



BRG Bi Monthly Working Group Meeting - No 9

Wednesday 5 August 2026, 10am – 11am

The Bimonthly Working Group Meeting provides a formal governance forum under the Better Environment Plan, bringing together participating businesses, government and regulatory agencies to review performance, share data and coordinate action.

Attendees:

- Dale Irwin – EPA
- Simon Muir – EPA
- Liam McLaren – EPA
- Matt Skidmore – City Circle Group
- Monique Constantini – City Circle Group
- Peter Venditti – ResourceCo
- Simon O'Shea – ResourceCo
- James Georgiou – Delta Group
- Christian Buxton – EcoGypsum & Fertiliser
- Sudeeptha Yalla – Hobsons Bay City Council
- Tim Rose – DEECA
- Brian O'Neil – PRX
- Stephen Kerr – PRX
- Dr James Brett – Synergetics
- Lisa Field – BRG

Apologies:

Ivona Buljat – Maribyrnong City Council, Katie Gurrie – Pelligra

Basic Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome & Meeting Format – Stephen Kerr (Meeting Chair), PRX

Acknowledgement of TO's. Acknowledged new guests - Tim, Sudeeptha, and Liam.

Stephen has been liaising with EPA to organise a presentation of the dust monitoring system, and for Jeremy Settle to be included given his initial oversight of the BEP. Stephen has also requested a meeting with the new EPA CEO and/or Director of Strategy to showcase the BEP initiative.

2. BEP Group Actions Updates – Dr James Brett, Synergetics

James provided the following updates:

- Working with the participant businesses to get their vegetation quotes complete, for the forthcoming vegetation program. Some quotes are done, and some are still coming in.

- The dust monitoring network is performing well overall. Delta recently replaced their four Enviroguard sensors with SiteHive sensors to standardise their setup, which is now operational. Some maintenance issues have been identified, particularly the accumulation of dust on the sensors' solar panels. Regular cleaning of the panels will be required to ensure the sensors continue to operate effectively.
- The policy documents are in the process of being setup, some sites are finished, some are in progress. James will coordinate the submission of the full suite of documents to EPA when they are completed.

Action: James to complete the documentation for the vegetation quotations and provide the required paperwork to DEECA by mid-August.

Action: James and Stephen to schedule a presentation to EPA by the end of August to showcase the dust monitoring program, explain its various components, and demonstrate what the monitoring data is revealing about dust trends and site performance. (DEECA team to be included).

Discussion: Dale suggested that the proposed end-of-August meeting be broadened to maximise its value. In addition to the presentation on the dust monitoring program and sensors, the agenda should include updates on the vegetation program. DEECA should also be invited to attend.

3. Communications Updates – Brian O’Neil, PRX

We have now a suite of professional videos highlighting the work of the Better Environment Plan, made by a local Melbourne based company.

These videos showcase the partnerships, projects and people working together to deliver positive environmental outcomes and help build a more sustainable circular economy.

1. Working Together for a Better Environment – Brooklyn Recycling Group - short video

Portrait short version video – 1 min, 12 sec – suitable for Facebook

<https://youtube.com/shorts/EoC17T8uvi8>

2. Brooklyn Recycling Group – Working Together for a Sustainable Circular Economy

Landscape short version video – 1 min, 12 sec

<https://youtu.be/3GNhWf4dfWA>

3. Brooklyn Recycling Group – Working Together for a Sustainable Circular Economy, with captions

Landscape short version, with captions – 1 min, 12 sec

<https://youtu.be/S7mK5iYO3JI>

4. Brooklyn Recycling Group – Victoria’s First Better Environment Plan

Landscape long version, 4 min, 19 sec video

<https://youtu.be/KgxyJblvuQc>

5. Brooklyn Recycling Group – Victoria’s First Better Environment Plan, with captions

Landscape long version 4 min, 19 sec video, with captions

<https://youtu.be/NHJ28h-lokw>

Action: Lisa to continue to share these details and encourage our stakeholders to use where appropriate.

4. Community Liaison Update – Lisa Field, Brooklyn Recycling Group

Lisa provided an update on community engagement and communications since the last meeting:

- **Website enhancements** – New content has been added explaining how **construction and demolition (C&D) recycling works**, further strengthening the educational resources available on the circular economy. Members are encouraged to visit the [C&D Recycling section](#) to learn more.
- **Professional video series** – A suite of professionally produced videos is now available on the [BRG website](#) and the [BRG YouTube channel](#). These will also be promoted through an upcoming email newsletter to stakeholders. Every welcome to share – I have a help sheet to support this too.
- **Quarterly Community Liaison Report** – The Q2 (April–June 2026) Community Liaison Report has been published on the BRG website in the [Resources section](#) and will also be attached to these meeting minutes.
- **Presentations and advocacy** – The Better Environment Plan was showcased through presentations at both the **Victorian Waste Management Conference** and the **Victorian Healthy Air Forum**, highlighting Brooklyn's collaborative approach to improving environmental outcomes.
- **Goat management** – A third successful goat containment operation resulted in the removal of a further 20 goats, supporting ongoing revegetation efforts along the Kororoit Creek corridor.
- **Communications program** – A mix of posts on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#), blog articles on the website [Home page](#), email and PDF newsletters, and [short videos](#) has continued to promote key initiatives, including street sweeping, dust monitoring, site tours, vegetation planting, and broader environmental improvements across the precinct.

Planning is well underway for two upcoming stakeholder events:

- **Greening Brooklyn Together** – Friday 14 August, 10.00 am–12.00 noon, at 174 Old Geelong Road, Brooklyn, in partnership with Melbourne Water and Friends of Lower Kororoit Creek. [Please promote](#).
- **August Site Tour** – Tuesday 11 August, 10.00 am–12.30 pm, with DEECA staff and Cr Lucy Nguyen, providing an opportunity to showcase the Better Environment Plan in action and discuss ongoing environmental initiatives across the precinct.

Discussion: Stephen asked about the total goat removals, and remaining figure. **80 goats have been removed**, and around **12-13 remain**.

Stephen also requested an update on social media performance. As a general guide, the Brooklyn Recycling Group's social media content is currently achieving approximately **1,500 views per month on Facebook** and **2,600 views per month on LinkedIn**. These figures provide an indicative measure of audience reach and engagement across the two platforms.

5. BEP Participant Update

EcoGypsum – Gypsum & Fertiliser – *Christian Buxton*

Christian provided the following updates:

- Christian and Tom Buxton are **exploring further upgrades to the site** to support ongoing operational and environmental improvements.
- The **dust monitoring network is now operating reliably**, with the system providing valuable data and identifying patterns in dust activity across the site.

- Christian continues to support Lisa with the goat containment program.

Discussion: Stephen asked how the dust monitoring data is being used. Christian explained that the data enables timely investigation and response to dust events. On one occasion, an exceedance was identified while operations were underway, allowing immediate action to address the issue.

On another occasion, an exceedance occurred when the site was not operating, indicating that the elevated dust levels were likely attributable to another source or prevailing weather conditions.

City Circle Group – Monique Constantini, Matt Skidmore

Monique provided the following updates:

- **Vegetation quotes have come through**, and we are working on a timeline to plant before Christmas. Naturally concerns for the goats remain, as there was a previous planting program that was destroyed within hours of planting.
- We are working through **a risk assessment from EPA**.
- One dust sensor may require cleaning to improve its performance; however, the monitoring network is otherwise operating well.
- Work is also continuing on the development and refinement of the dust monitoring system's policies and procedures.

Monique asked if other participants find the photo data provided in the SiteHive software useful, but overall, these are not used or useful for these sites; likely more useful on larger sites.

Delta Recycling – James Georgiou

James provided some key updates:

- The **new wheel wash system** has been purchased and is being made; due to be installed in about 6 weeks.
- Street sweeping frequency has increased as needed at this time of year.
- Existing dust controls are working well.
- The 4 Site Hive monitors make it far easier to manage than the former Dustrak versions.

ResourceCo – Peter Vendetti, Simon O'Shea

Peter advised that a capital expenditure request has been approved for **a new street sweeper** to replace the existing unit, which is nearing the end of its service life.

The new sweeper is expected to be delivered in approximately three months and represents an investment of around **\$250,000**.

Pelligra – Katie Gurrie

An apology for the meeting; however, post meeting updates provided about their three sites:

52-60 Market Rd Brooklyn

Addressing EPA comments on the closed landfill cap design. Will be reissued to the Authority this week. The next few months will see site establishment activities, including geotechnical investigation activities.

23 Jones Rd Brooklyn

Shyde will commence Stage 1 earthworks in the coming weeks. The EPA appointed auditor verified Construction Environmental Management Plan will be endorsed to manage risks throughout works.

460 Somerville Rd

Executive meeting with EPA next week. Priority is to commence works ASAP, but need to ensure contamination is delineated so to inform effective clean-up plan. Planning Application is with Council, waiting on consent, with conditions, from EPA & DTP.

Security, waste dumping, trespassing still an issue across all sites. Constantly communicating with Council and police. Fence reinstate works will be commence in a fortnight.

6. EPA Updates

Dale advised that EPA's compliance program will continue to focus on similar priorities to last year, with a particular emphasis on **air quality and odour management** across Melbourne's inner west. Compliance activities will primarily target larger, permissioned sites. EPA will also continue to utilise drone technology to support surveillance, monitoring and compliance activities across the precinct.

Simon provided an update on several recent site observations and investigations. It was noted that, during rock crushing operations at Delta, material was being dropped approximately **4–5 metres** onto stockpiles, generating visible dust. At the EcoGypsum site, visible dust plumes associated with processing activities were also observed.

Simon suggested that **dust reduction efforts** should focus on reducing conveyor heights, minimising material drop distances, and installing chutes and covers over transfer points to help reduce dust generation.

Matt asked about **no of complaints**, and if there has been any shift. Matt also expressed interest in resident's feedback as a key driver to why the BEP is in place.

Dale responded that **pollution reports are up**, but the community are more engaged. In terms of individual issues, there are still pollution reporters commenting on BRG sites – some come as pollution reports, some come as comments to officers – and if there was a theme, it is slightly reduced or similar to previous years.

Overall, the EPA noted that **businesses are responding positively to air quality warning notices**, and toward addressing air quality issues. They are taking grants to better improve sites. There are still issues, but businesses are responding positively.

Stephen enquired about no of complaints, but this is difficult to measure.

7. Local Government Updates

Sudeeptha is settling into to new role and was invited to contact Lisa with any follow up queries.

No other local government representative present.

8. DEECA Updates

Tim, filling in for Jeremy whilst he is on leave, explained that the team are finishing up on the acquittals of AQIP grants, and found today's meeting valuable in providing more context of the BRG's projects.

Meeting concluded: 10.50am

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 14 October 2026 – 10am to 11am (Online)