



**Brooklyn Recycling Group
Bimonthly Working Group Meeting (No 3)
Wednesday, 9 April 2025 @ 10:00AM – 10:45 AM via Teams**

MINUTES

In attendance:

- Gary Laidlaw – EPA
- Dale Irwin – _EPA
- Paul Torre - EPA
- Simon Muir - EPA
- Motla Bellville Leshoele - EPA
- Chris Pape – DEECA
- Katie Becker - DEECA
- James Georgiou – Delta Recycling
- Lee Mallia – _City Circle
- Ryan Craig – Resource Co
- Simon O’Shea - Resource Co
- Dr James Brett – Synergetics
- Lisa Field – Brooklyn Recycling Group
- Mark Smith - Victorian Waste Management Association
- Brian O’Neil – PRX
- Stephen Kerr – PRX (Chair)

Apologies:

- Jake Repacholi – Hobsons Bay City Council
 - Christian Buxton – Gypsum & Fertiliser
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1. Welcome & meeting format – Stephen Kerr, PRX

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.

Stakeholders will be invited to give relevant updates.

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

Training program is almost complete, just 2 more staff to fully complete their training. Currently seeking feedback from staff, to support any future refinements of the training or delivery of training. Over 70 staff have now completed training. A focus for participants in ongoing dialogue with staff around strategies to mitigate dust.



The dust monitoring plan has been completed and circulated to all participants who have provided their input to the design. Phase 2 of the plan is the implementation, where all sites will install additional dust sensors for an integrated system.

The tree planting program is proceeding with a trail planting planned during this year's cooler months. The planting will take place on the Resource Co site. The feral goats are still in the area, and further contact has been made to the local catcher, who has some access issues. An ongoing issue.

The street sweeping program entails an expansion of street sweeping by all businesses, looking to integrate and compliment with Council's program. Council is using contractors which makes it difficult to integrate with them.

Paul Torres (EPA) commented about street sweeping and advised the need to be more strategic. James replied that Brimbank Council is sweeping the streets one night a fortnight and the aim will be to publish the frequency of the BRG street sweeping program, for transparency.

Simon Muir (EPA) asked to see a training log, and the dust monitoring plan. **Action:** James to follow up directly with Simon.

Simon also mentioned that dust street sweeping is a secondary control and should not be exiting the site. Stephen Kerr noted the importance of this.

Dale Irwin (EPA) responded the need for dust mitigation to occur on site.

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

Since commencing in mid-February, attendance at the Brooklyn Community Representatives Group meeting 5 March, discussions with members of the Inner West Clean Air Network, and council & government stakeholders, attendance at recent EPA forum on 2 April, where MTAG are very vocal about air quality matters. Also organised a tour for DEECA personnel. Building connections and transparency being important, including updating the BRG [website](#), [socials](#) and [LinkedIn](#) page.

Gary Laidlaw asked about the BCRG communications. **Action:** Lisa and Gary to follow up here as there has not been any updates since the meeting on 5 March.

Stephen Kerr invited Katie Becker to give a run down on the half day tour. Saw the goats, and was pleased to see each site, their scale of works and dust management programs.

3. Participant Update

EcoGypsum - Gypsum & Fertiliser – Christian Buxton

Apology.

City Circle - Lee Mallia

Lee explained that it had been very useful to speak with EPA about some of the dust management programs.

Asphalted an internal section of the City Circle site. Have obtained quotes for further dust monitors, and these will soon be purchased and installed. EPA have assisted with analysing the dust data and identified the need to further influence the behaviours of staff.



Delta Recycling – James Georgiou

Doing more hardstand works in the non-ferrous yard, a 300 square metre area which is currently an unsealed section of the site. The initial works to start after Easter, and due to complete late May.

ResourceCo – Ryan Craig

Active in preparing for trial planting, meeting with contractors, and this will occur in June/July. Hoping the goats are dealt with by then.

A lot of works for dust suppression, including water controls and communications, particularly on high-risk days.

Purchased a new street sweeping machine this past month; a big investment and now managing the staffing of this.

4. EPA Updates

Thanked Lee Mallia for his time in discussing dust issues at City Circle, as there is a need to have actionable plans and outcomes in place, and by looking at micro examples to the macro problem of air quality is useful to EPA.

There are a number of EPA programs impacting the inner west, and strategic work on odour and dust is continuing in Brooklyn.

EPA continues to use lots of drones and personnel on the ground to monitor and investigate.

The EPA is keen to highlight the positive actions in the area but will follow up with sites that are not following their environmental duty.

5. Local Government Updates – none

6. DEECA Updates – the Grant (Air Quality Improvement Precincts Program) guidelines have been drafted and awaiting approval. This next round is likely to open in late April. All grant applications need to have a lead, that is a necessary aspect of the grant applications.

7. Areas of Future Collaboration All

Mark Smith from Victorian Waste Management Association was invited to speak, mentioning the training available to staff on raising awareness on social licence; and the community engagement occurring by Hansen who operate the Wollert Landfill as positive examples of leadership in the sector.

Stephen invited Mark to do a presentation at the next meeting. **Action:** add Mark to speak at next meeting.

Stephen referred to an article in The Age about a failed program to buy back/modernise trucks that use the streets in the inner west, where only 2 applications received for grant support, and no money granted. <https://www.theage.com.au/politics/victoria/truck-trade-in-scheme-fails-to-spend-a-cent-receives-just-two-failed-applications-20250407-p5lpu8.html>



Lisa mentioned the upcoming Planting Day Friday 6 June, 9am – 12noon, with [Friends of lower Kororoit Creek](#) at 174 Old Geelong Rd, Brooklyn, in front of Cleanaway, planting around the recently sealed section of road. All welcome. BYO gloves, water bottle, and garden trowel if available. An official road opening will follow on from the planting.

Stephen noted that more businesses can join the BEP, and two conversations have begun and may lead to new businesses joining.

8. Questions & Answers

9. Date of next meeting – Save the date.

Online, Wednesday 11 June, 10am – 11am.

Invite and agenda to be sent closer to the date.