

**MINUTES**  
**BROWNS PLAINS LANDFILL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING**  
**OF**  
**25 JUNE 2013**

**ATTENDEES:** B Lee (Waste Services Branch - WSB)  
L Banks (Community Representative)  
J A Lee (Community Representative)  
R Oakley (WSB)

The meeting commenced at 2.30pm.

**1.0 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Dalley, M Asnicar (Manager WSB), L Boyd (Community Representative)

L Millar (Community Representative), F Laughton (Community Representative), E Koch (Community Representative), S Weber (Community Representative), N Martin (Community Representative), D Moore (Community Representative), G Williams (Community Representative), K McDonald (Community Representative), P Cohen (Community Representative), M Lawton (Community Representative) and H Priday (Community Representative) did not attend.

**2.0 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 19 March 2013 were an accurate record.

**3.0 BUSINESS ARISING**

**3.1 Landfill Odour Complaints**

There were 11 complaints received during the three-month period of March to May 2013. This compared to 15 for the same period last year. Details were as follows:

March 2013

There were eight odour complaints received regarding the landfill during March 2013. Details were as follows:

- 04/03/2013 - 11:00 am - Sefton Court;  
and
- 04/03/2013 - 11:30 am - St. James Circuit - The ground staff advised that the demister was working properly. The recent rainfall and high moisture content of the waste may have contributed toward an odour problem. It was reported shortly after the time of the complaint that there were no significant odour issues around the tip face.

- 07 March 2013 - 3.45pm - St James Circuit - The ground staff advised that the demister was operational at the time of the receipt of the complaint. Recent rainfall and high moisture content of the waste may have contributed toward an odour problem and should subside by end of the day.
- 11/03/2013 - 1:50pm - Saint James Circuit - It was noted that there was moderate odour coming from the tipface but staff were unable to operate the demister due to a technical fault.
- 15/03/2013 - 5:04pm - address not recorded - The resident mentioned that the landfill odour is bad and the demister doesn't seem to be working. He was advised that the system is having an electrical fault and is currently under manual mode. On enquiring ground staff advised that the demister has been turned off at 4pm. Staff were directed to keep it running till 5pm and to turn off prior to leaving site.
- 20/03/2013 - 1:54pm - Volstead Road - An officer checked and found that the demister was on and functioning efficiently. He also checked the operation of the tip face and found it well confined.
- 22/03/2013 - 4:56pm - Rincon Street - The demister system was only being manually operated between 8.00 am and 4.00 pm on this date due to a electrical switch fault.
- 27/03/2013 - 12:00pm - Volstead Road - Odour Complaint. Resident complaint about the landfill odour and enquired if the demisters are effectively working as the sweet smell could not be sensed. The resident was informed that demisters are operational and that wind direction is fluctuating.

#### April 2013

There were three odour complaints received regarding the landfill during April 2013. Details were as follows:

- 03/04/2013 - 11:55am - address not recorded - A WS officer spoke to the resident and advised that the tip face is currently odourous due soil stripping and hot and humid conditions. He advised that the odour control system was operating. There was a subsequent review of the concentration of odour control agent in the storage tank.
- 15/04/2013 - 4:50PM - Tarrango Place - Contact was made with the tip face operational staff who advised that the odour control system was on and would be operating till about 8.30pm that night.
- 18/04/2013 - 11:21AM - Bayliss Road - The resident advised that he had been experiencing odour for the last few days and nights and it was making him ill. Grounds staff confirmed that the demisters were operating in normal automatic mode. Moisture content in the waste, however coupled with warm temperature conditions may have increased the odour at the tip face. A follow up call was made to the resident on the same day to explain the situation. Resident enquired how long odour issue will continue and he was informed that the transfer of the current tip face to a new cell down in due course should

minimise the odour issue. The resident also expressed interest in receiving quarterly Community Consultative Group meeting invitations, and these will be provided.

### May 2013

There were no odour complaints received regarding the landfill during May 2013.

L Banks advised that, with the current prevailing westerly winds, homes in Bayliss Road seem to be subject to landfill odour. She expressed concern about what it will be like at her home when the northerly winds return in summer, and the tipping area is higher and closer.

B Lee advised that use of the current cell 2F will have to continue until construction of cell 2D is complete. This work is due to commence in July/August 2013 (subject to negotiations with the contractor) and is expected to last for 12 months.

L Banks responded that cell 2F is simply too close to residents. Further, she regularly observes a haze of dust over the landfill which coats her solar panels.

L Banks asserted that her submission on Council's Waste Strategy had not been acknowledged. J A Lee advised that her submission had been acknowledged.

**Action:        *B Lee to ensure that L Banks' submission on Council's Waste Strategy is acknowledged.***

L Banks made reference to a note in the previous meeting minutes that the construction of cell 2D was conditional upon Council approval of a budget request for funding of equipment hire and labour necessary to facilitate the proposal. She asked if the budget request had been approved. B Lee advised that it had been approved.

L Banks then made reference to the Eastern Creek Waste Management facility west of Sydney. She advised that she had read reports that the facility processes waste so that very little is landfilled and odours are eliminated. B Lee responded that the facility is an Alternative Waste Treatment facility that would have operational costs of \$150 to \$200 per tonne, as compared to the Browns Plains Landfill cost of \$35 to \$45 per tonne.

R Oakley joined the meeting at 2.45pm. He advised that, despite just having taken up his position with Council, he was well aware of the desire of both the community and Council for the construction of cell 2D to proceed as soon and as quickly as possible.

### **3.2 Environmental Performance**

B Lee advised that the results of environmental monitoring conducted at the Browns Plains Landfill in February 2013 were received in March 2013. With respect to release waters (stormwater) leaving the site, licence conditions state that no discharges should exceed the maximum concentration of suspended solids of 50mg/L. The February sample was 95mg/L. Similarly, the measured dissolved oxygen concentration of 1.1mg/L was below the licence limit (minimum) of 4.0mg/L. These exceedances are related to the extremely heavy rainfall events in January and February.

Corrective measures in the process of being implemented include:

1. Cleaning of ponds and channels of sediments;
2. Investigate the possibility of installing a mesh at the release point to filter the stormwater exiting the site;
3. Implementation of grass cover and flow diversions to limit sediment transport on slopes.

L Banks commented that she had noted numerous rats in the vicinity of her home after recent rains. B Lee advised that officers from Council's Animal and Pest Branch regularly monitor the landfill site for various vectors including rats. They also trap and bait for rats.

### 3.3 Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP)

B Lee advised that officers from DEHP conducted an inspection of the Browns Plains Landfill on 5 June 2013. They subsequently asked for various construction and operational plans and records which have since been provided. Their final report on the inspection is awaited.

### 3.4 Ibis Update

Numbers of ibis recorded at the site have been as follows:

<b>2012</b>	<b>Average of daily count recorded by contractor before dispersal</b>
October	1,270
November	990
December	1000
<b>2013</b>	
January	1350
February	1300
March	1000
April	1000
May available	1750

B Lee passed on advice from the ibis control contractor that:

- May's landfill count was 1,743 ibis on a day when there had been no dispersal. The average number of ibis recorded on departure from the landfill following days with dispersal in May was 444. This reflects an average reduction of 74.5% in ibis numbers on days with active dispersal compared to days with no dispersal.
- With the inclusion of May's data, the average number of ibis counted at Browns Plains Landfill in 2012-13 has decreased from its historical peak of 2,279 (2002- 03) to 1,228 (46% reduction).
- The number of ibis roosting on site has reduced from 124 in July 2012 to 0 in May 2013, representing a 100% reduction. Whilst the dispersal program is likely to have contributed to this result, it is also possible that ibis do not use the landfill as a roosting site in the non-breeding season (April to June).

- Egg and nest removal in April was discontinued as per the proposed works schedule.

### **3.5 Fire Ant Update**

Nothing to report.

### **3.6 Invitations to Odour Complainants**

At the Group's September 2009 meeting it was recommended that Council direction be sought on the proposal to send landfill odour complainants an invitation to join the Group. The matter was considered by Council at its meeting of 27 October 2009 when it resolved that written invitations to join the Group be sent to residents who make odour complaints about the landfill.

B Lee reported that there were 11 complaints made during the March to May 2013 period and this resulted in one invitation being issued. The remainder of complainants were from Councillors or residents who had been previously invited or were already group members.

JA Lee suggested that perhaps invitations should be reissued to complainants who had been previously invited. It was agreed that six months would be a suitable interval.

**Action:** *B Lee to ensure that invitations to join the Group should be reissued to complainants who had been previously invited over six months previously.*

L Banks asked if it would be possible to also advertise in local newspapers for potential Group members. B Lee advised that Council had recently placed some restrictions on advertising, but he would investigate and report back to the Group.

**Action:** *B Lee to investigate the possibility advertising in local newspapers for potential Group members.*

### **3.7 Bayliss Road Entry to Landfill**

At the last meeting B Lee was requested to ensure that all Group Community Representatives be provided with the latest concept plan when it is available. He advised that a report on the matter will be considered by Council on 9 July 2013 after which time it is expected that consultation will be conducted.

**Action:** *B Lee to ensure that all Group Community Representatives be provided with the latest concept plan when it is available.*

## **4.0 GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **4.1 Odour**

JA Lee asked that the minutes of the meeting reflect that:

- It appears that there is no concern from Council on the odours being experienced by residents.
- The odours being experienced are disgusting and they have to stop.

- There appears to have been no forethought regarding the use of cell 2D. If it had to be used at all it should have been used years ago before the nearby housing was constructed.

## **5.0 CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING**

The meeting concluded at 3.15pm. The next meeting will be held in September 2013. The date will be conveyed in due course. J A Lee advised that she would be out of the country from 20 September 2013 and requested that the meeting be held before that date.