



Brooklyn Recycling Group (BRG) Bi Monthly Working Group Meeting - No 10
Wednesday 14 October 2026, 10am – 11am, online

The Bimonthly Working Group Meeting provides a formal governance forum under the Better Environment Plan, bringing together participating businesses, government and regulatory agencies to review performance, share data and coordinate action.

Attendees:

- Dale Irwin – EPA
- Simon Muir – EPA
- Paul Torres - EPA
- Monique Constantini – City Circle Group
- Simon O’Shea – ResourceCo
- Christian Buxton – EcoGypsum & Fertiliser
- Katie Gurrie – Pelligra
- Jeremy Aarons – DEECA
- Tim Rose – DEECA
- Brian O’Neil – PRX
- Stephen Kerr – PRX
- Dr James Brett – Synergetics
- Lisa Field – BRG

Apologies:

James Georgiou – Delta; Peter Venditti – ResourceCo

Basic Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome & Meeting Format – Stephen Kerr (Meeting Chair), PRX

The meeting opened with a welcome to all attendees and an acknowledgement of the value of this forum for collaboration and open discussion. A special thanks was extended to DEECA for its ongoing support of the Brooklyn Recycling Group and the Better Environment Plan.

2. BEP Group Actions Updates – Dr James Brett, Synergetics

Audits: Soon to do site audits following the end of Year 2 of the BRG Better Environment Plan.

Vegetation Program: Quotes for all the vegetation works are in, and the planting work will commence after the successful removal of the goats. The vegetation program was due to begin this year, but has been delayed as there is still a small population of goats that need to be removed. Vegetation planting will take place in 2027.

Dust monitoring: The network is working well. Sensor issues have mainly been resolved. Dust values over the last two months have been reasonable; short-term spikes have been addressed, and 24-hour levels have been below the ERS (Environment Reference Standard) objectives.

Discussion: Simon (EPA) asked about the dust measurements, questioning why they are measured on a 24-hour cycle, and Paul also reiterated the need to be proactive.

Simon requested additional data - a 5-day average during operational hours, for each site.

Action: Site audits to be completed by end of November.

Action: James to provide Simon from EPA the summary data as requested by the end of the week, more detailed assessment in the end of year report.

3. Communications Updates – Brian O’Neil, PRX

Continuing to support Lisa in her role, with community newsletters, on socials and direct stakeholder engagement.

4. Community Liaison Update – Lisa Field, Community Liaison Officer, BRG

A Quarterly Community Liaison Report Q3 (July-Sept 2026) has been completed, and this will be upload to the website, under [Resources](#) and attached to circulated minutes.

Key activities and updates include:

Professional video series: Continue promoting the video series, highlighting industry initiatives and collaborative efforts to improve environmental outcomes across the Brooklyn precinct.

Site tours: Facilitated tours for DEECA Recycling Policy Team, local Brimbank Ward Councillor and RMIT researchers, supporting information sharing and opportunities for future collaboration.

Engagement events: The Greening Brooklyn Together planting event held on 14 August was a success, attracting approximately 35 volunteers. Across four events that BRG has arranged this past year, achievements include:

- 1,200 tube stock planted
- 132 kg of litter removed
- Approximately 6–9 m³ of weeds removed
- 98 volunteer engagements
- Almost 280 volunteer hours contributed

This work builds on the initial planting day at 174 Old Geelong Road on 6 June 2025, coordinated by Geoff Mitchelmore, when the first plants went into this site, approximately 2,000 tube stock.

Positive feedback from participants has highlighted the visible improvements in the area and their interest in continuing to support future events. It is also highly valuable for businesses and community to connect in an area that does not provide many opportunities for this.

An upcoming mulching day is in the pipeline.

Community newsletter: A printed newsletter for letterbox distribution to nearby Brooklyn residents is in development, with the content currently in draft form.

Goat management: Monitoring continues, alongside engagement with a specialist pest management service to progress the required approvals for goat removal. An alternative contractor was needed following the unavailability of the previous provider. The latest estimate indicates approximately 23 goats remain across two groups.

Communications program: BRG continues to share updates about its activities, environmental initiatives and industry collaboration through multiple channels. Members are encouraged to follow and share BRG content via: [Facebook](#) [LinkedIn](#) [BRG website and blog](#) & [YouTube Shorts](#).

Discussion: Further details were provided on BRG's engagement with the RMIT research project, supported by DEECA through the Air Quality Improvement Program (AQIP). The project will investigate the effectiveness of a louvred panel wall incorporating vegetation as a potential dust mitigation measure.

One installation is planned for a site north of Kealba Landfill. A second installation is being proposed within the Brooklyn at the ResourceCo site, with support from the Brooklyn Recycling Group (BRG). The tour was to investigate options in Brooklyn. For more details of the trial project see end of report inclusion.

5. BEP Participant Update

EcoGypsum – Gypsum & Fertiliser Sales – *Christian Buxton*

- **High-wind closures:** There have been 13 non-production days, primarily due to strong northerly winds.
- **Dust monitoring:** The new dust monitors have been a significant improvement, with the dashboard providing clearer visibility of trends and supporting more informed operational decision-making.

City Circle Group (CCG) – *Monique Constantini*

- **Dust monitoring and mitigation:** Issues persist with the northern dust monitor. Efforts have been made to extend the reach of site spray systems to improve dust suppression.
- **Conveyor improvements:** A new steel chute has replaced the previous rubber chute on the conveyors.
- **Vegetation:** Plans to extend vegetation plantings will progress once the goats have been removed.

Delta Recycling – *James Georgiou (update provided via email)*

- **Wheel wash system:** The new wheel wash system is expected to arrive in early November. Installation is anticipated to take one day and will ideally be scheduled on a rostered day off (RDO) to minimise disruption during periods of lower truck movements.
- **Dust monitoring:** Dust monitors are generally working well, although occasional triggers occur for which the cause cannot yet be identified.
- **Dust suppression improvements:** Following Simon's feedback at the previous meeting, Delta has extended the discharge chute at the end of the radial conveyor and installed a heavy-duty spray bar to increase water coverage and improve dust suppression.

ResourceCo – *Simon O'Shea*

- **Water management:** ResourceCo is continuing work on its site water balance, with a focus on reducing reliance on potable water, with water capture and storage capacity being increased.
- **New wheel wash system:** This was returned to the manufacturer for a specification change. Delivery is now expected in November.

- **Street sweeping continues:** Activities extending beyond ResourceCo's immediate frontage to help manage dust across the wider precinct.
- **Dust monitoring:** Overall, this is progressing well, although some spikes have been recorded at unusual times. The cause of these readings is not yet understood and requires further investigation.

Pelligra – Katie Gurrie

Lots happening across the Brooklyn sites:

- **52–60 Market Road, Brooklyn:** Final approval of the capping design is nearing completion, with works hoped to commence shortly. While odour from the site does not typically extend beyond its boundaries, the capping works are expected to further improve site conditions.
- **23 Jones Road, Brooklyn:** Sycle is the tenant at this site, where significant soil imports are planned over the coming weeks. The community and neighbouring businesses will be informed of the upcoming works and the substantial changes planned for the site. All proposed works have received approval.
- **460 Somerville Road:** Assessment of the site is continuing, with soil testing a priority. Ongoing issues with vandalism and trespassing remain a concern, and efforts will focus on establishing a stronger site presence to help deter unauthorised access.

6. EPA Updates – Paul Torres, Dale Irwin, Simon Muir

The EPA program continues as per the [EPA Annual Delivery Plan 2026-27](#). Work is ongoing monitoring and investigating sources of pollution and proactive site visits to support improved environmental management.

Discussions: ERS (Environment Reference Standard) is not about polluting to a standard. It is not really the indicator we need to aim for, and being more proactive is the aim.

Stephen raised the need for EPA to work with BRG to undertake end of Year 2 reporting, keeping this process straightforward.

Paul noted the benefits of engaging with RMIT Researchers and was pleased to hear this is occurring within BRG.

7. Local Government Updates

None

8. DEECA Updates – Jeremy Aarons

At this stage, the AQIP (Quality Improvement Precincts) future funding is unclear with the current election.

DEECA is seeking to document the AQIP activities and progress to date, ensuring the collaborative partnerships and contributions are appropriately captured. A reporting template will soon be circulated and may be similar to last year's version.

9. Other items

Dale requested that Julia Gaton and Carly McGregor be removed from BRG meeting invitations, and that Hannah Noorda be added.

Action: Lisa to action

Brian requested an update on the applications for goat removal. Lisa confirmed that all required paperwork has been submitted and advised that the applications are expected to take a few weeks to process.

Meeting concluded: 10.50am

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 9 December 2026 – 10am to 11am (Online)

End of Minutes

Attachment extra for RMIT Research Project

Air Quality Improvement Precincts Project Design and Implementation Plan – Brooklyn Industrial Precinct

Nature-based Solutions for Mitigating Dust Emissions in West Melbourne

1. Project Overview

This project evaluates the effectiveness of a nature-based solution (NBS) for reducing air pollution in Melbourne's west. The NBS combines a louvred panel barrier, which adapts to changes in wind direction to selectively block particulate emissions, with a semi-permeable vegetated buffer. One wall is planned for a site north of the Kealba Landfill. This proposal proposes a second wall installation within the Brooklyn Industrial Precinct, with support from the Brooklyn Recycling Group (BRG).

2. Background

Waste recycling precincts emit dust and fine particles from crushing, sorting, stockpiling and heavy vehicle movements. Nature-based solutions such as green walls and vegetated buffers can slow and redirect airflow and capture particles on leaf surfaces, reducing exposure for nearby communities.

3. Objectives

Objective 1: Design and install an NBS to reduce localised air pollution. A louvred wall structure combined with a vegetation barrier will be designed to intercept emissions from the site under prevailing northerly winds. The target is a reduction of more than 50% in PM2.5, PM10 and NOX downwind of the structure.

Objective 2: Use a low-cost sensor network to evaluate NBS effectiveness at each stage. Sensors will be placed upstream and downstream of the NBS to measure changes in air quality across three stages: baseline monitoring, the wall structure alone, and the combined wall structure and vegetation barrier.

Objective 3: Engage the community through citizen science. Workshops will raise awareness of NBS for air pollution control. Community support will be measured through workshop attendance and online engagement with the research.

4. Site Description

The proposed installation site is within the ResourceCo facility in the Brooklyn Industrial Precinct. The main emission sources on site, including crushing, sorting, stockpiling and heavy vehicle movements, are located to the north of the proposed wall. The barrier will be situated on top of the southern bund wall and oriented to capture these emissions under prevailing northerly winds.

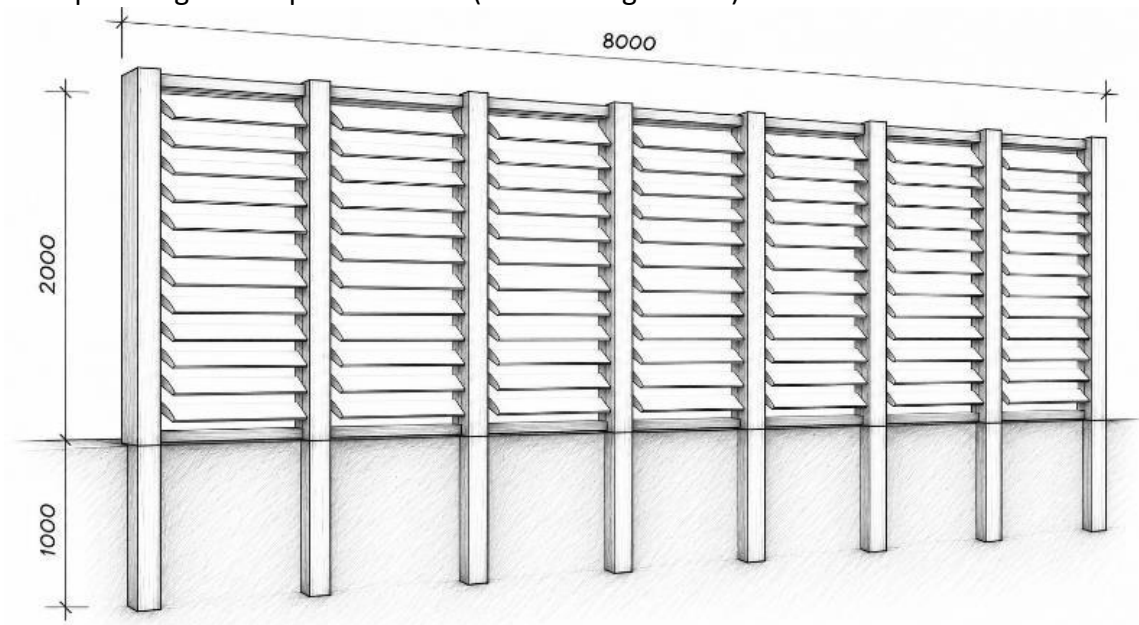
Proposed site location (left) and example wall placement (right).



5. Design Specifications

Item	Specification
Wall system type	Modular louvred panels with a semi-permeable vegetated buffer
Wall dimensions	Length: 6-8 m (5-7 modular panels, each 1.2 m long) Height: 2-2.5 m above ground (excluding in-ground supports) Width: 1-2 m (including lateral supports for stability)
Structural support	In-ground support depth: 0.5-1 m (6-8 support posts) Freestanding timber frame with in-ground posts and lateral braces to provide stability for the wall structure and vegetated buffer
Plant species	Fast growing, dense native Australian plants that are available as established plants and tolerate site conditions
Placement	East-west orientation, perpendicular to prevailing northerly winds, to intercept site emissions

Example design of air pollution wall (without vegetation).



6. Implementation Plan & Timeline

Phase	Key activities	Timing
1. Baseline monitoring	Monitor air pollution at the site using the sensor network, before any installation.	Monitoring: November-December
2. Wall structure	Install the louvred wall structure and monitor its effectiveness before vegetation is added.	Installation: December-January (pending wall construction) Monitoring: December-February
3. Vegetated buffer	Add vegetation to the wall and monitor the combined system.	Installation: February-March Monitoring: March-June
4. Deinstallation	Remove and recycle NBS components and restore the site to its prior condition.	June 2027 (at discretion of BRG and ResourceCo)

END