



Brooklyn Recycling Group
Bimonthly Working Group Meeting (No 4)
Wednesday, 11 June, 2025 @ 10:00AM – 10:42 AM via Teams

MINUTES

In attendance:

- Julia Gaitan – EPA
- Motla Bellville Leshoele - EPA
- Sam Sparks – EPA
- Paul Torre - EPA
- Simon Muir - EPA
- Jake Repacholi – Hobsons Bay City Council
- Christian Buxton – Gypsum & Fertiliser
- James Georgiou – Delta Recycling
- Matt Skidmore – City Circle
- Brad Lemmon – ResourceCo
- Mitchell Bacon – ResourceCo
- Ryan Craig – Resource Co
- Simon O'Shea - Resource Co
- Dr James Brett – Synergetics
- Brian O'Neil – PRX
- Stephen Kerr – PRX (Chair)

Apologies:

- Jeremy Settle - EPA
- Gary Laidlaw – EPA
- Dale Irwin – _EPA
- Chris Pape – DEECA
- Katie Becker – DEECA
- Mark Smith - Victorian Waste Management Association
- Dom Santullo – Delta Recycling
- Lee Malia – City Circle
- Lisa Field – Brooklyn Recycling Group

1. Welcome & meeting format – Stephen Kerr (Chair)

Discussion on meeting format.

Note apologies received.

Reminded participants that minutes and community updates will be circulated and will be posted on the BEP website.



Mark Smith will follow up on the VWMA's energy offer with participants.

The Chair provided a general introductory overview:

- BRG representatives had a very cordial meeting with the EPA – Julia Gaitan and Angela Grozos – on 3 June. It was agreed that subject to an EPA review of the first year Audit and Annual Report that we have a pathway to commence Year 2 of the BEP on 1 August 2025. Our materials should be tabled with the EPA on or about 15 July.
- The BRG has also applied for funding from the Air Quality Improvement Precincts Grant Program 2025. We submitted our application on 10 June. It was pleasing to see that BEPs were acknowledged specifically as environmental programs of note.
- The BRG BEP is still the first and only private sector BEP operating in Victoria.
- We are pleased with the effort and energy that BRG Community Liaison Officer, Lisa Field is generating. Her report for May is attached.
- Christian Buxton provided an enthusiastic update on the FOKC tree planting day on 6 June noting representation from our four participants.

2. BEP – Summary of current work – Dr James Brett, Synergetics

Site audits are underway as part of the end of year 1 process. These audits will capture Group and Individual actions.

The training program has been completed by 100% of staff employed at the participant sites.

Dust monitoring and vegetation planting strategies have been completed and ready for implementation in Year 2. It has proven difficult to integrate with the Council's street sweeping contractor but a schedule of works by the participants has now been agreed. Early results are promising and activity will be closely monitored in Year 2.

3. Communications Update – Lisa Field, Community Liaison Officer, Brooklyn Recycling Group

Please refer to attached report for May 2025.

4. Participant Update

Gypsum & Fertiliser – Christian Buxton

Purchased two trucks with mist sprays which will be deployed across the site and used to support the remining project. The site works plan upgrade is around 75% complete.

City Circle – Matt Skidmore

Significant bitumen works have been completed and dust shelters on the crushing plant have been installed. Shelters have been installed around some of the transfer points, particularly around the screen decks, in an attempt to enclose them. This should have material benefits particularly if the hot northerly wind is blowing



Delta Recycling – James Georgiou

A 300 square metre area in the non-ferrous yard has been concreted.

More speed humps installed to slow truck movements which will help reduce dust emissions.

ResourceCo – Ryan Craig

Moving the wheel wash to a more northern position has improved traffic flow and some issues around sedimentation in drains and dam collection.

New street sweeper has operated every day since the last meeting. This is used on site and Bunting Road.

Currently assessing other areas on site for potential concreting.

5. EPA Update

Simon Muir noted that some email correspondence with James Brett is outstanding. James to action asap.

The EPA is still getting a number of pollution reports with regards to large amounts of dust being produced in certain areas within the Brooklyn Precinct. Simon and Paul Torre will discuss dust data with James Brett. The complaint has come from a business hub north of Bunting Road. Simon advised there are about 25 businesses in that area and there's complaints coming from in there along with photographs.

Simon commented that the decision by ResourceCo to move its wheel wash under an EPA remedial notice should help improve its operation.

The wet weather means there are more issues around track out.

City Circle seems to be pretty good at this stage, but it all depends on the wet weather. The efforts to clean out the wheel grate at the front of the facility is showing results.

Ryan Craig asked Simon if he could e-mail him any specific concerns from the neighbouring businesses that he could act on. Simon said he would be mindful of confidentiality.

The Chair confirmed individual businesses have their own complaint management services.

Simon encouraged participants to capture this feedback and add it to a risk management monitoring program. This comes down to training and controls. Simon encouraged participants to look at license or permission conditions. What does that mean about the actions and the responsibilities under the GED that you need to adhere to?

The Chair thanked Simon for his constructive feedback and comments.



6. Local Government Update – Jake Repacholi – Hobsons Bay

Jake said appreciates the ongoing work of the group and it's pleasing to see some of the progress already made and provided the following update:

- Hobsons Bay has submitted a number of applications under the AQIP grants program
- Council has also been promoting AQIP grants across its community network and collaborating with Maribyrnong Council
- Council has now sent letters to approximately 50 businesses in the BIP. The letters advise businesses that residents of Hobsons Bay in Brooklyn and Altona North remain concerned about the state of air quality and encourages better practice to reduce air pollution and sharing examples of this across the community
- Air pollution complaints remain an ongoing feature of requests across Council and these currently focus around noise, particularly from construction
- One resident of Brooklyn is particularly concerned about the state of air quality and impact of dust on his home each day from activities within the BIP. The resident had used the EPA's Garden Safe program to test some soil from his property but is seeking further information, particularly around cadmium. Council is currently assisting the resident with this and will advise the BEP (Dr James Brett) of any major updates
- RMIT University is also reaching out to local councils and stakeholders with a potential project aimed at developing a network of low-cost air quality sensors across seven local government areas in Melbourne's western region

The Chair thanked Jake for his contribution and feedback.

7. Areas of Future Collaboration

The Chair noted that more businesses can join the BEP and conversations are taking place with three companies at present. Progress will be reported when it comes to hand.

8. Questions & Answers

The Chair asked if a quarterly meeting cycle would be preferable to a bimonthly meeting cycle. There was no conclusion either way but Sam Sparks undertook to provide feedback from the EPA's perspective.

9. Date of next meeting - TBA