



BCRG

BROOKLYN COMMUNITY
REPRESENTATIVE GROUP

BCRG COMMUNITY FORUM 3/2020

MEETING 45

WEDNESDAY

11 November, 2020

6:00 – 8:00 pm

via Zoom

Chair: Catherine Botta **Notetaker:** Andrea Mason



MEETING PURPOSE

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

1	Welcome, Catherine Botta Introductions Acknowledgements Meeting purpose and overview of agenda items
2	Rolling Actions Update <i>Andrea Mason</i>
3	Community Update <i>Bert Boere, Bruce Light, Geoff Mitchel-Moore, Laurie Bell</i>
4	Inner West Air Quality Report <i>Patsy Toop, Independent Chair of the Inner West Air Quality CRG</i> <i>In collaboration with other members of the CRG</i>
5	Future Meeting Discussion, Cath Botta
6	EPA Victoria Update on dust, noise and odour program <ul style="list-style-type: none">o compliance activity,o update on the dust management plan for Brooklyn <i>Steve Landsdell, Regional Manager, Western Metropolitan Region</i> <i>Simon Muir, Compliance</i>
7	Wrap up & Close

The intent of these meeting notes is to promote open communication between local business, local and state government, community and EPA Victoria (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 public. Meeting participants should advise Andrea Mason or Cath Botta if they would like their name removed from this public document.

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ACTIONS FROM THE MEETING

- Action 1111_1** Invite EPA scientist to BCRG to discuss air monitors particularly in the context of other citizen science projects with EPA.
- Action 1111_2** Relevant council to investigate new log storing facility in Cawley Rd and determine if Methyl Bromide is being used and appropriately. (Maribyrnong CC – Yarraville Ward).
- Action 1111_3** EPA scientist to go back to technical air group and discuss how to report the data in future such as that from Brooklyn or high impact sites that don't meet the National Environment Protection Measure (NEPM) criteria e.g. could it be an appendix in the NEPM?
- Action 1111_4** EPA to liaise with community members e.g. Carmen Largaiolli, Geoff Mitchelmore regarding reporting at BCRG and NEPM.
- Action 1111_5** Invite Minister for Ports and freight to present to BCRG.

ITEM 1.

WELCOME, (Catherine Botta)

The final notes from the July 2020 meeting are available from the [Brooklynip website](#).

Catherine Botta (Convenor) welcomed everyone to the BCRG forum including Melissa Horne MP who is the Member for Williamstown and also the Minister for Ports and Freight which is truly relevant to the challenges of Brooklyn. Melissa offered to present the changes being discussed in her portfolio to BCRG.

Also present was Patsy Toop, OAM who chaired the Inner West Air Quality Community Reference Group.

Everyone was invited to introduce themselves.

ITEM 2.

ROLLING ACTIONS, (Andrea Mason)

Andrea Mason, Executive Officer, BCRG reminded everyone of the Rolling Actions list which records actions from each meeting and updates actions that have been addressed between forums. These are available on the [Brooklynip website](#) and are circulated with the enews.

The status of the actions from the previous meeting is:

2905_1: EPA to raise with VicRoads the issue of rubbish and potential for a rubbish barrier to be installed along Geelong Rd to protect residents. **INCOMPLETE EPA asked for more info and photos from residents**

2905_2: EPA to consider new soil sampling in the Brooklyn area and analysis to address ongoing concerns from residents regarding the content of the dust and any potential health impacts. **IN PROGRESS**

Action 1311_2: EPA to investigate reports of chemical odours from the Nufarm premises. **INCOMPLETE**

Action 1311_4: EPA to provide a formal response to the issue of methyl bromide and its use/control mechanisms for fumigation of logs – particularly in Brooklyn – including policies from other agencies such as WorkSafe. **COMPLETE**

Action 0807_1: Invite Brimbank CC Mayor and CEO to present at the next BCRG to report on the Brimbank Industrial Precinct Strategy Committee and the progress of the Brooklyn Evolution Strategy. **DEFERRED**

Action 0807_2: Invite SV back to BCRG to report on how the new planning aligns with the overall vision of the Evolution Strategy. **DEFERRED**

Action 0807_3: Karen Wilson, SV to send links from previous community feedback to BCRG for distribution and future communications and consultation plans for the project. **COMPLETE**

Action 0807_4: EPA to provide BCRG with the dust composition report and the EPA applied science publication to come soon. **COMPLETE**

Action 0807_5: EPA to provide a snapshot of its inspections and enforcement activities for the meeting notes. **ONGOING**

Action 1118_3: BCRG to invite the EPA Air quality scientist to come and talk to the differences between monitors. **COMPLETE**

Action 1111_1: Invite EPA scientist to BCRG to discuss air monitors particularly in the context of other citizen science projects with EPA.

COMMENT: Most log companies have been moved from Brooklyn by Brimbank CC but they are now going to Cawley Rd near Francis St. The community is not sure if there is Methyl Bromide being used and if the councils are aware of these.

Action 1111_2: Relevant council to investigate new log storing facility in Cawley Rd and determine if Methyl Bromide is being used and appropriately. (Maribyrnong CC – Yarraville Ward).

ITEM 3.

COMMUNITY UPDATES, (Bert Boere, Geoff Mitchelmore and Carmen Largaiolli)

Bert Boere (Brooklyn Residents Action Group) reported on their efforts to engage with the community regarding the Inner West Air Quality Report and bring the recommendations to the community's attention as it is vital to the health of the Inner West community. He also reported on the change of management from Hobsons Bay CC to VicRoads of the Federation Trail between Millers Rd and Geelong Rd. VicRoads are now only mowing the area and the community wishes to see better management but have received a poor response from VicRoads to date.

Carmen Largaiolli (and on behalf of Bruce Light) gave a presentation regarding the Air Monitoring data presented at BCRG and provided examples of data in formats that she felt would be more beneficial for the community and which more accurately shows the poor state of the air quality in Brooklyn. In particular, she felt that the new format would clearly show the Brooklyn issues and how the readings compare to the World Health Organisation (WHO) standards and other monitoring stations e.g. Alphington and Footscray. History shows consistently marked exceedances in Brooklyn. The presentation can be seen in full in [Attachment 1](#).

Geoff Mitchelmore commented that a 24-hour basis is another way data can be presented and clearly shows how poor Brooklyn air quality is. See slide 3 in [Attachment 1](#).

QUESTION: Is it possible for EPA to depict future data in this format, displaying Melbourne metropolitan stations that record exceedances?

Carmen also discussed the EPA Air Monitoring Compliance Report with the National Environment Protection Measure (NEPM) and questioned why it doesn't include Brooklyn data which is high and shows a different picture for Melbourne. The issues in Brooklyn will be further exacerbated by the West Gate Tunnel and issues related to PM_{2.5} emissions.

Carmen felt Brooklyn may meet NEPM criteria if it was considered as a representative of a subregion reaching over 2000 people but affecting more neighbouring suburbs further afield. She also noted that the Brooklyn monitoring station has been collecting data for 11 years – well over the 5-year criteria.

QUESTION: Is it possible to incorporate Brooklyn data into the NEPM report?

Steve Lansdell: *What EPA reports in NEPM is governed by criteria outside the EPA's control and which the station at Brooklyn doesn't meet i.e. the monitoring station should be representative of a larger area and proximity to population numbers being exposed. However, Steve acknowledged that it is important the real story that the Brooklyn station shows should be told. The Brooklyn monitor shows valuable data telling the local story and helps everyone understand the unique challenges of Brooklyn.*

Paul Torre: *EPA generally reports using the bar graphs and the presentations provide a historical view. For the Inner West Air Quality Report EPA used a different model and so there is no issue with changing to this format. Paul agreed that presenting the data in a bar graph may be better however he noted that adding in the WHO standards can be confusing due to difference in the actual measures used i.e. concentration vs number of exceedences. The NEPM criteria says the area affected needs to include 25,000 people and while EPA has argued against this there has been no change. He acknowledged that the Brooklyn area is unique which is why EPA reports regularly to BCRG.*

After the meeting: *Paul Torre clarified that the reference to WHO PM10 standard which is also Victoria's standard relates to concentration i.e. 25 mg/m3 while the EPA graph is number days exceeding the standard i.e. the two aren't not directly comparable.*

In the future there be two graphs one with bar graphs showing concentration relative to the standard and the line graph with the number of days exceeding the WHO PM10 standard in [After the meeting: Paul torrie clarified that the reference to WHO PM10 standard, which is also Victoria's standard, relates to concentration i.e. 25 mg/ m3 while the EPA graph is number days exceeding the standard i.e. the two aren't not directly comparable.

In the future there will be two graphs -one with bar graphs showing concentration relative to the standard and the other a line graph with the number of days exceeding the WHO PM10 standard in the month.

Action 1111_3 *EPA scientist to go back to technical air group and discuss how to report the data in future such as that from Brooklyn or high impact sites that don't meet the National Environment Protection Measure (NEPM) criteria e.g. could it be an appendix in the NEPM?*

Action 1111_4 *EPA to liaise with community members e.g. Carmen Largaiolli, Geoff Mitchelmore regarding reporting at BCRG and NEPM.*

ITEM 4.

INNER WEST AIR QUALITY REPORT (Patsy Toop, Independent Chair of the Inner West Air Quality Community Reference Group, Bert Boere and Keith Loveridge)

The presentation can be seen in full in [Attachment 2](#).

Patsy acknowledged three of the CRG members at this BCRG meeting Bert Boere, Geoff Mitchelmore and Keith Loveridge.

Patsy provided an overview of the Terms of Reference for the CRG, its focus on air quality in Brimbank, Hobsons Bay and Maribyrnong councils, its aim to provide advice and recommendations for government consideration and the need to communicate these to the community.

The report identified many issues related to significant impacts to community health from PM2.5 and PM10 resulting in increased hospitalisation for the Inner West region and in a younger sector of the population.

There were 26 recommendations and 65 supporting actions included in the report including monitoring, policy and regulation, transport, industry and planning. Patsy, Keith and Bert explained each of the main recommendations in more detail.

The report has been submitted to the Victorian Government and it is expected that they will respond to the recommendations within six months, release a supporting action plan, retain the CRG to monitor the ongoing process and release annual progress reports. A response from the three local governments is also being sought.

QUESTION: What do you think is the role of BCRG and other Community groups in supporting and helping the implementation of some of these recommendations?

Patsy Toop: *The community groups are vital to the dissemination of the information to the public. The information itself provides an educational approach to the issues and the further it reaches into the community the better. The report has fine detail on many aspects of community action e.g. how to protect yourself on a high pollution day using the real time data and the appropriate practical actions. This CRG was the first time this Government had consulted with the community groups who are affected by air quality issues and asked them to come up with recommendations for action. Also there was a lot of research and EPA assistance with data interpretation which was crucial to help this community process so that good recommendations could be made.*

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ITEM 5.

FUTURE MEETING DISCUSSION, (Cath Botta)

Cath led a discussion on topics of interest that might become a focus for next years' BCRG meetings.

Key topics identified included:

- Air Quality Report
 - o Discussion on how many of the medium to long term objectives could be implemented sooner
 - o Who will be tracking the progress of the implications - can BCRG do that?
 - o Initially the plan was to cease the CRG once the report was made but the members are now well versed on the issue and committed to maintaining the group. This CRG is dedicated to continuing to provide updates to BCRG.
- Brooklyn Industrial Precinct and the Evolution Strategy updates
- Communications, advocacy and the education role for BCRG around air pollution issues, actions and outcomes.
- West Gate Tunnel and the impact of additional diesel fumes
- Impacts of container movement, storage and transport in and out of the ports – Melissa Horne MP to present to BCRG

Melissa Horne commented that the State government is working through the Air Quality Report and that Lily D'Ambrosio is the lead minister as Minister for Environment although it touches on many portfolios. Melissa is using her portfolio to drive change around the issues of trucks and container movements including: A conditions and origins study; port rail shuttle studies; inland rail ports e.g. Truganina; landuse in Brooklyn and Tottenham; and waste recovery.

Action 1111_5 Invite Minister for Ports and freight to present to BCRG.

ITEM 6.

EPA VICTORIA UPDATE ON DUST, NOISE AND ODOUR PROGRAM AND EPA REFORM, (Stephen Lansdell, Manager West Metropolitan Region and Simon Muir, Compliance Strategist)

The presentation can be seen in full in [Attachment 3](#).

Stephen introduced Simon Muir who is in the compliance role for EPA. He then provided an overview of the dust PM₁₀ levels which showed that the levels were exceeded 3 times for the 2020/21 year to date – and acknowledged that these were still poor results for Brooklyn. The monthly data showed above minimum average results in each month. The wind rose plots confirmed that the north winds are the worst as indicated by the community. They also showed that it is across all seasons and that weekday mornings are worst. The wind direction wedges graphs are helpful for EPA to plan their strategy to address the poor air quality.

EPA is now utilising more modern technology such as drones to monitor air quality and the potential sites within the Brooklyn Industrial Precinct affecting air quality and other issues.

EPA actions for 2020 includes:

- o industry and community warnings (15 in 2020),
- o compliance checks (100's of assessments & inspections, 28 notices),
- o enforcement (5 official warnings and 3 infringements), and
- o co-regulatory partnerships (Brimbank CC, Worksafe, National Heavy Vehicle Regulator).

The odour data indicated community reports were tapering off for the year but EPA is still conscience of odours that still exist. Some of the key industry site improvements are starting to make an impact on odour e.g. Australian Tallow.

Stephen encouraged community to engage with EPA via the [citizen science project for air monitoring site](#) in the Inner West. There is a small business pilot for industry support and risk management and registrations open online. He also reminded everyone of the importance of reporting to the community pollution hotline.

Simon Muir added that the EPA are looking at new ways and technologies to address the issues in the Inner West. There are now established drone flight paths over Brooklyn and EPA is looking at how to use that approach legally. The drones clearly show the source, dust direction and receptors. EPA is using a multi-agency approach to address issues in Brooklyn e.g. Silica experts are looking at dust crushers and EPA is investigating ways of slowing traffic in problem roads. It is hoped to use the data and the science to inform how we approach these issues in future.

QUESTION: One of the difficulties with reporting pollution is the need to call the switch board and repeat all the same personal data from callers. SnapSendSolve is an app being used by local councils and City West Water – is this something EPA could develop?

Paul Torre: *Our team at EPA has been looking at an app for odour and noise so it is possible an app may be utilised in future.*

COMMENTS:

- *There is a petrochemical smell that appears to be a new smell in the area. It has been reported to EPA before but needs to be investigated.*
- *It would be interesting to see some modelling that reflects whether there has been less air pollution impacts due to the impacts of COVID-19 to reduced industry and traffic. This may be why the EPA report shows lesser dust.*

QUESTION VIA CHAT: Request to Brimbank City Council to inform BCRG of any applications for permit within Brooklyn. We've had 3 retrospective applications for permits in just the last 12 months along Geelong Rd alone. Brooklyn residents do not know when this happens unless they're in the capture zone or in the know.

ITEM 7.

WRAP UP AND CLOSE

Cath thanked everyone for attending.

Proposed dates 2021 BCRG Community Forums: March 10, July 7 and Nov 3.

Time, format and venue tbc

Meeting closed 8.00 pm

Meeting Attendance Record - November 2020

19 people attended via Zoom.

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Andrea Mason	EO, BCRG	Lisa Palmer	Australian Tallow
Arthur Vatsakis	Hobsons Bay City Council	Melissa Horne, MP	Member for Williamstown
Bert Boere	BRAG	Miranda Forsyth	ANU
Carmen Largaiolli	Resident	Neville Fiegert	JBS Australia
Catherine Botta	BCRG Chair	Patsy Toop	Inner West Air Quality CRG
Deb Cleland	ANU	Paul Torre	EPA Victoria
Felicity Tepper	ANU	Sam Trowse	Sustainability Vic
Geoff Mitchelmore	Resident Altona North	Simon Muir	EPA Victoria
Kasey Lancaster	Melissa Horne's office	Steve Lansdell	EPA Victoria
Keith Loveridge	Maribyrnong City Council		

Apologies

Bruce Light	Yarraville On The Nose	Kelvin Walsh	Brimbank City Council
Leanne Deans	Brimbank City Council	Simon Vittorio	Brimbank City Council

ATTACHMENT 1.

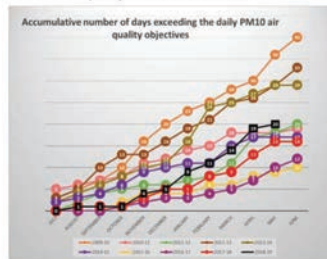
BCRG PRESENTATION - 11 NOVEMBER 2020

AIR MONITORING DATA

Air Monitoring Data

BCRG presentation 11 November 2020
Carmen Largaiolli & Bruce Light

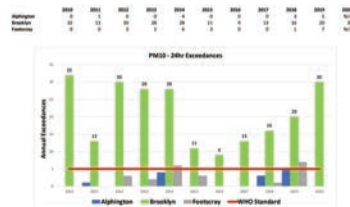
EPA Data Display – exceedances Brooklyn



Current data display produced by EPA

1

Data Display – exceedances metro stations



The line graph and bar chart are two methods to evaluate and understand PM10 exceedances in Brooklyn. The current line graph is confusing and fails to allow community to objectively evaluate and understand the true impact of PM10 as measured against World Health and Australian Standards and against results for all other EPA air monitoring stations in Melbourne. However, a bar chart would allow for a better appreciation of Brooklyn exceedances as measured against the Standards. The bar chart also allows for exceedances at all other EPA monitoring stations to be shown by way of comparison. Current YTD readings may be progressively displayed until the year is completed. Note: Unable to acquire Brooklyn 2018-2020 calendar year data – bar chart depicts 2019-20 financial year. In this example, monitoring of air quality at Alphington and Footscray over the 10 year period shows that Footscray exceeded the five day World Health and Australian Standard only twice (2014 & 2019). Alphington reached the maximum allowable annual exceedances (5) in 2019. History shows that Brooklyn has consistently exceeded the standards every year, recording much higher readings relative to other Melbourne metropolitan monitoring stations.

Question: is it possible for EPA to depict future data in this format, displaying Melbourne metropolitan stations that record exceedances?

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Table 10: Air Quality Monitoring Data Availability Rates

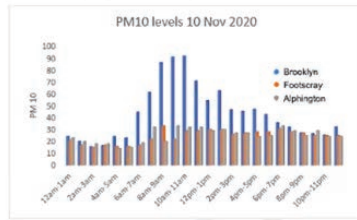
Monitoring station	Data availability rates (% of hours)					Number of exceedences (days)
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual	
Port Phillip						
Alphington	97.73	95.38	96.20	97.79	96.61	5
Dandenong	91.85	97.57	99.05	96.28	96.20	9
Footscray	96.02	97.44	97.74	95.71	96.37	7
Geelong South	76.20	99.73	90.99	92.30	89.84	11
Moorabbin	96.43	97.02	99.86	98.96	98.56	4
Lalor Valley						
Traralgon	93.98	99.68	98.41	94.61	96.67	5

Not included:

Brooklyn	20
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Air NEPM – these are the standards set by federal legislation which EPA reports on annually. Brooklyn monitoring data is omitted from this report. It's important for this data to be included given that Brooklyn is a critical monitoring station for the Melbourne metro area as it has a significant impact on the overall status of air quality in Melbourne's West. The Brooklyn station has captured data since 2009 and should fit the criteria for inclusion in this report in order to provide a more accurate reflection and assessment of Melbourne's air quality. Brooklyn station represents the effect imposed on an entire region given that adjacent suburbs are also impacted by pollution emanating from the Brooklyn industrial precinct (such as Altona North; Yarraville; South Kingsville; Spotswood). This has become particularly relevant given the potential added impact of West Gate Tunnel Project and the need to also incorporate monitoring of PM2.5. Note: The recently published report "Air Pollution in Melbourne's Inner West" recommends an increase in air monitoring, as highlighted at tonight's meeting by Patsy Toop OAM, Independent Chair Inner West Air Quality Community Reference Group.

Question: Is it possible to incorporate Brooklyn data into the NEPM report?



Geoff Mitchelmore's example of 24 hour data for Brooklyn

ATTACHMENT 2.

CRG PRESENTATION - AUGUST 2020

AIR QUALITY COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP FINAL REPORT

NB: This presentation has been captured from the BCRG meeting Zoom recording and is of low resolution.



1. Investigate the **current air quality issues and concerns** across the Brimbank, Hobsons Bay and Maribyrnong local government areas, including current transport initiatives such as the West Gate Tunnel project
2. Provide **advice and recommendations for government consideration**, including feasibility and relative importance of any actions to address air quality issues in the Inner West, including in relation to tunnel filtration for the West Gate Tunnel project
3. Ensure the findings of the Inner West Air Quality Community Reference Group are **communicated to the communities of the Inner West of Melbourne**

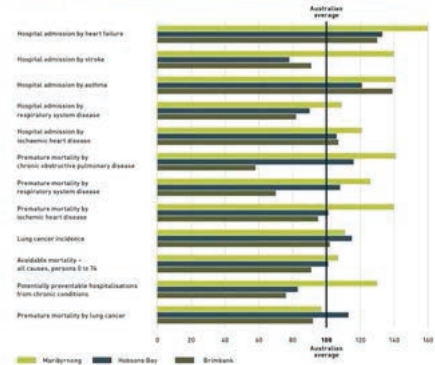
Around 4,880 premature deaths each year (nationally)

Associated with

- Respiratory illness & cardiovascular disease
- Diabetes
- Cognitive decline & dementia
- Inflammation incl inflammatory bowel disease
- Brain tumours - leading cause of children's death in Aus
- Mental health impairment

Key pollutants: particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10 "dust"), sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), ozone (O₃) + odour.

Figure 2.3 Hospitalisation rates for Inner West municipalities against Australian average



26 recommendations, 65 supporting actions

- Monitoring, analysis and reporting (4 recommendations)
- Regulatory and policy environment (4 recommendations)
- Transport (6 recommendations)
- Industry (7 recommendations)
- Planning (5 recommendations)



Increase the level of, and access to, Inner West air quality monitoring and information [Priority]

Implement an air pollution education campaign to improve Inner West communities and visitors' knowledge of the health risks from local air pollution and what can be done to address and avoid these [Priority]

Identify **pollutants of emerging scientific concern** to the Inner West, including PM, and ultrafine particles, to inform policies, legislation and programs to manage them

Consider the cumulative impact of historic Inner West community exposure to air pollution when making decisions regarding planning applications, developments and other initiatives

ATTACHMENT 3.

EPA UPDATE - 11 NOVEMBER 2020

BROOKLYN COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE GROUP

EPA Update

Brooklyn Community Representative Group

Steve Lansdell & Simon Muir
Regional Manager & Compliance Strategist
Western Metropolitan Region

11/11/20

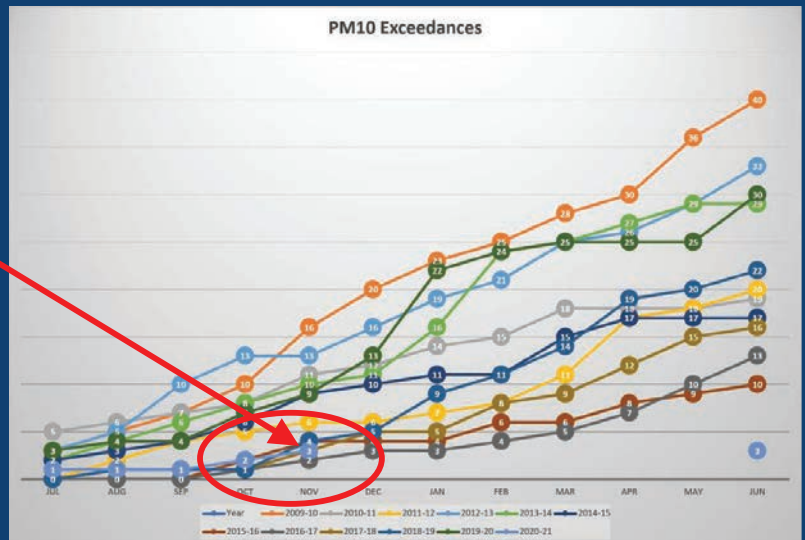


Environment
Protection
Authority Victoria



Houston – we still have a problem....

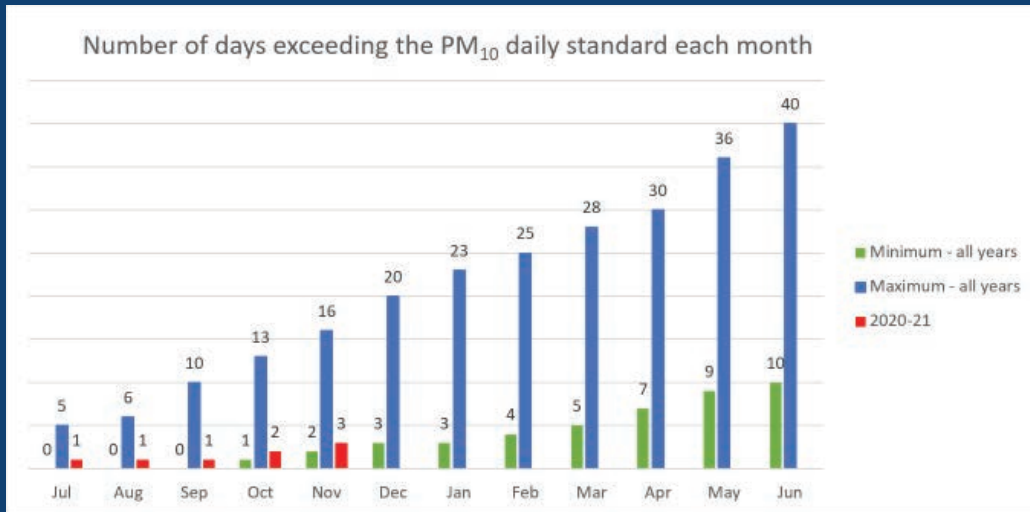
- 3 days exceeding air quality objective (July, Oct, Nov)
- Hopefully the lower trend continues this year (La Nina` may also help)



Environment
Protection
Authority Victoria



And for comparison...



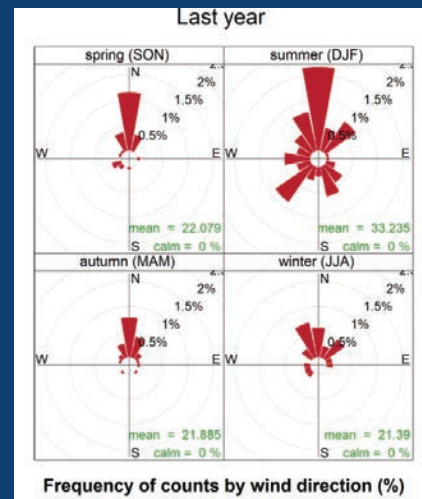
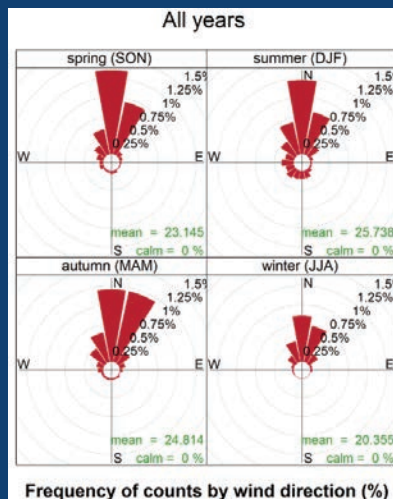
You are right – north winds are worst

- Annual wind rose plots for Brooklyn since 2009
- Compare wind direction & poor air quality
- The longer wedges mean more poor air quality hours in that wind direction.

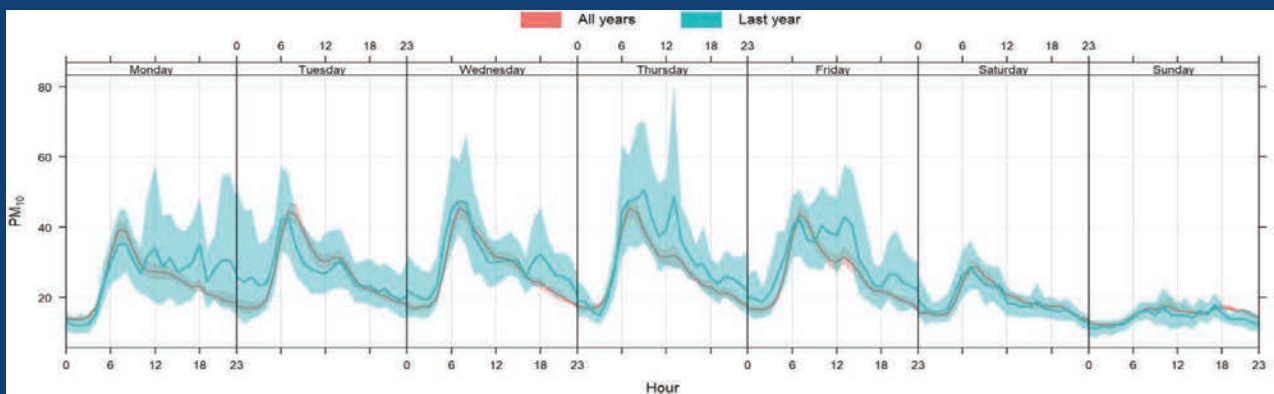


2019/20 – a summer to forget...

- Seasonal pollution rose plots for Brooklyn since 2009
- Compare wind direction & poor air quality
- The longer wedges mean more poor air quality hours in that wind direction.



You are right – weekday mornings are worst



- Diurnal air quality (hourly average) for each day of the week in Brooklyn since 2009
- Very consistent trend across the week

So what does it mean...?

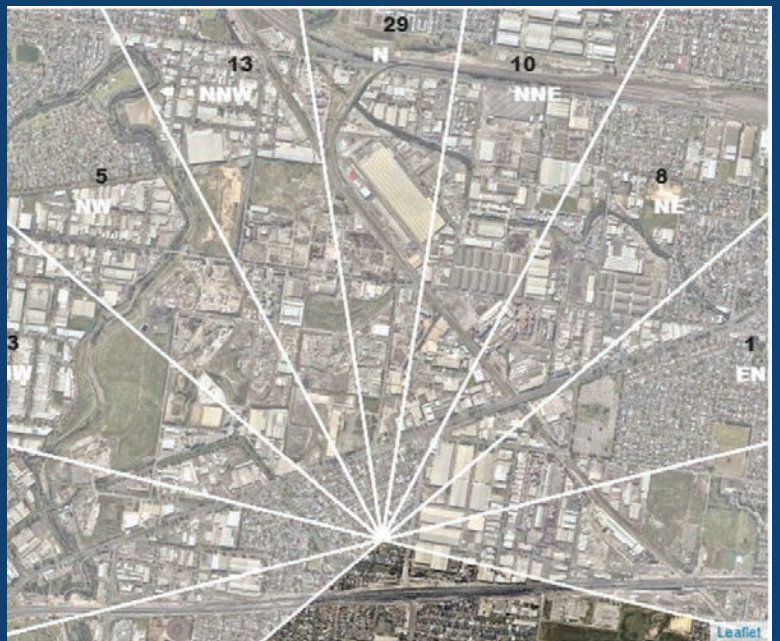


Environment
Protection
Authority Victoria



We all have evidence to target our effort

- Brooklyn map with the % of poor air quality hours in that wind direction (2019/20)
- Informs our regulatory approach & priority sites
- Proactively manage north wind days, weekday mornings, & sites around Jones, Bunting & McDonald Roads



Environment
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Authority Victoria

We're using modern technology...



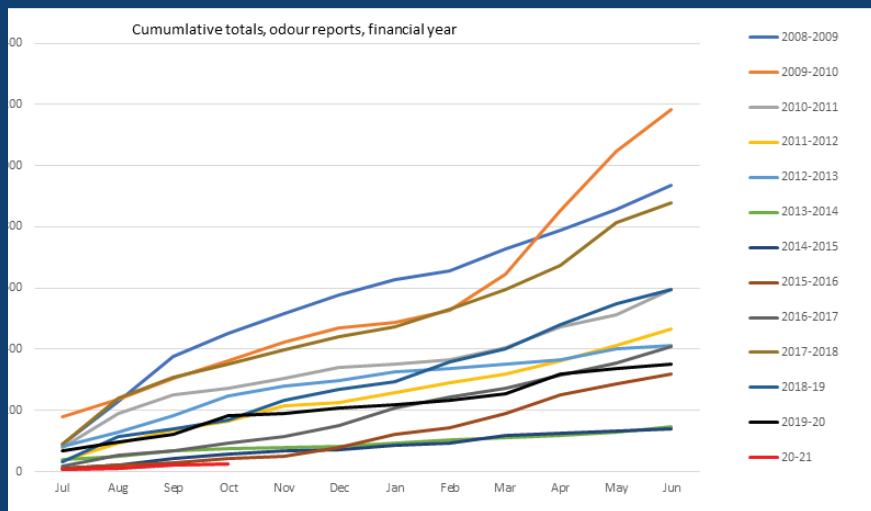
We're on the front foot in 2020...

- Industry & community warnings – 15 in 2020, 5 since May
- Compliance checks – 100's assessments & inspections, 28 notices
- Enforcement – 5 Official Warnings & 3 Infringements
- Co-regulatory partnerships



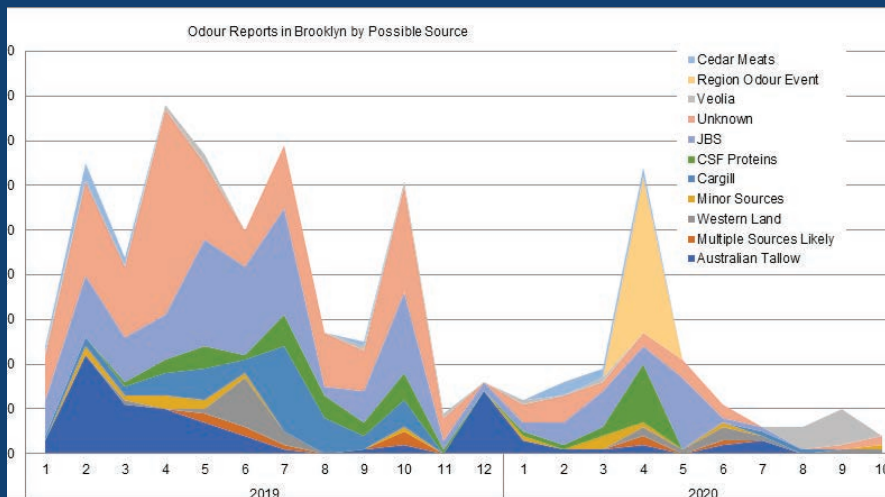
Odour at its lowest yet

- Odour reports at their lowest since 2008
- Significantly dropped in the last 2 years



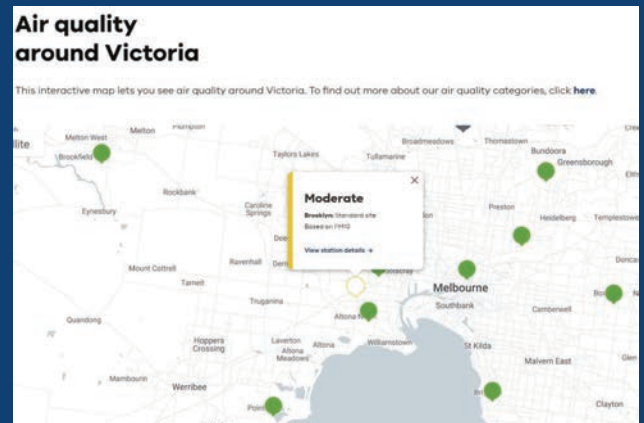
What the nose knows...

- Key site upgrades appear to be making a difference
- Peak "unknown" event in April – likely natural cause in Port Phillip Bay
- Multiple sources more likely in recent months



Stay informed

- Citizen Science – Inner Melbourne Air Monitoring
- Small Business Pilot – auto repair & maintenance, drycleaning
- Pollution hotline – 1300 EPA VIC (1300 372 842)
- Airwatch
- www.epa.vic.gov.au



AirWatch – as at 3pm 10/11/20

Questions...?

www.epa.vic.gov.au