Sandra Wilson Cr	Hobsons Bay City Council
Heath Davies	One Steel	Sheryl-Lea Lucas	Prixcar Services
Ian Butterworth	Maribyrnong City Council	Simon Vittorio	Brimbank City Council
Jack Lacy	Monash University	Susan Fitton	Brimbank City Council
Jan Cole	Resident	Troy Kraska	EPA Victoria
Jane Nathan	Brimbank City Council	Wade Noonan MP	Member for Williamstown
Jen Lilburn	BCRG Chair		

Apologies			
Andrew Elsbury MLC	Member for Western Metropolitan Region	Cr Michael Clarke	Maribyrnong City Council
Foti Beratis	Maribyrnong City Council	Ryan Smith MP	Minister for Environment and Climate Change
Helen Paterson	Container Logistics	Stuart Menzies	Brimbank City Council
Marko Nastic	VicRoads	Tashia Dixon	Brimbank City Council
		Tony Kairouz	Cedar Meat Processors

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.

Appendix A: BCRG participant satisfaction regarding processes to resolve odour and dust problems in the general Brooklyn area.

