



BCRG

**BROOKLYN COMMUNITY
REPRESENTATIVE GROUP**

BCRG COMMUNITY FORUM 2/2021

MEETING 47

WEDNESDAY

7 July, 2021

6:00 – 8:10 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 , <i>Catherine Botta</i>
2	Tribute to Simon Vittorio
3	Rolling Actions Update <i>Andrea Mason</i>
4	Community Update <i>Bert Boere, Geoff Mitchelmore</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">o Establishing the Inner West Air Quality Community Network
5	Hobsons Bay Council Response to the Inner West Air Quality Report <i>Arthur Vatzakis and Janet Dawes</i>
6	Industry Update <i>Christian Buxton</i>
7	EPA Victoria Update <i>Steve Lansdell, Paul Torre, Chris Bydder</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">o compliance activityo update on the dust management plan for Brooklyno Update on the implementation of the New EP Act
8	Wrap up & Close. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Closing Reflections• Next Meeting – date, topics<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Government response to Inner West AQ Reporto Reflection on future role of BCRG

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.

eo.bcr@gmail.com | www.brooklynip.com.au | 0427 338 482

ACTIONS FROM THE MEETING

- Action 0707_1** BCRG to send out details of the survey for Greening the Pipeline Brooklyn.
- Action 0707_2** Invite Project managers and Program leader for EPA citizen science projects to next BCRG.
- Action 0707_3** EPA to provide an overview of all the monitoring sites in the Brooklyn area would be of interest including WGT, VicRoads, Council, EPA – perhaps a physical map at next face to face BCRG that can be added to.
- Action 0707_4** Invite the EPA Victoria CEO to the next BCRG?
- Action 0707_5** EPA to investigate why the historical air quality data has been removed from their website.

ITEM 1.

WELCOME, (Catherine Botta)

The final notes from the March 2021 meeting are available from the [Brooklynip website](#).

Catherine Botta (Convenor) welcomed everyone to country and to the online BCRG forum particularly Brimbank councillors and Hobsons Bay council representatives providing an update at this forum. Cath reminded everyone of the purpose of the forum – to foster collaboration between members of the community, industry, EPA Victoria, local and state government.

Everyone was invited to introduce themselves.

ITEM 2.

TRIBUTE TO SIMON VITTORIO

Cath paid tribute to Simon Vittorio who passed recently. He has been a driving force in the Brooklyn Community Representative Group since the beginning in his various roles with Brimbank City Council and particularly in the Compliance Unit. His first recorded meeting attendance is May 2009 and his updates on compliance in Brooklyn were a regular update item of the agenda! He was very helpful to Cath when she began in the facilitator role for BCRG.

A driving force for Brooklyn compliance updates informative and helpful and value his contribution to the group

Chris Bydder: I remember Simon being part of this project since at least 2007. He has always been a welcoming and helpful person. Some achievements would include pushing for the Planning scheme amendments and countless compliance enforcement meetings. He had a cooperative approach, was hard working in the field, and was a massive driving force for change that can't be underestimated.

Bert Boere: I remember his thorough presentations to BCRG and at the Brooklyn Industrial Precinct Strategy Committee and always very active in those. Will be missed

Cr David: thank you BCRG for the lovely tribute email – Simon was a wonderful fellow, always understood his presentations and everyone was shocked in Brimbank.



Steve Lansdell: Simon was always looking for the best outcome and we thank him for all his hard work. His work has been inspirational.

On behalf of BCRG, our condolences go out to his family, friends and his work colleagues at Brimbank.

You can read more tributes in our enews [Click here](#)



ITEM 3.

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:

1803_1 Invite Brimbank CC back to present to BCRG on the development of monitoring and performance measures for the Evolution Strategy. **COMPLETE**

1803_2 Invite Hobsons Bay CC to present to BCRG on their response to the Inner West Air Quality report. **COMPLETE**



ITEM 4.

COMMUNITY UPDATES, (Bert Boere, Geoff Mitchelmore, Carmen Largaiolli, Brooklyn Residents Action Group)

Bert Boere alerted the group to the issues facing residents trying to exit and enter Millers Road from Primula Ave and Paringa Rd with the current traffic conditions for locals being very hazardous. The West Gate Tunnel group is advocating for the West Gate Tunnel (WGT) project, Dept of Transport and Hobson Bay CC (HBCC) to look at these issues and redesign the roads.

Geoff Mitchelmore spoke of the major dust issue in the Brooklyn North industrial area being caused by vehicles from the container site opposite Cleanaway bringing lots of mud into Brooklyn. The community believes that plans to fix the container site are not happening fast enough.

Melbourne Water (MW) is being asked to bring forward the planning for the [Greening the Pipeline](#) project and Federation Trail. MW are preparing a strategy for the section between Kororoit Creek and Millers Rd. WGT are putting 2500 plants along the trail as part of their offset requirements, HBCC has \$500K from the Neighbourhood Plan to do works in the area plus \$100K for artwork on Federation Trail and \$50,000 from VicRoads.

Action 0707_1: BCRG to send out details of the survey for Greening the Pipeline Brooklyn.

The Inner West Air Quality Community Reference Group is continuing as a formal incorporated group to continue advocating for the actions from the strategy. The Terms of Reference are being developed. There are many initiatives from the strategy that are being planned e.g., electric buses are being introduced in the West.

Carmen Largaiolli posed some questions for Brimbank CC related to planning applications to Council.

QUESTION: The SW corner of the site on McDonald Rd and Geelong Rd has a planning application from Powercor to BCC with high intensity and high numbers of vehicles in that location which we consider will have adverse amenity for the Brooklyn community. The entire site Masterplan has potential for adverse amenity impacts – the proposal includes 32 industrial subdivisions marked industrial. We are aware that HBCC have lodged an objection. Could Brimbank comment on this application?

Kristen Gilbert, BCC: Council is undertaking a detailed assessment of the application and the objections. Powercor is planning to make the site its headquarters. As the site is on old landfill Powercor is keeping that section of the site for their own use.

There is no decision from BCC at this stage.

QUESTION: Can you explain these retrospective permits?

There are currently two retrospective permit applications lodged with BCC just for the area along Geelong Rd alone:

- 696 Geelong Rd has an application for a vehicle recycling plant which has already been there for 2 years. They applied for 6 months extension which I believe should have expired by now.
- 552 Geelong Rd is another metal recycling site where the permit was refused and is going to VCAT.

Both sites are terrible eyesores and on major roadways. Can you explain these retrospective permits? It seems unfair to the community that the owners are allowed to operate illegally and then stall the permit process for a long time.

Kristen Gilbert: BCC also frustrated by these retrospective applications. The planning laws limit council's ability to tell someone to exit a site – VCAT have that power. The extension of time application for 696 Geelong Road has been refused and Council has advised that they need to leave the site, or they will be taken to VCAT.

For 552 Geelong Rd Council has lodged an Enforcement Order to VCAT which will be heard later in the year. The order to vacate must come from VCAT, and this will depend upon whether VCAT decide to grant a permit or not.

COMMENT: *The Powercor building plans are designed to cope with the methane gas and CO2 emissions that will come from the old landfill. It should be noted that the rest of the site may have stored old transformer with polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB). Should this be investigated if there has been leaked into the soils. Perhaps it should be tested?*

Here's a link to Powercor's advertised application. Please take the time to review and lodge an objection if you can. https://www.brimbank.vic.gov.au/advertised-plans?field_ap_plan_appnum_value=&field_suburb_tid=46

.....

ITEM 5.

RESPONSE TO THE INNER WEST AIR QUALITY REPORT (Arthur Vatzakis, Manager Planning, Building and Health and Janet Dawes, Manager Arts Culture Community, Hobsons Bay City Council)

Arthur Vatzakis spoke of Hobson's Bay City Council's response to the Inner West Air Quality Report. HBCC sees itself as an advocate for change. Council acknowledges that impacts to air quality from industry and increased traffic is a significant issue and in particular for Brooklyn. In February 2021 Council resolved to write to Ministers seeking support for the recommendations of the report and to continue advocacy for tree replacement in the corridor including Brooklyn. On March 9, 2021, Council recognised the extraordinary contribution and role of the Inner West Air Quality Reference Group in addressing air quality. An Advocacy Plan by Council officers was developed and taken to Council in April 2021 to address the issues raised recognising however that most of the actions relied heavily on State Government action e.g., planning legislation.

Council has resolved to adopt a leadership role and engage with stakeholders to discuss air quality, develop and finalise an air quality action plan.

There are four key areas where Council will focus:

1. Air quality measure - filtration on the WGT air stack in Altona North, more air monitoring stations and live data on air quality
2. Sustainable practises of industry and government - planting more trees, low or no emission vehicles in transport and logistics
3. Victorian Government resourcing priorities - engage with the EPA to develop an air quality task force
4. Active transport – utilising existing public transport initiatives.

Council has been working with EPA and the Officer for the Protection of the Local Environment (OPLE) on air quality - looking at sites that cause issues and issuing Pollution Abatement Notices e.g., asking companies to seal their sites and reducing the impacts of existing industries.

594 – 598 Geelong Rd Council has lodged an objection to the planning application to Brimbank CC on the old Powercor site - raising issues regarding air quality, open air storage, low emission vehicles and gas emissions risk. They are looking to really get involved with planning applications and go beyond traditional practises to enhance and protect amenity.

552 Geelong Road Council lodged an objection to the planning application to Brimbank CC and lodged a Statement of Grounds as part of the VCAT appeal as part of our commitment to improving amenity in the area. They are also advocating for change in attitude and operations from businesses in sites where their operations may impact other operators in the area e.g., recycling next to food preparation industries.

QUESTION: Isn't recycling like a form of mining – why is not in enclosed facilities and with negative pressure? Shouldn't this be a condition of a new business?

Arthur Vatzakis: Agree, much of Council's objections to the Geelong Rd application were around the open-air operations and the impact beyond the site from vehicle emissions, crushing and metal recycling. The OPLE officer is shared between HBCC and BCC. The role of the OPLE is being expanded to include air quality and dust and site emissions. Some of the successes we have had are from the sealing of sites to reduce dust from truck traffic.

COMMENTS:

- *Thank you to Hobsons Bay CC for preparing the Statement of Grounds to support the VCAT hearing for Geelong Rd.*
- *Geoff Mitchelmore has asked EPA CEO if we could have an independent OPLE for HBCC.*
- *Sims Metal have been very active since we have come out of COVID lockdown and operating long hours into the night. A lot of noise and explosions.*
 - o **Steve Lansdell:** *EPA is actively investigating these reports.*

QUESTION: Is HBCC going electric and away from diesel vehicles for its fleet

Arthur Vatzakis: This is on the air quality actions list for investigation by Council.

.....

ITEM 6.

INDUSTRY UPDATE (Christian Buxton, Sunshine Groupe)

Christian Buxton and Sunshine Groupe have been a part of Brooklyn for many years, operating six days a week and are aware of the air quality issues faced in Brooklyn. In the past they have operated alone in addressing issues related to their operations but are now looking to improve this by working in partnership with others.

In response to the new EPA Victoria Act and with help from EPA his group has partnered with Delta and City Circle to develop a Better Environment Plan for the Brooklyn area. They are also hoping to recruit others such as Sims Metal, Cleanaway, Fulton Hogan and Hansen Concrete to this plan. The new plan will include a vision for the area, vision for each of the sites, milestones and key performance indicators to measure against the plan.

This is an exciting initiative and ours will be the first of its kind which we would like to share with BCRG when done.

ITEM 7.

EPA VICTORIA UPDATE (Steve Lansdell, Regional Manager, Western Metropolitan Region and Paul Torre, Senior Applied Scientist – Air and Odour)

This presentation can be seen in [Attachment 1](#).

Steve Lansdell opened with a tribute to the leadership of the community for the protection of Brooklyn. He thanked Christian for embracing the new EPA Better Environment Plan tool – an EPA initiative for industry looking at how to work together and share ideas on how to operate above and beyond compliance and innovation. It's terrific to have these tools and the Brooklyn industries coming together.

New CEO – Our new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is Lee Miezis.

New Chief Environmental Scientist - Prof Mark Taylor.

New Laws - The new laws came into effect July 1, 2021. The change is based on general environmental duty and prevention-based action.

To find out more Steve recommended going to the [EPA website](#) and in particular <https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/laws/new-laws> for all the latest on the new laws including webinars, videos and information. You can also go to the [EPA YouTube channel](#). The new industry help web page [Waste tracker](#) is being inundated with calls as businesses learn what these changes mean for them.

Air Quality - Paul Torre reported on the air quality results for Brooklyn.

- Accumulative days - good news as there were only 10 exceedances but we would still prefer it to be zero.
- New reporting graphs show Brooklyn compared to Footscray. It is unclear if the impact of COVID restrictions on industry contributed to the low exceedance figures.
- Rainfall record at Laverton and Flemington don't suggest that rainfall was responsible for improvements on PM10 levels.

Odour - Chris Bydder reported on the odour reporting for Brooklyn.

- [Odour diary](#) – This document is to assist residents to record their observations during times when they are being affected by offensive odour. The template is used in preparing witness statements.
- Reports of odour were the second lowest on record which was good given people were in COVID lockdown and home a lot.
- Australian Tallow Producers have done a lot of work at their plant – it is now fully enclosed with negative pressure.
- There were a lot of gas events reported in September and November 2020 which were traced to Veolia and another in June lined up with Veolia - EPA to follow up.
- News laws moving to prevention are going to help with sites in Brooklyn. EPA will be expecting improvements to be made in the future.
- New Biofilter and Odour Surveillance and Odour Diaries Guidance is here: <https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/publications/f1019>, <https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/publications/1881>, <https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/publications/1880>
- Odour guidance for industry: <https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/for-business/find-a-topic/odour>

Inner West Air Monitoring Project – Paul Torre

Paul explained the two main projects being undertaken.

1. Source Apportionment Study – has two sites in Yarraville and Spotswood that have been running since April/May 2021. One is measuring PM2.5 using different filters to measure up to 38 elements and the other is measuring black Carbon, elemental carbon and other ions. The samples are analysed in NZ and CSIRO. Sampling is undertaken every 3 days.
2. Citizen Science Programs:
 - a. one in Williamstown, one at Spotswood (Source Apportionment Study) and one at the Kingsville Primary School.
 - b. Beacon Cove is using purple air sensors and has a chief community scientist helping with the data. <https://www2.purpleair.com/>
 - c. EPA is looking at another citizen science project using EPA Hive sensors - to start in Bendigo and then Inner West possibly some local schools.

Action 0707_2: Invite Project managers and Program leader for EPA citizen science projects to next BCRG.

Compliance and Enforcement – Steve Lansdell

With the new laws in place, EPA will act according to the level of noncompliance - the response will be measured and proportionate but will come down hard on deliberate noncompliance.

EPA staff in discussions with business owners who are best placed to assess where the risks are and what measures need to be undertaken.

3 key components to enforcements:

- 111 Compliance assessments,
- Remedial tools – 20 Notices and 1 direction
- Sanctions – 5 fines and 5 warnings.

<https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/for-community/current-projects-issues/preventing-pollution-brooklyn>

Based on information given at BCRG, EPA will look further at the old Powercor site – particularly polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) and landfill risks.

QUESTION: Are there plans for citizen science monitors for PM10 and PM2.5 to be placed closer to the Brooklyn Industrial Precinct than the current monitoring station?

Paul Torre: The air monitor at Brooklyn needed to comply with Australian standards for placement. If there are non-compliances at that distance from the origin than it can be determined that there certainly is an air quality issue.

QUESTION: What is the secondary filter tool next to the large Brooklyn air monitoring site. What is VicRoads monitoring at the pedestrian crossing at Federation Trail?

Paul Torre: The small filter is one of the portable monitors and is there to for calibration against the large monitor to check for any correlation for PM₁₀. Once this is established, EPA intends to use the smaller equipment in different locations across Brooklyn. The other part of the program is to do monitoring around roadsides for PM_{2.5} and finer particles. The portable monitor is not as good for PM₁₀.

QUESTION (CHAT): From a Work Health and Safety perspective, at what PM10 or PM2.5 air measure point does the mining industry shut operations? If it reaches 80µg/m3, do they shut down operations?

Prof. Mark Taylor: I don't know the actual trigger as my work is based on the effects of mining operations on the community. Some examples: At Port Pirie I have never seen them switch off. At Mt Isa they do shut down and they have triggers for dust, sulphur dioxide and lead monitoring based on wind direction and effects to the community. Am wondering if this is something we could apply in Brooklyn??

Steve Lansdell: Across the state there are sites that have dust management plans to stop when wind is from certain directions. Locally some industries, e.g., Delta, may have put in weather monitors for management of their operations and this is the type of initiative EPA is encouraging.

Paul Torre: Levels of 80µg/m³ per one hour is used as a good indicator of likely exceedance however this is not the actual health standard. The new approach is not just about the monitoring or levels per hour but using new prevention management practises including visual surveillance and inspection to find the source. Intervention can be planned, and controls and actions enacted to minimise emissions.

Christian Buxton: Sunshine Groupe has three dust track monitors for PM₁₀. If we get 4 successive exceedences from the monitors reading at 15-minute intervals, the managers get an SMS and then go to highest point and amend activity if needed. In extreme weather circumstances the site is shut down and we do maintenance. Gypsum is very sensitive to wind so that operation is often shut down with northerly winds.

QUESTION: How long has the air monitoring been going and what is your trigger point for shut down?

Christian Buxton: There has been a live monitoring system in place for over 4 years and a system of 3 monitors for 18 months looking at the difference between onsite and offsite levels. I'm unsure what the PM₁₀ trigger level is but once the exceedences have been recorded, the decision to shut down is made on a visual inspection onsite.

***Action 0707_3:** EPA to provide an overview of all the monitoring sites in the Brooklyn area would be of interest including WGT, VicRoads, Council, EPA – perhaps a physical map at next face to face BCRG that can be added to.*

***Action 0707_4:** Invite the EPA Victoria CEO to the next BCRG?*

QUESTION: Can we get the app Snap Send Solve that is used by councils for EPA to use as a tool to make it easier for community reporting?

Chris Bydder: EPA has a project working with Deakin University for a trial app for odour for community and EPA/ council staff to use which will be timely, geolocated and can be acted on immediately.

COMMENT: *Can we just have one app that will do all? Airwatch was to develop an app and great to see odour app trial but if one app can do everything that is a better outcome.*

.....

ITEM 8.

WRAP UP AND CLOSE

Andrea Mason gave a vote of thanks to Malcolm Ramsay who has moved on from Hobsons Bay CC after many years. He was BCRG's key contact with council since BCRG began and was always on hand to answer any queries. Arthur Vatzakis announced the new Coordinator of Public Health is Jake Repacholi.

QUESTION: Why has EPA removed the historical air quality data from their website and now directing us to the [Data Vic](#) site with annual reports and which are not as useful? We want to see more than just the previous 48 hours.

Paul Torre: It would appear to be an IT issue but agree with your point on accessibility to this data. We can send you the information on request in the interim.

Action 0707_5: EPA to investigate why the historical air quality data has been removed from their website.

Future agenda items might include a response from State Government to the Inner West Air Quality Report, the Inner West Community Reference Group updates, results from the inquiry into the health impact of air quality, and citizen science programs.

Cath thanked everyone for attending.

Next BCRG Community Forum: Nov 3. Time, format and venue tbc

Meeting closed 8.10 pm

Meeting Attendance Record – July 2021

21 people attended via Zoom.

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Andrea Mason	EO, BCRG	Cr Jasmine Nguyen	Brimbank City Council
Arthur Vatsakis	Hobsons Bay City Council	Janet Dawes	Hobsons Bay City Council
Bert Boere	BRAG	Kelvin Walsh	Brimbank City Council
Carmen Largaiolli	Resident	Kristen Gilbert	Brimbank City Council
Catherine Botta	BCRG Chair	Prof Mark Taylor	EPA Victoria
Chris Bydder	EPA Victoria	Martin Brownlee	JBSSA
Christian Buxton	Sunshine Groupe	Paul Torre	EPA Victoria
Craig Eyes	Recovered Energy	Peter Lightfoot	Cedar Meats
Dale Irwin	EPA Victoria	Cr Sam David	Brimbank City Council
Felicity Tepper	ANU	Steve Lansdell	EPA Victoria
Geoff Mitchelmore	Resident Altona North		

Apologies

Bruce Light	YOTN	Helen Paterson	Containerspace
-------------	------	----------------	----------------

ATTACHMENT 1.

EPA UPDATE - 7 JULY 2021

BROOKLYN INDUSTRIAL PRECINCT



EPA Update Brooklyn Industrial Precinct

7 July 2021

Paul Torre, Senior Applied Scientist – Air & Odour

Steve Lansdell, Regional Manager – Western Metropolitan Region

Presentation outline

The new generation

The science

The regulatory action

The new generation

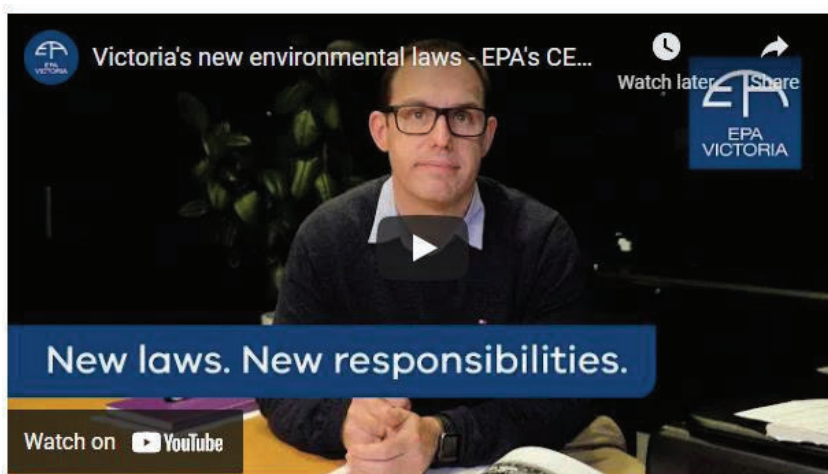
New Laws

New CEO

New Chief Environmental Scientist

New laws. New Responsibilities.

EPA's CEO explains



www.epa.vic.gov.au

General Environmental Duty

- Prevention-based

Key concepts

- State of Knowledge
- As far as reasonably practicable

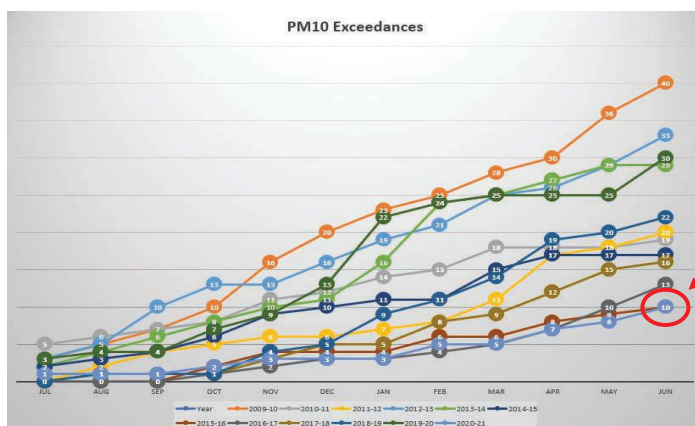
The science

Air & Odour

Air quality update



Summary of number of days the 24-hour PM₁₀ standard is exceeded at Brooklyn

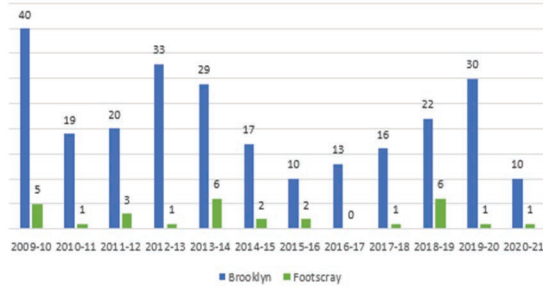


- Still a problem - too many exceedances
- Equal lowest since monitoring began in 2009/10

Air quality update

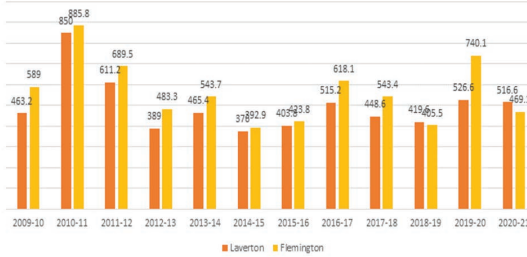
- COVID-19 restrictions & existing interventions most likely factors leading to reduction this year

Number of days exceeding the PM₁₀ daily standard each year

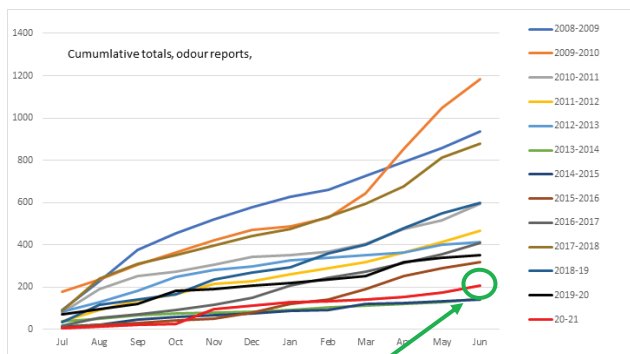


- Rainfall not likely to be a big factor in reduction this year

Annual rainfall (mm) at BOM sites near Brooklyn



Odour update



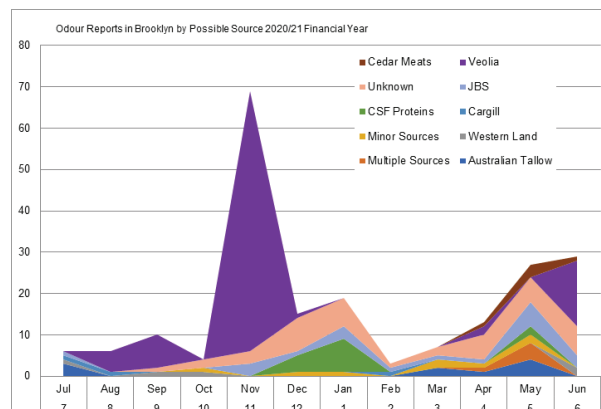
- Lowest annual total (208) since 2015 & 2nd lowest since recording began



Odour update



- Australian Tallow improvements have made a difference
- Two main odour events – both likely related to Veolia
 1. Nov (63 reports)
 2. June (16 reports)
- Ongoing work underway at Veolia, CSF Proteins & Western Land Reclamation

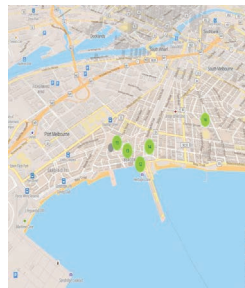


Inner West Air monitoring Projects



Two key projects

1. Source Apportionment Study
 - Air monitoring stations at Barbara Beyer Reserve in Yarraville, & the Spotswood-Kingswood RSL
 - Sampling every 3 days with CSIRO & GNS Science
 - Source profiling –shipping, cargo handling & road transport
2. Citizen Science Programs
 - Beacon Cove
 - Inner West



The regulatory action

Compliance & Enforcement

Compliance & Enforcement



“ You know your businesses and you are in the best position to determine the risks posed to the environment and human health by your operations, and how they can be best controlled.

Steps in controlling risks and hazards



If we see non-compliance, our response will be measured and proportionate.

Deliberate and criminal non-compliance will be taken seriously.

Compliance & enforcement update



EPA slaps Brooklyn recycler with a fire suppression order

EPA CEO targets waste crime

EPA orders Tottenham metal recycler to cease accepting new materials

Questions?



www.epa.vic.gov.au/for-community/current-projects-issues/preventing-pollution-brooklyn





1300 372 842 (1300 EPA VIC)
epa.vic.gov.au



Interpreter

For languages other than English please call 131 450. Visit epa.vic.gov.au/language-help for next steps. If you need assistance because of a hearing or speech impairment, please visit relayservice.gov.au

This publication is for general guidance only. You should obtain professional advice if you have any specific concern. EPA Victoria has made every reasonable effort to ensure accuracy at the time of publication.