



BCRG

**BROOKLYN COMMUNITY
REPRESENTATIVE GROUP**

BCRG COMMUNITY FORUM 1/2022

MEETING 50

WEDNESDAY

16 March, 2022

6:00pm – 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none">o Introductionso Acknowledgementso Meeting purpose and overview of agenda items
2	Rolling Actions Update <i>Andrea Mason</i>
3	Community Update <i>Bert Boere, Geoff Mitchelmore</i>
4	Industry Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">o Update on initiatives to address odour complaints <i>Badi Kargar, Operations Manager, CSF Proteins</i>
5	EPA Victoria Update on dust, noise and odour program <ul style="list-style-type: none">o Update on compliance activityo odour guidelines within the new Act <i>Stephen Lansdell, Regional Manager, Western Metropolitan Region</i> <i>Simon Muir, Compliance</i>
	Questions/discussion
6	Brimbank Council Compliance Update <i>Kristen Gilbert, Manager City Planning, Brimbank Council</i>
	Questions/discussion
7	Wrap up & Close

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.

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 1603_1 BCRG to investigate inviting Nufarm to a BCRG forum.

Action 1603_2 EPA to investigate **Snap Send and Solve** and report back to BCRG on its viability as a reporting tool.

Action 1603_3 Hobsons Bay CC and EPA to find out more information about the car wrecking yard/s along the freeway near Grieve Pde, South of Buchanan Rd.

Action 1603_4 BCRG to incorporate the question re planning and recalcitrant offenders in Item 7 into the agenda for the next meeting and email as part of the notes for LGAs and EPA to respond.

ITEM 1.

WELCOME, (Catherine Botta)

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

Catherine Botta (Convenor) welcomed everyone to country and to the online BCRG forum particularly Cr Sam David, (Brimbank CC), Cr Daria Kellander and Cr Tony Briffa (Hobsons Bay CC). Cath reminded everyone of the purpose of the forum – to foster collaboration between members of the community, industry, EPA Victoria, local and state government. The focus of this forum was odour issues.

Everyone was invited to introduce themselves.

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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:

Action 0311_1 BCRG to approach Department of Transport Deputy Secretary to see if any consideration has been given to air quality. **DEFERRED**

Action 0311_2 BCRG to follow the progress of the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Health Impacts of Air Pollution in Victoria. **16/03/2022 Discussed with EPA and looking into appropriate time for a presentation to BCRG. Waiting on government response to the Inquiry.**

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ITEM 3.

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

Bert gave an update on the major roadworks in Brooklyn and the associated traffic management which resulted in extra traffic on Millers Rd and gridlocked vehicles around Geelong Rd and Grieve Pde over Christmas and January. The increased traffic increased local access issues but the associated pollution and air quality issues from potential carcinogens may have a health impact.

Geoff noted that in response to some of the recommendations to government from the Inner West Air Quality Report that 75 electric buses will be introduced in the West in about 5 years with more hybrid buses planned. This gives some hope for a decrease in local air pollution.

The Inner West Air Quality Network is waiting for more action on the other recommendations. Four Ministers have been briefed and they have noted the importance of the recommendations.

ITEM 4.

Update on initiatives to address odour complaints (Badi Kargar, CSF Proteins)

Presentation can be seen in [Attachment 1](#)

Badi Kargar and Rachael Stephenson provided an overview of CSF Proteins and its operations in Laverton North. The plant is surrounded by other industries including recycling, rendering, tanning, meat processing, fertiliser and chemical processing. The business is the largest rendering plant in Victoria converting red meat, fish and poultry co products into high performance ingredients for petfood, aquafeed, stockfeed and biofuel sectors. The benefits of these processes include killing pathogens, reducing impacts on landfill and contributing to the food chain.

Badi discussed recent odour events created at CSF Proteins and the Action Plan they have developed to address these issues.

Contributing factors included:

1. Supply of poor-quality raw materials caused by COVID absenteeism in the meat processing and supply chain;
2. Exacerbated by hot temperatures in late January;
3. Further exacerbated by roadworks around the Laverton area causing substantial traffic congestion and product delivery delays;
4. Roofing issues caused by the October storms – temporary fixes in place whilst a roof replacement program is progressively implemented.

Action plans included:

1. Plant capacity was promptly rearranged to cater for the short-term increased volumes because of COVID;
2. The quality of the raw materials being delivered was addressed with suppliers;
3. Upgrades to roofing;
4. Upgrades to Biofilter (pollution control);
5. We will keep the community informed of the upcoming works;
6. We will be monitoring odour in the community.

QUESTION: With the increased capacity does CSF plan to revert to old levels of production? Isn't sending waste to landfill better than poorly managed waste on site?

Badi: CSF Proteins is almost back to normal intakes. With the changes that have been made the plant has the capacity to react quickly to increased supply in future if this happened again. We responded as quickly as we could at the time and wore the risks associated with that.

QUESTION: We appreciate there were issues with COVID and excess products however we have experienced this odour for many years, and it is ongoing. We have tracked this many times. What else will be done so that the result will be better than it was? Will these improvements fix this?

Badi: In June 2021 EPA reported that of 50 odour complaints only 2 were recorded as CSF being the source. There are other sources of odour in the area. However, CSF is committed to addressing odour issues and is confident the improvements to the plant will address this. Currently any reports to EPA take several days to reach CSF. There is a 24/7 phone number and email address on the website for community to notify us directly so we can respond more quickly to complaints. We urge the community to give us a call so we can investigate where it might be coming from. We want to ensure the community that we will rectify the issue if we are the source.

Rachael: CSF has a community reference group made up of staff and their relatives living up to 8 kms from the site who are checking for odour. CSF has also engaged an independent company, Ektimo, to assist with odour control and monitoring. They are also assisting in the training and calibration of noses for the community reference group. If anyone wants to be part of that group, please contact us.

Also, updates from CSF Proteins are being sent to many community groups and council in the area.

CSF Odour Reporting

<https://www.csfproteins.com.au/community-information/>

24/7 phone line 0439 027 573

Email: community@csfproteins.com.au

ITEM 5.

EPA Victoria Update on dust, noise and odour program

Gary Laidlaw, Senior Engagement Lead Western Metropolitan Region ,

- Update on compliance activity
- Odour guidelines within the new Act

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

Air Quality

Gary noted that the air quality monitoring showed improved results for the 2021/2022 year to date with only 2 exceedences 1 in July and one in December which was similar to Footscray.

Odour – all time low and below average.

Less in Brooklyn because of prevailing winds.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS: Several community members commented that the odour reports are possibly low due to community apathy and, not necessarily, effective action or progress.

- *(chat) Some people have given up reporting because there is no change in odours.*
- *(chat) We've been saying that community has reached reporting fatigue on odour for a long time now.*
- *(chat) Also note that this is only showing reporting from Brooklyn*
- One community member discussed at length the frustration over many years trying to report incidents related to odour complaints with little or no response. A report on contaminated soil in 2020 is still outstanding. A report on night dumping of fluids from a tanker into a drain has been met with poor responses from Councils, EPA and City West Water – claiming it's not their responsibility and that the tanker had stolen number plates so there was nothing that could be done. What else can I do? This is one example of many.

Gary: EPA is working through the contaminated soil site with council.

Odour

The odour reports for Brooklyn are at an all time low and would have been better if not for the CSF Protein exceedences.

Gary provided an overview of the new Odour surveillance methods introduced last year including the odour wheel and how odour assessors record observations for each odour investigation using the objective criteria set out below:

1. Observation point.
2. Odour intensity.
3. Odour character.
4. Odour presence (for stationary methods).
5. Meteorological conditions, including wind speed, wind direction, temperature, humidity and cloud cover.

For more information go to EPA document 1881: Guidance for field odour surveillance at <https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/publications/1881>

EPA officers use 'loop' tracking to plot the source of odour. These methods are proving effective and provide consistency for finding the Receptor source.

QUESTION (CHAT): Nufarm has been identified as an odour source for Brooklyn and is not far from CSF Proteins. Will EPA act on them? Can we work collaboratively with Nufarm and EPA?

(chat) Hundreds of reports to EPA have been ignored and we are getting nowhere. Could an invitation be extended to Nufarm to come to this forum?

(chat) The community members are from diverse suburbs around the Brooklyn and Laverton North industrial precincts and wind direction impacts different suburbs in a different manner. Overall, we have the same purpose and that is to eliminate pollution, odour or otherwise.

Chris Bydder: To include Nufarm in BCRG would require a shift in the focus of BCRG's scope as they are not in Brooklyn area and not normally invited. CSF Proteins are just on the edge. BCRG doesn't include Wyndham. The odour from Nufarm is a weird, sweet smell like glyphosate. This is a shift for BCRG - it might be worth looking at a broader inner west forum in the future? Something to discuss??

Chris Bydder, EPA (chat): *We have a separate report for Laverton. Sources that impact Altona Nth + Sunshine. The Laverton Data showed a huge spike from November - February.*

COMMENT: Glyphosate is a chemical used by Nufarm in the manufacture of their glyphosate-based products. In March 2015 the International Agency for Research on Cancer classified glyphosate as "probably carcinogenic to humans" (<https://www.iarc.who.int/featured-news/media-centre-iarc-news-glyphosate/>). Although this is a highly controversial subject, under no circumstances should our community be exposed to emissions that contain this chemical.

Action 1603_1: BCRG to investigate inviting Nufarm to a BCRG forum.

COMMENTS REGARDING EPA REPORTING:

- *The App Snap Send and Solve continues to improve and is one EPA should investigate using for community reporting.*
- *The EPA reporting system does not send a copy of the complaint back to the complainant.*
- *Can EPA move the 'pollution reporting' selection on the phone line further up the chain i.e., choose 1 to report pollution instead of last option 4?*

After the meeting EPA responded: As soon as the options menu starts you can press 4. You don't have to wait until 4th option comes.

Action 1603_2: EPA to investigate Snap Send and Solve and report back to BCRG on its viability as a reporting tool

COMMENTS: COMMUNITY ISSUES RAISED FOR NOTICE REGARDING DUST:

- *The container yard just south of Cleanaway is creating a lot of dust – EPA have issued a notice, but the company have 2 years to clean it up. History shows that they will probably continue to operate and then leave just before the notice expires!*
- *An application has been made to DELWP to create an urban forest on a site on Kororoit Creek next to Geelong Rd to mitigate dust flow. 1500 trees will be planted as part of the Victorian State Government's 500,000 Trees for a Cooler, Greener West program in a partnership between BRAG, FOLKC, Melbourne Water and City West Water.*
- *Old Geelong Rd is an absolute disaster – on weekends it's become a truck parking area for the neighbouring container park. If the trucks were restricted to parking areas and trees were planted, it would help to alleviate dust being created from the roads.*
- *Cleanaway are expanding their works on their site and now creating more dust.*
- *Melbourne Water, West Gate Tunnel and community groups are working on the Federation Trail which will act as a filter for Brooklyn.*

The next BCRG meeting in May is proposed to be held at the new EPA building 12 Clark St, Sunshine.

ITEM 6.

EPA Brimbank Council Compliance Update, Kristen Gilbert, Manager City Planning.

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

Kristen provided an update on the compliance and planning priorities for Brimbank Council.

Complaints

Seven complaints have been received for 2021/2022 to date regarding dust, land use and contravention of permit conditions. There are 20 active compliance matters on-going across 16 sites.

Key planning compliance priorities include:

- Coordinate action with internal departments and key agencies, including EPA to tackle issues strategically
- Seek better operational practices, including sealing of land (always a requirement of permits issued now)
- Ensure sites are operating with valid permits and in accordance with permit conditions
- Contact owners and agents (where known) for vacant sites to make them aware of responsibilities prior to leasing to new tenants
- If all else fails, prosecute continued offences and offenders – get outcomes
- Over 60 inspections conducted by Planning Compliance Officers since January 2021
- 25 Planning Infringement Notices (PINs) issued – uses causing impact to area - fine and remedial action required
- Several illegal operations ceased and moved off site – all uses deemed to be causing impact to amenity of area (vehicle store, heavy machinery store, timber logging)

454-460 Somerville Road is now vacant following action taken through the Magistrate's Court

552 Geelong Road Planning application and enforcement order application heard concurrently at VCAT approving permit and refusing enforcement order.

Planning Applications

Eight planning applications received for Brooklyn in 2021/2022 as well as 4 applications to amend existing permits for:

- Use and development of land for a data centre
- New warehouse
- Internal additions to industrial building
- Signage
- Subdivision / removal of easements
- Motor vehicle sales (application lapsed)

594-598 Geelong Road - Planning applications for:

- Subdivision of the land and construction of new roads - approved
- Powercor office and depot (western end of site) - approved
- Data centre (south-eastern corner of site) – under consideration

730 Geelong Road – Permit Applicant lodged an appeal at VCAT against refusal by Brimbank CC in 2021.

COMMENTS: COMMUNITY COMMENTS REGARDING SITES IN BROOKLYN:

- *Can we do away with as-of-right planning rules so that progress is possible? Otherwise, we are absolutely trapped in old rhetoric and out of date and inappropriate activity*
 - o *This was a recommendation presented to Government by the Inner West Air Quality report*
- *As mentioned earlier, revegetation of the old "Finch" land would help with dust and amenity – DELWP is also inspecting this area right along the creek to check misuse and potential changes.*

Kristen: Great idea to plant out Finch land and agree that Old Geelong Rd is an issue. Council would need to have the road surveyed so we know where the boundaries are before compliance can be undertaken to remove trucks from the road reserve. Council would then decide the future of the road i.e., is it sealed, truncated or sold.

QUESTION: Is there a Hobsons Bay CC report similar to Brimbank CC at BCRG meetings?

Cath Botta: There hasn't been a HBCC report for some time however council officers have been attending the meetings.

Daria Kellander: Penny Winslade and Arthur Vatsakis are the HBCC council officers that are part of BCRG currently.

QUESTION: Along the freeway near Grieve Pde, South of Buchanan Rd – there is a lot of car wrecking creating air pollution. Are they legal?

***Action 1603_3:** Hobsons Bay CC and EPA to find out more information about the car wrecking yard/s along the freeway near Grieve Pde, South of Buchanan Rd.*

ITEM 7.

Wrap up and close

QUESTION: The General Environmental Duty GED is one of the pillars of the revised EPA Act, which applies to all of us - authorities, industry and citizens alike. How will the revised Act compel authorities (LGA, State Government and EPA) to finally address the impact of history repeating itself in the Brooklyn pollution hotspot? Some specific aspects are not limited to, but include:

- Large long standing organisations which continue to be recalcitrant offenders e.g. recycling, abattoirs and rendering industries. Why haven't they got it right yet?
- Cowboy operators that continue to exploit planning regulations. Landlords lease sites to tenants that commence operating without a permit and pollute the community, resulting in complaints. The relevant LGA issues a retrospective conditional permit which includes EPA notice e.g. to seal within a very generous timeframe, and when the deadline approaches, the tenant moves out and the process begins again.

As a result of all this, our community continues to be exposed to the health impacts of pollution whilst offenders manipulate and capitalise on government processes and evade penalties under the pretext of ongoing negotiations and arbitration.

The community is a vital stakeholder as well as the victims in this space, impacted by all the pollution events, and we're astounded at the degree of latitude which continues to be extended to offenders, especially repeat offenders.

Kristen: The planning permit is issued and associated with the land parcel so is transferable to whoever occupies that parcel - which is often the tenant.

At the 696 Geelong Rd Brooklyn Site – BCC has undertaken an inspection and review. They will be following up with tenant to undertake enforcement.

Gary: Under the new Act EPA has more power to issue notices and instructing landowners on actions required.

***Action 1603_4:** BCRG to incorporate the question re planning and recalcitrant offenders in Item 7 into the agenda for the next meeting and email as part of the notes for LGAs and EPA to respond.*

Cath thanked everyone for attending and the presenters.

Proposed dates for BCRG Community Forums 2022: May 25th, November 2nd

Time, format and venue tbc

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Meeting closed 8.10 pm

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Meeting Attendance Record – 16 March 2022

22 people attended via Zoom.

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Aaron Duff	Resident	Gary Laidlaw	EPA Victoria
Andrea Mason	EO, BCRG	Geoff Mitchelmore	Resident Altona North
EPA Victoria	BRAG	Hector Burton	Hobsons Bay City Council
Badi Kargar	Resident	Józef Tkac	Resident
CSF Proteins	Joseph Coleiro	Kristen Gilbert	Brimbank City Council
Bert Boere	BRAG	Michelle Lee	Hobsons Bay City Council
Brian Long	Resident	Jacinda Shen	Hobsons Bay City Council
Carmen Largaiolli	Resident	Peter Lightfoot	Cedar Meats
MWRRG	Hobsons Bay City Council	Rachael Stephenson	Ridley
Catherine Botta	BCRG Chair	Ruth Long	Resident
Chris Bydder	EPA Victoria	Cr Sam David	Brimbank City Council
Daria Kellander	Hobsons Bay CC	Cr Tony Briffa	Hobsons Bay CC
Felicity Tepper	ANU		

Apologies

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Steve Lansdell	EPA Victoria	Christian Buxton	Sunshine Groupe

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ATTACHMENT 1.

16 MARCH 2022

BROOKLYN COMMUNITY MEETING AERIAL AND SUMMARY SLIDE

Laverton North Industrial Area



Purpose:

To explain to the community the **cause of recent odour events** and the **action plan to resolve** the issues

Introduction:

CSF Proteins processes animal co-products into ingredients for the petfood, aquafeed, stockfeed and biofuel sectors

Contributing factors:

1. Supply of **poor quality raw materials caused by COVID absenteeism** in the meat processing and supply chain
2. Exacerbated by **hot temperatures in late January**
3. Further exacerbated by **roadworks around the Laverton area** causing substantial traffic congestion and product delivery delays
4. Roofing issues caused by the **October storms** – temporary fixes in place whilst a roof replacement program is progressively implemented

Action plans:

1. Plant **capacity was promptly rearranged** to cater for the short term increased volumes as a result of COVID
2. The **quality of the raw materials** being delivered was addressed with suppliers
3. Upgrades to **Roofing**
4. Upgrades to **Biofilter** (pollution control)
5. We will **keep the community informed** of the upcoming works
6. We will be **monitoring** odour in the community

For any offensive odour issues the community experiences, please contact us on 0439 027 573 or via email csfmelbourne.reception@csfproteins.com.au

ATTACHMENT 2.

16 MARCH 2022

EPA UPDATE - BROOKLYN COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE GROUP



EPA Update

Brooklyn Community Representative Group

Gary Laidlaw – Senior Engagement Lead, Western Metropolitan Region

Hector Burton – Senior Environment Protection Officer

EPA Victoria

16 March 2022

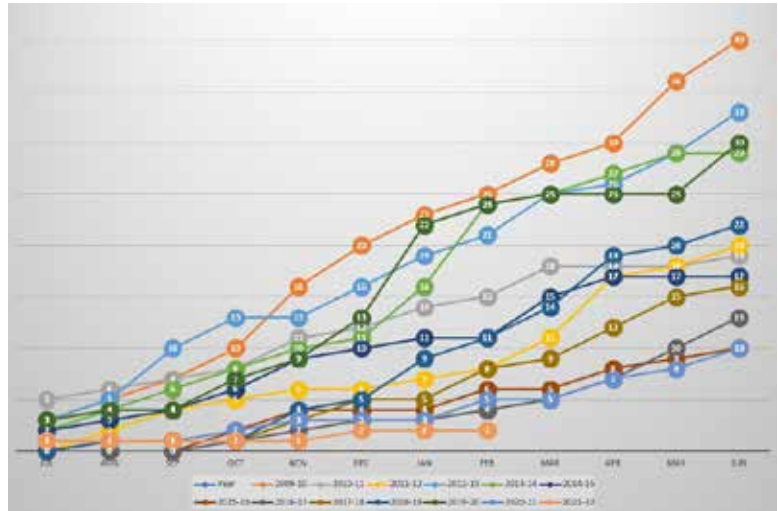
Gayaam Wilam – “Shield”



Air quality

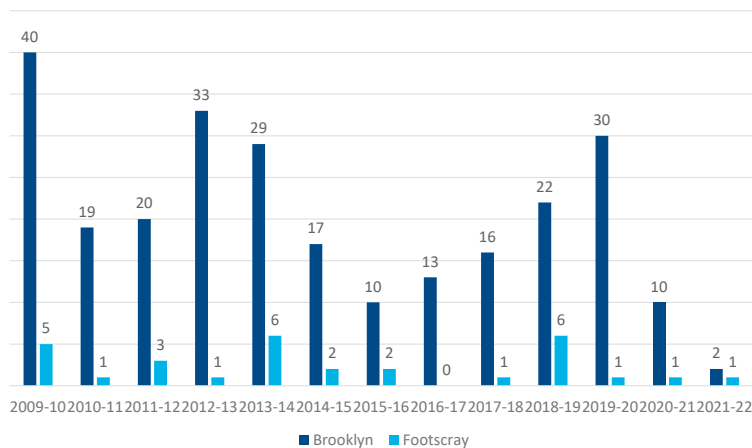
Lower trend of PM₁₀ exceedances continues in 2021/2022

In 2021/2022 there have been **two days** (in July and December) where PM₁₀ daily average concentrations exceeded 50 µg/m³ (bottom orange line in figure)



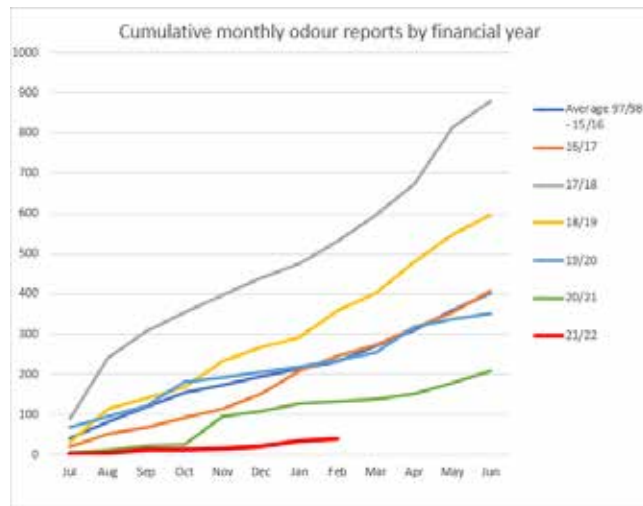
For comparison

Number of days exceeding the PM₁₀ daily standard each year





Odour reports for Brooklyn are at an all-time low



CSF Proteins odour issue



Brooklyn odour reports would be even lower but for CSF Protein's current challenges described earlier.

Prevailing wind directions and very different summer weather patterns have seen EPA's odour surveillance focus on Altona North and Sunshine.



Conducting odour surveillance

EPA devised new odour surveillance methods in May 2021 for compliance and investigation purposes.

The methods in this guide can be used by regulators of odour, applicants for Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) or council permissions, planning professionals and consultants.

Guidance for field odour surveillance

Publication 1881 May 2021



In the field odour surveillance

Odour assessors record observations for each odour investigation using the objective criteria set out below:

1. Observation point.
2. Odour intensity.
3. Odour character.
4. Odour presence (for stationary methods).
5. Meteorological conditions, including wind speed, wind direction, temperature, humidity and cloud cover.



Figure 3. EPA's odour wheel with odour character descriptors.

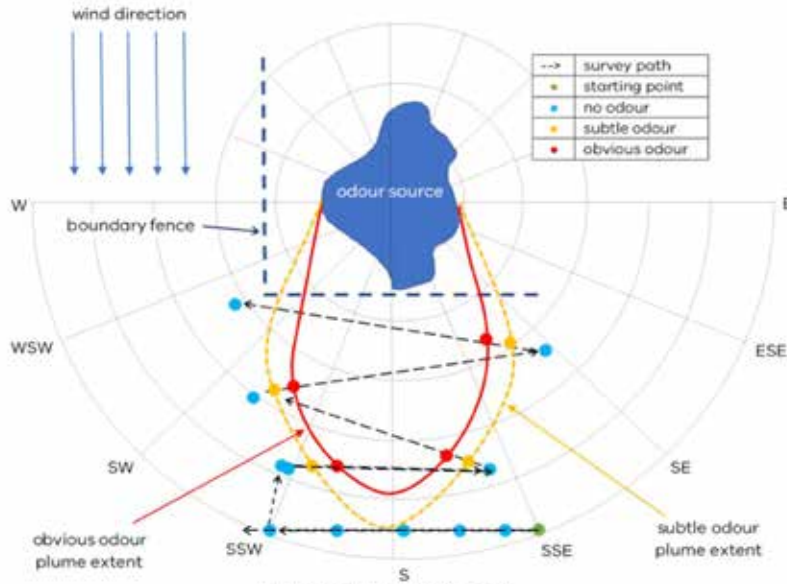
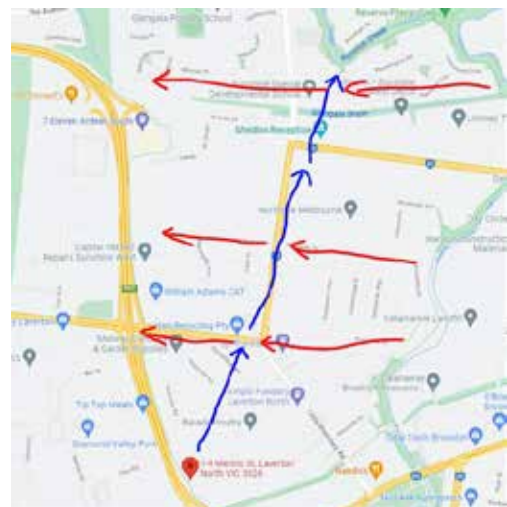


Figure 8: Receptor-source plume trace

A recent example of tracing odour from receptor back to alleged odour source



EPA receives an odour report near to top red arrows.
 EPA visits reporter area noting wind direction and speed.
 Drive with car windows down from east to west to detect any odour. Once odour is detected stop car and walk to record width of odour impact.
 Repeat process upwind by driving east to west (mid red arrows).
 Repeat process upwind again (bottom red arrows). Width of odour impact diminishing as you move upwind until you establish source.





More about odour surveillance

If you would like to learn more about odour surveillance, refer to EPA publication 1881.

<https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/publications/1881>



When we next meet in May...

Our goal is to host a face-to-face BCRG meeting.

Showcase our new EPA Sunshine office at 12 Clarke St, Sunshine (in the VicRoads building).

Our CEO Lee Miezis will also be attending.

* image from <https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/contact-us/>





Stay informed...

Pollution hotline – 1300 EPA VIC (1300 372 842)

Airwatch - <https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/for-community/airwatch>

www.epa.vic.gov.au – subscribe for updates



Questions?



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



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.

ATTACHMENT 3.

MARCH 2022

BROOKLYN INDUSTRIAL PRECINCT PLANNING & COMPLIANCE UPDATE



BROOKLYN INDUSTRIAL PRECINCT PLANNING & COMPLIANCE UPDATE

March 2022

Kristen Gilbert

Complaints received



Council received 5 complaints in 2021 and 2 so far in 2022.

Types of complaints received:

- Dust generated by industrial activity or construction activity
- Use of land without a planning permit
- Contravention of permit conditions



Active compliance



20 active compliance matters on-going

Compliance action effects 16 sites.

The majority of breaches relate to:

Contravention of planning permit conditions (7)

- impact to amenity of the area due to dust, noise or traffic

Land uses without planning permits

- landfilling, materials recycling and transfer stations (11)



Break-down of investigations



Compliance activity break-down

Current investigations can be broken down into 3 categories

1. pro-active enforcement – officers actively auditing sites (this has been impacted by Covid)
2. complaints received by the community & industry
3. on-going monitoring of previous compliance sites

Compliance Priorities



Key planning compliance priorities:

- Coordinate action with internal departments and key agencies, including EPA to tackle issues strategically
- Seek better operational practices, including sealing of land (always a requirement of permits issued now)
- Ensure sites are operating with valid permits and in accordance with permit conditions
- Contact owners and agents (where known) for vacant sites to make them aware of responsibilities prior to leasing to new tenants
- If all else fails, prosecute continued offences and offenders – get outcomes

Enforcement actions/results



Key planning compliance priorities:

- Over 60 inspections conducted by Planning Compliance Officers sine January 2021
- 25 Planning Infringement Notices (PINs) issued – uses causing impact to area - fine and remedial action required
- Several illegal operations ceased and moved off site – all uses deemed to be causing impact to amenity of area (vehicle store, heavy machinery store, timber logging)

VCAT/Magistrates Court Action



454-460 Somerville Road

- Land was being used for a vehicle store, motor vehicle repairs, shipping container storage & store (timber) without planning permits and creating significant amenity impacts
- All uses have now ceased and the site has been vacated following action taken through the Magistrate's Court – finalised in July 2021

552 Geelong Road

- Land was being used for materials recycling without a planning permit and creating significant amenity impacts (visual, noise, dust)
- Enforcement action commenced and the applicant applied for a planning permit which was refused
- Planning application and enforcement order application heard concurrently at VCAT in Dec 2021 & Feb 2022– decision issued yesterday approving permit and refusing enforcement order

Planning Applications



7 planning applications received for Brooklyn in 2021 as well as 4 applications to amend existing permits

1 planning application received for Brooklyn in 2022

Applications include:

- Use and development of land for a data centre
- New warehouse
- Internal additions to industrial building
- Signage
- Subdivision / removal of easements
- Motor vehicle sales (application lapsed)

594-598 Geelong Road



Significant site at the intersection of Geelong Rd and McDonald Rd which had been vacant for several years but caused issues with dust

Planning applications for:

- Subdivision of the land and construction of new roads - approved
- Powercor office and depot (western end of site) - approved
- Data centre (south-eastern corner of site) – under consideration



730 Geelong Road



Compliance action taken against land owner for stockpiling of soil and rock without a permit

Retrospective application lodged to legalise the use (transfer station) – application refused in April 2021

Applicant lodged appeal at VCAT against refusal

Hearing originally scheduled for February 2022 however has been deferred until August 2022 because a CHMP is required but has not been prepared

