



**Brooklyn Recycling Group**  
**Bimonthly Working Group Meeting (No 6)**  
**Wednesday, 10 December 2025 @ 10:00AM – 11:00 AM via Teams**

**In attendance:**

- Julia Gaitan – EPA
- Paul Torre – EPA
- Dale Irwin – EPA
- Simon Muir – EPA
- Motla Bellville Leshoele – EPA
- Christian Buxton – Gypsum & Fertiliser
- Matt Skidmore – City Circle
- Lee Malia – City Circle Group
- Dom Santullo – Delta Recycling
- Brad Lemmon – ResourceCo
- Peter Venditti - ResourceCo
- Simon O’Shea – ResourceCo
- Georgia Cleaver – DEECA
- Brian O’Neil – PRX
- Stephen Kerr – PRX
- Dr James Brett – Synergetics
- Lisa Field – BRG
- Katie Gurrie – Pelligra

**Apologies:**

Jake Repacholi – Hobsons Bay City Council  
Matt O’Mara - Brimbank City Council  
Kirsten Gilbert - Brimbank City Council  
Callan Riley – Maribyrnong City Council  
Jeremy Settle - EPA  
James Georgiou - Delta Group

**1. Welcome & meeting format – Stephen Kerr, PRX**

Stephen Kerr (chair) welcomed the group and did an Acknowledgement of Country; noting that an agenda for today’s meeting and comprehensive meeting minutes from previous meeting was circulated with the meeting invite.

A special welcome to Katie Gurrie from Pelligra who is in the process of joining the BRG and invited to give an update.

Special mention for the work on the Year 2 BRG BEP Agreement with EPA. All of the BRG participants have signed this, and EPA is due to counter sign very soon.

The DEECA AQIP Grant application agreement has also been signed by the BRG and also soon to be signed off by DEECA.

Stephen expressed delight in these milestones and partnerships that support the BRG’s BEP Year 2 program.

## **2. BEP Group Actions Update – Dr James Brett, Synergetics**

### **Dust Sensor Program**

Dust sensor installation is scheduled to start in January, followed by software setup. The originally proposed site locations have been refined based on EPA feedback. These locations are identified in the BEP reports.

Dale Irwin (EPA) highlighted the need for the sensors to be dynamic, noting that sensors may need to be moved to respond to changing on-site activities, vehicle movements, and operational conditions. James concurred the need to adapt and learn from the experience.

Stephen suggested a three-month period of data was collated, and shared with EPA, to assess how it is working.

Simon Muir (EPA) asked about the type of data the sensors will generate. James confirmed that the sensors will provide live data every 10–15 minutes, with reporting presented through longer-term averages.

Simon also queried whether averages would exclude non-operational days—James acknowledged this and will incorporate the adjustment.

James agreed it would be good to see the operational times vs non-operational times.

Paul Torres (EPA) raised some points that are a part of the Clean Air Society that he is involved in, about the overall monitoring approach, referencing his involvement in EPA Dust Seminars and the future possibility of using the BRG as a test study, to inform other industries.

He noted there are two key monitoring types: Residual impact monitoring – reactive and retrospective; and inherent monitoring – proactive walk-around checks that enable timely adjustments.

Paul encouraged the group to use both approaches together. Stephen welcomed the idea of a the BRG dust sensors being a study within the Dust Seminars.

**Actions:** James to ensure long-term dust-reporting averages exclude non-operational days; and provide EPA an initial three-month log to assess how it is going.

### **Vegetation Updates**

Contractors will be engaged for the next planting season, commencing in Autumn. Continued goat management is essential to protect future plantings.

### **Other Updates**

A site visit was conducted with Pelligra alongside Katie Gurrie, with discussions now underway on how best to integrate this new partner into existing group actions. Given the scale of upcoming works at Pelligra sites, dust sensors will also need to be applied dynamically across these areas.

The Dust Training Program will be refreshed in January and recommence next year.

## **3. Community Liaison & Communications update, Lisa Field, CLO**

### **Marketing & Communications**

Brian O’Neil (PRX) provided an update on the Year 2 Plan, noting that BRG marketing materials are currently being refreshed.

The primary brochure is being updated and will be completed shortly. A video version of the brochure will be developed with support from Christian Buxton (Sunshine Groupe).

Christian will also assist with producing short breakout videos showcasing participant activities and dust-suppression practices.

The BRG website will be updated to reflect all Year 2 communications.

Stephen suggested that EPA Comms team review the new marketing materials.

**Action:** BRG to consult with EPA Comms via email.

#### **Roadworks & Local Infrastructure**

Lisa reported on the condition of Bunting Road. While some improvements were made during recent railway-crossing works, sediment build-up in the gutters remains an issue—particularly at the MacDonald Rd intersection, which is in very poor condition and deteriorating.

**Action:** Lisa to follow up on road and gutter maintenance needs along Bunting Rd. If any stakeholders have leads on this, please advise Lisa.

#### **Goat Management**

The newly established Goat Management WhatsApp group is beginning to see activity. City Circle noted that goats often shelter under their office buildings during rain, a detail Lisa will pass on to Gerard Morel (Melbourne Water) as it may assist with capture planning. Gerard will coordinate goat-capture arrangements, and some funding may be required.

**Action:** Participant businesses personnel to invite relevant operational staff to the Goat Management WhatsApp group and continue posting sightings of goats.

#### **Community Engagement Events**

The next event, Weed 'n Water, will be held Friday 12 December, 9am–10:15am, in front of Cleanaway (174 Old Geelong Rd), in partnership with Melbourne Water and FOLKC.

The previous event on 10 October was well-attended: 35 volunteers planted and watered 700 tube stock, with some guarding completed.

#### **Communications & Media Channels**

An email newsletter is now active. Community members can subscribe via a pop-up on the BRG website, the CLO email signature, and through the BCRG mailing list.

A BRG Community Newsletter (October 2025) was circulated, with an email version distributed in late November 2025.

A YouTube channel has been established to expand video reach, complementing BRG's presence on LinkedIn and Facebook.

The BRG website has been refreshed, featuring Year 1 achievements, Year 2 goals, and updates on participant-led site improvements (2024–25).

These platforms will be central for sharing dust-monitoring data once available. Relevant links include [Website](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Facebook](#) [YouTube](#) [Subscribe to our Community News](#)

### **Adverse weather events & reporting**

Follow-up from September Meeting, it was asked that BRG report on site shutdowns due to adverse weather, to let the community know. On a particularly windy day in October, Lisa contacted multiple businesses and shared City Circle's temporary closure as an example.

A three-month overview of EcoGypsum's wind-related shutdown practices will be shared shortly. Going forward, BRG will provide updates using a mix of immediate notifications (for significant weather events) and longer-term reporting to give a clearer picture of overall site performance.

**Action:** Lisa to continue to liaise with participant businesses about their shutdowns and report back to community via the multiple communication channels.

### **Year 2 Community Liaison Plan**

A detailed CLO Plan for Year 2 has been developed and will be circulated alongside the meeting minutes. Stephen noted we are required to provide EPA a CLO 3-month plan as part of the Year 2 BEP.

**Action:** CLO to circulate the CLO Plan with Meeting Minutes.

### **BCRG Engagement**

Lisa noted that the scheduled BCRG meeting did not take place in November/December; however, the BCRG EO has been supportive—sharing the BRG October Newsletter, Weed 'n Water event flyer, and the email subscription link through their network.

Julia Gaitan (EPA) advised that the future format of BCRG meetings (online vs. in-person) for 2026 is still under consideration.

EPA will host a Governing Board event on Tuesday 16 December week for community members, and a business-focused event is planned for March 2026.

### **4.BRG Business Updates**

Stephen invited participant businesses to provide their updates.

#### **Christian Buxton, EcoGypsum**

Over the past three months, the main focus has been on site improvements. This period is typically quieter for the agricultural market that uses our product. We've had a lot of strong northerly winds, and we have proactively ceased production on high-risk days, using this time to focus on the plant construction of the plant.

#### **Production Overview**

September: 22 available production days, and 9 days where production was ceased.

October: 23 available production days, and 11 days where production ceased.

November: 20 production days, and 14 non-production days where our efforts were directed toward progressing construction and upgrades of the plant.

#### **City Circle Group – Matt Skidmore, Lee Malia**

The past couple of months have been particularly busy, with strong activity across the civil construction sector.

#### **Recent updates at the site include:**

New screening plant cover: A cover has been installed over the screening plant, which is typically a challenging area during high-wind days.

Stormwater management improvements: Significant work is underway to enhance our stormwater system, which is positioned on higher ground. An engineering company is helping here. These improvements may also help support future tree planting activities.

**Delta Group – Dominic Santullo**

Domonic provided an update on the dust-monitoring processes.

**Recent improvements across the site include:**

Installation of additional huts and igloos.

Placement of more speed humps to reduce vehicle-generated dust.

A continually operating water truck.

An upgraded sprinkler system that is performing well—although the spray is so fine it can sometimes appear similar to dust.

In the new year, there will be more hard-standing surfaces, additional covers, and expanded use of water additives to further strengthen dust control.

During the discussion, Dale Irwin (EPA) recommended showcasing these spray systems through video content on the BEP website and newsletters.

**Action:** Delta/BRG to use video demonstrations of spray effectiveness to communicate to community the value in their dust suppression techniques.

**ResourceCo – Peter Venditti, Brad Lemmon**

Peter provided an update.

**ResourceCo's dust-suppression efforts:**

The water spray can sometimes appear similar to dust, and the team is still working to achieve the optimal balance in application.

Work is underway on dust covers, with the aim of having these fully in place by February. Additional concreting is planned for several areas of the site.

ResourceCo continues to operate a full-time water truck and sweeper, supported by two full-time staff dedicated to these activities.

Brad added that the quieter operational period is being used to progress improvements to the sales area of the Brooklyn site and to install reticulation for those stockpile areas. Several internal roadways have now been sheeted, and early results show a noticeable reduction in dust.

**Pelligras – Katie Gurrie**

Pelligras provided an overview of its three brownfill sites within the precinct:

1. Huntsman Chemical site (38 hectares) on Sommerville Rd
2. Old Cleanaway site landfill on Old Geelong Rd
3. Market Rd closed landfill site

Huntsman site is currently undergoing environmental investigation. It has historically been a problematic dumping area, with trespassing and dumping of soil. There will be more activity here in 2026 in terms of cleaning up the site and further assessments.

Market Rd Closed Landfill needs to be capped and is a priority. Some recent soil placement has resulted in community complaints, and Pelligras noted the importance of learning from BRG practices to strengthen controls.

Old Geelong Rd Closed Landfill (Lot 2) located next to the current Cleanaway operations, is already capped. There is an application for development on that site for the early new year, and Pelligra is working closely with Council and EPA to ensure appropriate planning and approvals.

Significant earthworks are planned for 2026 across all sites. Katie emphasised the importance of supporting tree planting and goat management, and expressed strong interest in becoming a formal BRG member to align more proactively with precinct-wide environmental practices.

Katie noted that Pelligra's intention is to operate in a proactive, rather than reactive, manner as site activities increase.

Stephen thanked Katie, and the progress reports by participants businesses, and also such a good number of EPA attendees.

Motla asked about Pelligra's timeline for formally joining the BRG. Stephen advised that we will follow up directly with Motla on this matter.

**Action:** BRG to follow up with Motla regarding Pelligra's joining and any EPA requirements.

#### **5.EPA Updates**

Dale Irwin spoke about the use of drone surveillance that will continue, with a focus on dust management plans, and particularly where dust is tracked out. West Metro region will focus on odour, in and around Brooklyn and suburbs, and undertake a proactive inspection campaign.

An inner west air quality program will roll out in the new year, and will also include proactive inspections.

Simon Muir reported on concerns raised by community members about dust coming from BRG members. They are putting in their own dust monitoring and including drone footage, and have sent footage to EPA. There is concern for silica, and evidence of a fire.

Since last meeting, notices have been issued for non-compliance issue relating to track out and dust.

Lisa Field asked if she may attend the proactive air quality campaign visits to any BRG business. Dale Irwin is happy to share info, but no to attending due to the regulations.

#### **6.Local government updates**

None. All reps are apologies.

#### **7.DEECA updates**

Georgia reported that Katie Becker has now moved on from her role. A finalised AQIP grant agreement is in process.

#### **8.General discussion - Areas of future collaboration**

Julia Gaitan (EPA) raised that there are management changes happening with EPA. Recycling Victoria will be merging with EPA. The new Head of Permissioning will start in January. It has been announced. They will also have a new Head of Strategy too.

Stephen asked Julia if BRG can brief the EPA Field team in the new year, i.e. February or March.

**Action:** Stephen and Julie to arrange a date.

Future meeting dates have been drafted.

**Action:** Lisa will circulate meeting minutes and draft dates.

Stephen Kerr thanked everyone for their commitment, participation and patience. Year two program is looking good, thanks to DEECA and EPA's involvement.

**Meeting concluded 10.50am**