



**Brooklyn Recycling Group
Bimonthly Working Group Meeting (No 5)
Wednesday, 24 September 2025 @ 10:00AM – 11:00 AM via Teams**

In attendance:

Hannah Rockliffe – EPA
Paul Torre – EPA
Dale Irwin – EPA
Simon Muir – EPA
Motla Bellville Leshoele – EPA
Jake Repacholi - Hobsons Bay City Council
Matt O'Mara - Brimbank City Council
James Georgiou - Delta Group
Christian Buxton – Gypsum & Fertiliser
Brian O'Neil – PRX
Michael Kerr – CR Global
Stephen Kerr – PRX
Dr James Brett – Synergetics
Lisa Field – BRG

Apologies:

Lee Malia – City Circle
Kate Gurrie – Pelligra
Jeremy Settle – EPA
Julia Gaitan - EPA

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

Acknowledgement of Country.

Minutes from previous meeting – *for noting* [LINK](#).

Stakeholders invited to give relevant updates and suggestions during the meeting.

Special items discussed:

Greenstart Award: Christian Buxton and Lisa Field gave a verbal update on The Greenstart Award – an Australian Freight Industry Award for promoting sustainability in the workplace in the community. The award resulted in good promotion, including a media article in the Star Weekly Maribyrnong and Hobsons Bay and substantial social media coverage. [LINK](#). Christian accepted the award, and highlighted the need to collaborate.

Year 1 audits: Michael Kerr and James Brett were invited to give an update on the Year 1 Audits – (post meeting) it was confirmed these were submitted on 10 July. BRG is still waiting for a formal response from EPA although it was noted a meeting with Synergetics and the EPA took place on 24 September.



There were a few technical questions about the dust monitors and plantings, and how the EPA were looking for more motivational statements about where the BRG are heading, with some KPI's to clarify.

Dale and Motla have slides to further explain how these KPI's can be incorporated. These will be circulated asap by Motla.

EPA is wanting to see more detail on what the accountabilities look like. Example: employing a Community Liaison Officer is achieved, but links to pollution reduction, plantings, and other outcomes need clarification.

Christian suggested a KPI that we will have a representative at each BCRG meeting who gives a summary report.

EPA reiterated the need to improve community communications— particularly about dust management plans across the four sites.

Simon Muir asked about air monitoring and how the compliance can be demonstrated to the community, i.e. showing live data. Stephen requested this proposal be formally noted; Simon emphasized it as a short-term goal to show real-time performance. Simon referred to what Delta Group uses as a strong example for BRG dust monitoring.

James Brett to investigate software capabilities.

Christian reinforced the importance of validating BEP work and demonstrating to the community how BRG is performing.

DEECA Grant Application updates – Stephen explained that the BRG is still awaiting a response about the AQIP grant to support the BEP into the next phase.

Simon enquired about the amount being requested.

It was noted that \$140K has been applied for, similar to last year's funding. The grant would be matched by the BEP participants and an additional \$100K would be invested into the BEP.

Simon asked if the BRG share this information; are they transparent with spendings?

Stephen and Christian responded that transparency is achieved through these meetings, the BRG minutes on the website, within the audits shared with EPA, and at community group meetings.

Christian reiterated that each BRG businesses also invests heavily into site and equipment improvements, beyond the BRG program.

2. BEP – Summary of current work – Dr James Brett, Synergetics / Lisa Field, Community Liaison Officer

James – Project Updates

Firm quotes obtained for the new dust monitoring system.

Tree planting quotes completed; awaiting approval of BEP Year 2 and funding from DEECA.



Feral Goat Management Strategy

A local working group is being established, involving Melbourne Water, Brimbank Council, and Lisa (BRG). Goal: improve coordination and management of the feral goat population. Proposal to create a reporting system for sightings (e.g. via Gerard at Melbourne Water or a What's App group).

Seeking financial or in-kind support from local businesses. Focus area: between Somerville Rd, Jones Rd, Geelong Rd, and the creek.

3. Participant Update

- EcoGypsum - Gypsum & Fertiliser – Christian Buxton
Nothing new here. Tom's still working on his planned upgrade.
- Delta Recycling – James Georgiou
Recently upgraded the perimeter sprinkler system, with a new spray head. The finer water particles are more effective. The new system has improved the water pressure, that is also having a overall effect on the dust suppressing water sprays.
- City Circle - Lee Malia, an apology
Stephen reported that at a recent site visit on a very windy day, that most of the heavy equipment was shut down and there was plenty of water to suppress dust. Apologies from Lee for not being here today.
- ResourceCo – not represented
Christian reported there have been some staff changes but appointments have been made.

4. EPA Updates

EPA is keen to support the BEP and urged all businesses to attend meetings.

Current focus: monitoring amenity impacts in Melbourne's inner west (coverage extends up to Melton).

Proactive tools include the use of drones.

Requested that any site shutdowns due to adverse weather be reported back to the community.

Simon asked whether businesses share best practice; noted this is generally covered in the more frequent working group meetings with participating businesses.

Raised compliance issues, particularly around rock crushers and conveyor systems as dust contributors; recommended covering these to suppress dust.

Reported a significant dust spike ($\sim 400 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) and noted EPA continues to receive community complaints about dust from BRG members, despite 3–4 years of collaboration.

One BRG site received asbestos, which required remedial action.

Stephen sought clarity on progressing to Stage 2. Asked whether the EPA could provide provision support to move to Phase/Year 2 on the basis some details would be confirmed over an 8-12 week period?



Motla confirmed clarity on outcomes is needed and he will confirm agreement with his EPA supervisor. Suggested that lack of formal sign-off should not prevent BRG from continuing to progress.

Further discussion on BEP outputs and General Environmental Duty (GED) requirements.

DEECA funding is dependent on EPA sign-off; currently 8 weeks behind schedule.

5. Local Government Updates

Hobsons Bay City Council

No significant update.

Jake Repacholi reiterated the benefits of the Better Environment Plan (BEP) for Brooklyn residents and acknowledged the group's recent award.

Some community concerns appear to be shifting toward data centres, particularly around radiation and a potential policy gap regarding their water use.

Brimbank City Council

No major updates.

Matt O'Mara said he is open to following up on any matters if there are specific issues members would like raised with Brimbank.

6. DEECA Updates

Still awaiting a response from DEECA, and the grant recommendations are before the minister.

Stephen advised that BEPs are now legitimate funding options under the latest AQIP grant guidelines.

7. Areas of Future Collaboration All

Updates on the Planting day – Lisa provided an update on a joint planting day with Melbourne Water, Friends of lower Kororoit Creek, BRG and other businesses on Friday 10 October, 10am – 12noon, in front of Cleanaway, 174 Old Geelong Rd. BYO gloves. All welcome. For more details [LINK](#).

Updates on the roadworks - there will be roadworks in Bunting Rd next month. Lisa has been liaising with Brimbank City Council to request better grading of the verges along Bunting Rd as the soil is heavily built up, and just falling out. They're not doing that yet, but there is a railway line on Bunting Rd that will get signage, line marking and road cleaning. Due to occur on Saturday 11 October. Hopefully in time they will get to cleaning up the verges.

The Chair closed off the meeting, and reiterated an apology that City Circle and ResourceCo not being represented today. It was a first time for this and could not be helped.

8. Questions & Answers

None.



9. Date of next meeting

Late November, or early December for next meeting.