

MINUTES

BROWNS PLAINS LANDFILL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING OF

27 MARCH 2018

ATTENDEES: B Lee (Health Environment & Waste Branch - HEW)
R Oakley (HEW)
W Cox (Community Representative)
B Chambers (Community Representative)
J Ooms (Community Representative)

The meeting commenced at 1:00pm.

1.0 APOLOGIES

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

J A Lee, N Martin, L Miller, D Moore, P Cohen, E Koch, F and M Laughton, G Williams, A and H Priday, D Eldridge, L Ross, L and M Blunt and S Baker, S Gaunt, Mr Jonsen, (all Community Representatives) did not attend.

2.0 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

W Cox confirmed that the distributed minutes of the previous meeting (on 5 December 2017) were an accurate record.

3.0 BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 Landfill Odour

B Lee reported that there have been 59 complaints received during the 12 months between 1 March 2017 and 28 February 2018 compared to 26 between 1 March 2016 and 28 February 2017.

There were 11 odour complaints received during the three-month period of December 2017 to February 2018. This compared to nine for the same three-month period the previous year. Details of the 11 recent complaints were as follows:

December 2017

There were five odour complaints received regarding the landfill during November 2017:

- 1/12/2017 - 3:25pm - Bayliss Road - Operational control measures being taken were explained to the caller. A check of the residential area soon after the call revealed a relatively strong odour
- 7/12/2017 - 4:40pm - Calford Court - The only action able to be taken at the time of the complaint was activation of the odour control system. A Waste Services officer called at the resident's street and did not detect any odour.
- 06/12/17 - 10:34am - Eastern Road - Control measures being taken were explained to the caller. A check of the residential area was made soon after the call and an odour was detected.

- 6/12/2017 - 4.55pm - Tarrango Place - The odour control system had already been activated earlier in the day. .
- 14/12/2017 - 1.15pm - St James Cct - The odour control system was activated at the resident's request. An officer called at St James Cct and noted a slight odour.

January 2018:

There were two odour complaints received regarding the landfill during January 2018:

- 24/01/18 - 4.30pm - St James Cct - It was not possible to activate the mobile odour control system due to a mechanical problem.
- 25/01/18 - 11.45am - Mayfair Drive - The odour control system was activated. A Waste Officer visited the residential area soon after the call and was not able to detect any odour.

February 2018:

There were four odour complaints received regarding the landfill during February 2018:

- 06/02/18 - 4.20pm - Mayfair Drive - Submitted by email - The area was visited but no odour was detected. The odour control system was down for maintenance at the time. Contact was made with the complainant's partner and general operational odour control was explained.
- 09/02/18 - 12 noon - Berkley Drive - The resident was reporting an odour they had been experiencing for a week. The area was visited at 12.20pm and no odour was detected at the time. The resident was visited and advised that the odour control system was down for maintenance and expected to be repaired within a few days.
- 16/02/18 - 11.40am - Bayliss Road - The resident said he called to report an inconsistent 'wafting' odour. The odour control system was activated.
- 22/02/18 - 12 noon - Berkley Drive - The area was visited at 12.20pm and no odour was detected in 10 minutes. The officer then visited and spoke to the complainant and odour was briefly detected. The odour control system was activated.

J Ooms advised they had not recently detected odours at home, but had done so while on walks in the vicinity of Saint James Circuit. B Chambers reported a similar experience, but with odours detected at home once or twice.

W Cox reported that odour conditions at her home had improved since December 2017. She had, however, noted a 'waft' of odour on Sunday and Monday 25 and 26 March at around 4.00pm.

R Oakley advised that a two-week odour control trial had commenced today. The usual odour control practices will remain in place, but in addition, probiotics will be applied to the tip face three times a day. Probiotics are, simply put, microorganisms that digest organic material quicker and theoretically reduce the production of malodours being generated. The company promoting the product and Council will

both be monitoring and reviewing the performance of the product. Admittedly this assessment will be subjective.

B Chambers reported noting in the minutes for the previous meeting that there had been 57 complaints in the year to November 2017 compared to 18 complaints in the year to November 2016. He asked if there was any particular reason why there would be such a discrepancy.

R Oakley advised a significant factor would be the location of the active tipping face, which moves closer to and further away from residential areas as the cell fills. For example, over the recent hot Christmas period it was deliberately moved as far as possible away from residents to maximise the buffer distance. As weather cools the tipping face will move and the buffer distance will be reduced, odour management practices will remain in place whatever the tipping location. All areas, including those near residents will need to be filled eventually.

B Chambers advised he had been studying the odour complaints and noted that numbers tended to double towards the end of the week. There were higher numbers of complaints on Thursdays and Fridays. He asked whether that related to covering of the tip face.

B Lee and R Oakley were unable to explain why this might be. R Oakley advised that standard procedure was to transport cover material to be stored at the tip face on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays so it is available on weekends when the cover transport trucks aren't working.

B Chambers noted that there were very few complaints on Saturdays or Sundays.

R Oakley responded that this was likely because of the higher proportion of solid dry transfer station waste handled on a weekend relative to the household/commercial putrescible waste (wheelie bin) waste.

W Cox asked if the low number of complaints on weekends could be because residents don't know they can make a call. She asked if it might be possible for odour complaints to be texted or sent via an app to Council on weekends.

Action: Waste Services officers to investigate the question of odour complaints being texted or sent via an app to Council on weekends.

B Chambers noted that:

- Three complaints were received over a period of four hours on 20 October 2017; and
- Two complaints were received over a period of five hours on 26 October 2017.

He asked if a check is conducted of the effectiveness of the odour control system after it is activated. R Oakley responded that there was an expectation that a check was made on the effectiveness and feedback provided if it was requested.

3.2 Environmental Performance

B Lee reported that the results of environmental monitoring of the landfill site that was conducted in November 2017 were received in January 2018. The only exceedance of landfill licence limits was at one of the eight monitoring stations around the site. It was adjacent to the sports fields construction work.

3.3 Department of Environment and Science (DES)

B Lee reported that:

- In November 2017 Council received correspondence from DES with a request for further information on dust monitoring results and sampling techniques used at the Browns Plains facility. Council provided a response to DES on these matters in December 2017.
- Following conversations with DES in March 2018 they requested further environmental monitoring information concerning environmental ground water sampling methodology, results and interpretation. Council will provide this information and this will likely be followed up with a meeting with DES to assist in interpretation and assist in any remaining concerns.
- In February 2018 Council submitted to DES the 2016/17 Annual Return report for its Environmental Authority relating to the Browns Plains Landfill.

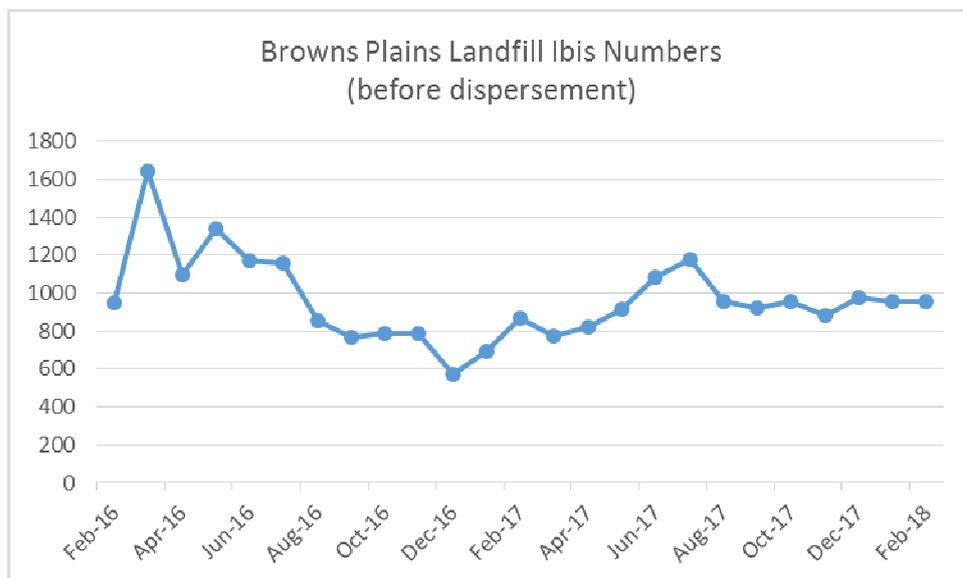
R Oakley advised that the exchanges in dot points 1 and 2 above have likely been prompted by the Gold Coast DES office recently taking over regulation of the Browns Plains landfill from the Ipswich office, and not being familiar with the site. Any further discussions will be reported to meetings of this Group.

3.4 Ibis Update

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

Average number recorded by contractor before dispersal	Total
2017	
January	692
February	866
March	776
April	821
May	914
June	1,087
July	1,178
August	959
September	920
October	958
November	883
December	978
2018	
January	958
February	959

In February 2018 the average final count of ibis after harassment activities was 480 - which was a 21% decrease on the previous month.



There were no ibis complaints received regarding ibis during the September to November 2017 period.

B Chambers pointed out that there appeared to be a conflict between the data presented in dot points 1 and 3 in section 3.4 of the minutes of the meeting of 5 December 2017.

During preparation of these minutes the data was reviewed and it was established there was no conflict.

Action: *B Lee to explain apparent ibis data conflict in December 2017 minutes at next meeting.*

3.5 Fire Ant Update

In late-October and early-November 2017 a number of fire ant nests were discovered in three locations:

- On both sides of the boundary between the Recycling Market carpark and the new playing fields; and
- In front of the Recycling Market car park entrance.
- Outside the internal entrance to the Recycling Market off the road to the tip face.

R Oakley added that all of the new infestations were located close to earthmoving activities (now concluded) that were happening on Stage 1 of the site.

Biosecurity Queensland attended the site and treated the nests in late-December 2017. There have been no further nests identified and no further contact with Biosecurity Qld.

3.6 Invitations to Odour Complainants

At the Group's September 2009 meeting it was recommended that Council direction be sought on a 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.

Further, at the Group's meeting of 25 June 2013 it was agreed that Council should ensure that invitations to join the Group are reissued to complainants who had been previously invited over six months previously. (It had previously been Council's practice to not send multiple invitations to residents making multiple complaints.)

Of the 11 complaints made during the December 2017 to February 2018 period:

- 3 invitations were issued
- 2 were from existing Group members
- 5 were from residents who had been previously invited.
- 1 were from residents whose addresses were not recorded

4.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

4.1 Volstead Road House

B Chambers noted that vegetation had been cleared around the two-story brick house on landfill property fronting Volstead Road. He asked what plans Council had for the site.

Action: *B Lee to check with Council's Property Section on if there are plans for the two-story brick house on landfill property fronting Volstead Road.*

5.0 CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING

The meeting closed at 1.45pm. Invitations and agendas for the next meeting in June 2018 will be issued in due course.