



BROOKLYN COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE GROUP

***OUR PURPOSE:** to facilitate community, industry, local government and EPA working together to ensure that public concerns and aspirations regarding odour, noise and dust in the general Brooklyn area are consistently understood and considered.*

NOVEMBER 2015 MEETING SNAPSHOTS

Thanks all round – at last the sealing of Jones Rd and Bunting Rd is complete!!

There was applause all round for the completion of the sealing of Jones and Bunting Roads.

Jane Nathan, Administrator for Brimbank CC, applauded the efforts of the community volunteers who have been the champions for change and provided the impetus and direction for all levels of government and agencies to contribute financially to this project. Jane said the Certificates of Recognition, which were awarded at the opening on November 6th to Geoff Mitchelmore for Friends of Kororoit Creek, Bert Boere for Brooklyn Residents Action Group and Bruce Light for Yarraville On the Nose, were well deserved.



Bruce Light (YOTN) acknowledged the efforts of BCRG in keeping everyone together over a sustained period to effect change.

The expected 30% reduction in dust levels will be a win for residents and workers in local business.



Jones Rd

From this in 2011



To this now



Bunting Rd

From this in 2011



To this now



Ray Martin, Brimbank CC gave an update on engineering operations for the project and the 560 trees which have been planted to enhance the amenity. Groundcover and swale vegetation is planned for 2016 when weather conditions are suitable.

There is still some dirt being tracked onto the new road but it is now easy to detect the source and Brimbank CC will be monitoring this closely. Some adjoining businesses are planning new asphalt entrance and wheel wash facilities.

Old Geelong Rd has 260 new bollards although have some already knocked down. Council surveyors will begin designing the kerbing, channels and landscaping in the new year for submission to Council budgets.



City Circle Demolitions – site upgrade report, Matt Skidmore, Operations Manager



Matt gave an overview of the family-owned business that moved to Jones Rd Brooklyn ten years ago. The main business is the recycling and crushing of construction and demolition waste for reuse in civil engineering projects such as roads and footpaths as a replacement for natural quarry products.

Trucks bring the material to the site where it is wet down and then tipped into piles until it is crushed. The final product is then trucked to jobs. It is a requirement that the material has at least a 12% moisture content at all times.

The City Circle site operates within the scope and conditions of a formal **Site Environmental Management Plan (SEMP)**, which is designed to protect health and wellbeing of workforce, public and amenity of surrounding neighbourhood.

The SEMP promotes efficient operation of all site based activities and ensures effective environmental management is implemented, maintained and enforced to ensure:

- Effective dust and noise suppression procedures are in place and implemented at each stage of the recycling process.
- Proper environmental maintenance of internal and external roads, stockpiles and hardstands.
- Mud and surface debris is not tracked onto public access roads in the vicinity of the site.

In an attempt to minimise City Circle's impact on the Brooklyn community the following works have been undertaken:

- *Environmental Manager – new position to monitor dust and mud management*
- *Sealing of Entrance Road*
- *Upgrade of Wheel Washing system including sealing the road either side*
- *Additional Wheel Wash added*



- *Reconstruction of bund walls so that it can be revegetated*



A **bund wall** is a constructed retaining wall around storage where potentially polluting substances are handled, processed or stored. Bunds are built to minimise escape of material from that area. In Brooklyn these are constructed from stockpile material and/or soil.

Community participants of the meeting were concerned that the high bund walls contribute to airborne dust. They were informed that the bunds must be vegetated to be effective and that they are partially mulched in preparation for planting.

Matt was keen to convey the genuine intention of City Circle to work with BCC and EPA to reduce impacts on the community, that they are trying to reverse past practices and hope to change the community's perception of their operation.



Dust and Stockpile Heights in Brooklyn, Simon Vittorio, Brimbank City Council (BCC)

Simon's update highlighted the strong focus of council officers in the past quarter in the Brooklyn precinct to enforce dust mitigation and compliance, working closely with EPA and other agencies. Activities included over 100 inspections and a comprehensive audit of all the major industries, with more audits planned. This has resulted in new planning applications, industry mitigation measures being undertaken or planned and VCAT enforcement orders.



Stockpile locations



BCC is closely monitoring and auditing the stockpile heights and where possible working with operators to make change. There are some operators who have applied to increase their stockpile heights as part of their overall management plans. Council has not agreed to any of these yet.

New dust mitigation measures include:

- Tighter permit conditions
- Significant perimeter landscaping (3 sites)
- Installation of truck wheel-washes (2 sites)
- Sealing of car park and entry/exit areas (2 sites)
- Improved on-site drainage and on-site water re-use (3 sites)
- Short-term use of suction street sweepers
- Planned partial enclosure of recycling operation (1 site)

Other significant change has included:

- Site improvements at 69 Bunting Rd following the successful VCAT enforcement order.
- Surveillance program on Bunting and Jones Rd to prevent mud onto the newly sealed roads and the use of litter abatement notices for infringements.



BCRG is on Facebook

A new Facebook page has been setup for BCRG. Participants were encouraged to 'like' it! Andrea and Jen are the administrators of the site – anyone wishing to contribute should message via Facebook or send an email to eo.bcr@gmail.com.



<https://www.facebook.com/BrooklynCommunityRepresentativeGroup>

Daniel Hunt, Acting Regional Manager, Metro, EPA Victoria



Environment
Protection
Authority Victoria



1300 EPA VIC (1300 372 842)

Daniel gave a brief update on the number of dust exceedences in Brooklyn and the EPA's compliance and enforcement program.

Key Updates

- Two exceedences recorded this financial year; 12 since November 2014 (rolling annual)
- EPA submission to Planning Panels Victoria regarding C177
- Jones and Bunting Roads sealed
- EPA conducted targeted compliance and enforcement activities in Brooklyn focusing on mud and dust track out on to public roadways. 14 sites require compliance and enforcement action.



contact@epa.vic.gov.au

Overall the results for dust exceedences have been good this financial year especially considering the El Nino and dry conditions. One of the October exceedences was on the very hot and windy day when there were also exceedences recorded in Geelong and Footscray.

Daniel commended the Brimbank CC on their work on the C177 planning amendment which will enshrine dust control standards in the planning scheme for Brooklyn in the future.

Odour Reports

There was concern that there were still odour issues being experienced in the community and that the EPA Call Centre was not as responsive as it should be. Community members asked Daniel to pass on their strong desire to receive a call back from the call centre after making a report.

EPA officers continue to urge everyone to call in any odour reports to make sure EPA has all the information needed to track odours and follow through with enforcement.

The BCRG Community Forums for 2016 are :

Wednesday 2 March, 20 July and 16 November.

Attendance by open invitation; contact eo.bcr@gmail.com

**See the meeting notes at <http://www.brooklynip.com.au/bcr-g-meeting-notes>
for a full account of discussions at the meeting.**

