



Brooklyn Recycling Group
Bimonthly Working Group Meeting (No 7)
Wednesday, 18 March 2026 @ 10:00AM – 11:00 AM via Teams

Attendees

- Paul Torre – EPA
- Dale Irwin – EPA
- Simon Muir – EPA
- Matt Skidmore – City Circle
- Kristy Court – City Circle
- Peter Venditti - ResourceCo
- James Georgiou – Delta Group
- Brian O’Neil – PRX
- Stephen Kerr – PRX
- Dr James Brett – Synergetics
- Lisa Field – BRG
- Katie Gurrie – Pelligra – in part

Apologies - Christian Buxton – Gypsum & Fertiliser. Lee Malia – City Circle, Hannah Rockliffe – EPA, Jake Repacholi – HBCC, Kristen Gilbert – BCC, Margaret Green – EPA, Simon O Shea – ResourceCo, Steven Patrick – ResourceCo, Julia Gaitan – EPA, Julia Caluzzi – EPA, Caroly McGregor – EPA

1. **Welcome & meeting format** – Stephen Kerr (Meeting Chair), PRX
Stephen acknowledged the work undertaken over the past few months since the previous meeting on 10 December and highlighted the significance of Pelligra joining the BEP, noting the positive impact this is expected to have on the area.

The meeting is open to contributions from both participants and the EPA.

2. **BEP Group Actions updates** – *Dr James Brett, Synergetics*
Group actions are progressing well. Training has been updated and the licence is currently being renewed.

All participants have received their new sensors, with the exception of Pelligra, where installation is still being progressed. The next step is to ensure the software is operational across all sensors and integrated with the older units.

Stephen asked how many sensors had been installed and when integration would be complete.

James advised that **13 new sensors** have been installed. Staff are still being trained on the software, and integration with the older sensors is still required. The aim is for all sensors (13 new, plus 7 older units) to be operational, and for engagement with EPA to occur, by **the end of April**.

Dale asked about the process if a dust sensor goes offline. James explained that as long as users are logging into the system, they will be able to identify when a sensor is down. Dale asked whether the system provides alerts, which James confirmed are issued via **email notification**.

Dale also asked about the reporting metrics. It was clarified that the system reports **PM2.5 and PM10 levels every 15 minutes**, as well as providing a **daily average**.

Dale then asked what actions occur when alerts are triggered. James noted that in a recent example, Peter Venditti has been reviewing both the data and the site conditions relating to a sensor located near the car park and timber plant, and the cause of the readings is still being investigated.

Simon asked whether alerts are currently shared with all BEP members. James advised this is not currently the case but suggested it would be **beneficial to share data between businesses that share boundaries**.

Dale supported this point, noting that dust sensors would be more effective if data were shared across neighbouring businesses. He also suggested that responses to alerts be incorporated into operational plans and that actions be communicated to the community where appropriate, allowing issues to be addressed more holistically.

Actions: Further configuration of the new sensors to be completed by **end of April**. A meeting with **EPA** to be arranged to review system performance once integration is complete.

James also noted that the **planting program is on track for this year**, along with the **removal of the goats**.

3. **Community Liaison Update** – *Lisa Field*, Brooklyn Recycling Group
Marketing & Communications *Brian O’Neil*, PRX spoke about Pelligra joining and there being communications done to announce this. As part of Year 2, there was a commitment to do a **new brochure – short and long form** – and that is now complete. (Note: Most participant businesses have copies of these and EPA received some copies at the EPA Governing Board event on 17.3.26).

Website update to reflect the brochure. (Note: this has been done).

Currently working on a video to reflect the same content as the brochure – getting quotes and would like to engage EPA for a contribution to this professional production.

Lisa reported on **two community engagement events being delivered** since the last meeting, with a focus on environmental amenity and shared responsibility within the industrial precinct: the Weed 'n Water event (12 December) and a Business Clean-Up Event (27 February). A total of **31 volunteers** participated across the two events, including representatives from two local councils.

Lisa also attending the Brimbank Economic & Employment Advisory group. These activities continue to **strengthen relationships between industry, community and government stakeholders** – and support highlight the concerns and issues in Brooklyn industrial precinct.

Amenity issues continue to be pursued, particularly regarding legacy dust along curbs and verges, broken curbing, limited pedestrian access, and illegal dumping. Various strategies are being pursued, including engagement with Council officers and discussions with businesses. It was noted positively that additional street sweeping is occurring by participant businesses.

In terms of communications, **two short videos have been produced** and will continue to be shared. Topics include **dust management during windy conditions** and the installation of environmental dust sensors.

Since the last meeting: **Four email campaigns** have been distributed; **eight blog posts** published; **weekly stories shared on Facebook and LinkedIn** highlighting business initiatives; and **three articles published in the local press – the North West Star Weekly**.

These communications channels are helping to **provide consistent and authentic insight into industry activity** and environmental management practices.

Stakeholder engagement is increasing, including collaboration with **Melbourne Water** regarding goat management.

Lisa welcomes further input and contact should anyone have opportunities and ideas to further the community liaison role.

Dale asked about a Pelligra meeting - and this was seen as a favourable action.

Action: Set up meeting between Pelligra and EPA – to explore their scope within the BEP.

4. **BEP Participant Update**

EcoGypsum – Gypsum & Fertiliser – *Christian Buxton* – apology due to illness

A report will be attached to the minutes about the work over the past two months onsite at EcoGypsum.

Pelligra – *Katie Gurrie*

Pelligra have three substantial sites. Old Geelong Rd site likely to progress first. Lots of **remediation work on site**. Looking to better manage these sites in terms of feral animals, dust management. Looking forward to meeting with EPA and to explore the next steps in terms of the BRG BEP.

City Circle Group – *Matt Skidmore, Kristy Court*

New trees have been planted along the **Bunting Road frontage**, extending the planting program previously undertaken along the internal roads.

All four dust monitors have now been installed. One unit was blown over and another experienced battery issues, so some further adjustments are still required. Minor changes to the monitor locations have also been made to maximise their effectiveness. It is expected that final adjustments to power supply and positioning will be resolved within the next one to two weeks.

A hydraulic engineer has also assessed the grate at the entrance of the site. As a result, a **new and larger water storage unit has been installed beneath the grate** to help manage stormwater flows, particularly during high rainfall events; and expected to reduce drag out of dirt.

Delta Recycling – *James Georgiou*

Work is underway to install **covers on the mobile crushing plant**, with completion expected by the **end of April**, in line with the agreed deadline. Several suppliers have been consulted and the project is progressing toward finalising this improvement. If the coverings demonstrate significant dust reduction benefits, there is potential to **expand this approach to other plant facilities**.

The business is also reviewing options to **upgrade the wheel washing system**. The current system is approximately **15 years old**, and investigations are underway to assess more modern systems that may provide improved performance.

Work also continues with the **dust sensor program**, with staff still building familiarity with the software, particularly in relation to **alerts and notifications**.

ResourceCo – *Peter Venditti*

Six **dust sensors** have now been installed, with **five currently operating effectively**. One unit is intermittently triggering on and off and is being investigated.

Further site improvements are planned, including the **installation of a new wheel wash system next month**, representing an investment of approximately **\$100,000** in site infrastructure.

In addition, **dust covers for all conveyors are currently being fabricated** and are scheduled for installation in the **second week of next month**. These works represent a significant improvement in dust management across the site.

5. **EPA Updates**

Dale provided an overview of several key EPA programs currently underway. One program is focused on **odour management**, particularly relating to **rendering facilities, abattoirs and tanneries**, with EPA officers undertaking inspections of these operations.

EPA is also currently focused on a **preventative dust program** across **Port Melbourne, Sunshine, Sunshine West and Brooklyn**, reviewing business processes and procedures to ensure appropriate controls are in place to protect the surrounding community.

There is also an increased focus on **proactive inspections in Melbourne's inner west**, including the use of **drones** to monitor sites and support EPA's role in protecting community health.

Simon raised ongoing **community concerns regarding dust** and asked whether dust sensor data could be made available to the community. Stephen noted this is still being considered and suggested that any public communication would ideally include a **report integrating dust monitoring data with relevant climate data**.

Simon also noted that **PM2.5 particles are microscopic**, highlighting the importance of effective monitoring.

Action: Stephen / James to arrange a **meeting with EPA to review the dust monitoring data** and explore how the information could potentially be used in **community presentations**.

Paul expressed interest in understanding **how businesses respond to dust monitoring data**, particularly in identifying the **most cost-effective dust control measures**. He noted that **dust nets** are one example of a control used across the industry and that there is value in sharing knowledge on effective approaches.

Matt asked whether EPA had observed any **air quality improvements following the opening of the West Gate Tunnel project works**. Paul was unable to confirm at this stage. Improvements have been noted along **Primula Avenue**, that was right next to the former construction site. In the areas where the new **truck bans have come into place, it is expected to see improvements to air quality outcomes**.

6. **Local Government Updates**

No Council reps in attendance. Lisa noted there has been good Council engagement overall. Jake from HBCC supportive of the BRG and in sharing information about BEP, and encouraging businesses to join.

7. **DEECA Updates**

Stephen reported that our grant funded project is progressing, milestone 1 action and payment complete. Simon asked about this funding, that is \$140K in total, and the first payment being \$20K.

8. **Areas of Future Collaboration** - see **Actions**.

9. **Date of next meeting** - Wednesday 27 May 2026 – 10am to 11am (Online)

Stephen closed the meeting around 11am, noting that the meeting minutes to be circulated, along with report from Christian Buxton for the business updates at EcoGypsum.