**Brooklyn Recycling Group**

**Bimonthly BEP Working Group Meeting (No 1)**

**Wednesday, 27 November @ 10:00AM via Teams**

**Minutes**

**In attendance:**

* Jeremy Settle – EPA
* Gary Laidlaw – EPA
* Dale Irwin – EPA
* Madeline King – EPA
* Margaret Green – EPA
* Jake Repacholi – Hobsons Bay Council
* Chris Pape – DEECA
* Christian Buxton – Gypsum & Fertiliser
* Dominic Santullo – Delta Recycling
* James Georgiou – Deltra Recycling
* Lee Malia – City Circle
* Monique Costantini – City Circle
* Ryan Craig – Resource Co
* Simon O’Shea – Resource Co
* James Brett – Synergetics
* Brian O’Neil – PRX
* Stephen Kerr – PRX (Chair)

**Apologies:**

* Matt O’Mara – Brimbank
* Tasha Stevenson – Sustainability Victoria
* Andrea Mason – BCRG
* Motla Bellville Leshoele – EPA
* Geoff Mitchelmore – Friend of Lower Koroit Creek Association

**Minutes:**

1. **Welcome & Meeting Agenda (Stephen Kerr)**

* welcomed all attendees to the inaugural BRG BEP Bimonthly Working Group Meeting.
* conducted an Acknowledgement of Country.
* All attendees introduced themselves by rotation.
* Apologies (above) were noted.
* confirmed the role of this meeting was to provide direct feedback to key stakeholders and our community. The meeting would provide updates and reporting on the 8 Group Actions contained in the BEP and provide two-way feedback and dialogue. The facilitation of this meeting is a key deliverable of the BEP.
* also advised that while the BEP is focused on the 8 Group Actions, the annual audit will also assess individual actions of the four participants.

1. **The BEP (Group Innovation)** – Christian Buxton

* provided an overview of the BEP noting there are four participants Gypsum & Fertiliser, Delta Recycling, City Circle and ResourceCo. There are approx. 20 companies operating in the Brooklyn precinct so while we committed to reducing our dust emissions in the area, we will not solve it.
* explained that the BEP has been over 3 years in development and negotiation with the EPA. It resulted following a site visit by EPA CEO Lee Meises who was impressed by demonstration of Victoria’s circular economy but noted the proximity to the nearby residential community.
* said the situation in Brooklyn is a result of historic planning issues whereby a residential community has been built next to an existing in industrial estate and surrounded by three major road arterials.
* said that by his observation there has been a lack of trust between industry, the EPA and the community. He is hopeful the BEP will address that. He is encouraged that for the first time we are meeting together to discuss our plans to mitigate dust emissions at Brooklyn.
* He has been attending BCRG meetings for nearly 20 years and working the precinct for over 25 years. He noted deliberations at the BCRG meeting last week about its future.
* Other site updates:
  + Ryan Craig and Simon O’Shea – Resource Co – provided an update on latest site activity. There has been an ongoing investment program in plant and equipment upgrades with the intent of moving most activity indoors.
  + James Georgiou – Delta Recycling – discussed significant attempts and upgrades in dust mitigation programs. Work will continue at its site.
  + Less Malia – City Circle – continued program of investment in new plant and equipment. Dust mitigation remains a focus of its business.

1. **EPA Response**

* Chair acknowledged and thanked the EPA for its support and partnership in developing the BEP.
* Jeremy Settle outlined the EPA’s BEP process and acknowledged this being Victoria’s first.
* BEP’s focus on activity beyond compliance – in addition to GEDs.
* He said there were nine dust days in the past year – and nine dust days in the past six months. There is a strong connection between wetter weather and better dust outcomes.
* Dale Irwin said his team would be visible in Brooklyn as there is an ongoing focus on air quality. This would include the use of drones. Following general discussion, it was agreed that the BRG should write a bi monthly update to the EPA (and other stakeholders) about ongoing work and maintenance at the participant sites. This would be in addition the to the Group Actions.

1. **Joint Activity Agreed to Under the BEP** **–** **8 Group Actions – 5 Streams of Work**

* Dr James Brett outlined delivery and key timing milestones in the 8 Group Actions – while they have been reduced to 5 work streams:
* Training – development complete and online training is now available to staff at our 4 participants sites. Uptake is good and should be completed prior to year end.
* Dust monitoring – local software that will capture data from existing and new sensors is being sourced. Locations for sensors are being considered utilising 3D imaging tools. Once the system in place regular audits of data captured will be made available. Dust data will be matched to weather data.
* Tree planting – R&D is underway, and Geoff Mithelmore has been incredibly helpful in providing advice and guidance. Planting is expected to commence in first half of 2025. Feral goats are currently being removed from the area. The preference for complete removal was noted.
* Street Sweeping – Given the four participants and the two relevant LGAs have independent street sweeping programs the intention is to develop a joint roster to drive maximum impact.
* Communications – Chair advised that Communications with key stakeholders and our community are integral to the BEP. This meeting is a case in point. Attempts to secure a Community Liaison Officer have proven unsuccessful so far. Comms materials are available via the web site [www.brooklynrg.com.au](http://www.brooklynrg.com.au) and minutes of this meeting, along with key milestones and updates, will be published on our web site and social media platforms as appropriate.

1. **Questions & Answers**

* Dale Irwin (EPA) asked for clarity on timing of activity and delivery of milestone. BRG to respond in writing with an update including activity at each site. Milestones have already been agreed with DEECA and SV.
* Jake Repacholi (Hobsons Bay Council) said they were pleased to see the BEP in action and would support appropriate activity where possible. He is happy to discuss the Street Sweeping initiative.
* Chris Pape (DEECA) – said DEECA was watching how the BEP model worked, and they were pleased to support this initiative.

**Date of next meeting – approximately 8/9 weeks. Early February 2025. TBA**

**Meeting closed – 10.56am**

**ENDS**