

MINUTES

BROWNS PLAINS LANDFILL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING OF

26 JUNE 2019

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

The meeting commenced at 6.00pm.

1.0 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from M Asnicar (Manager HEW).

J Loscialpo ,G Burns, J Ooms, 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

It was agreed that the distributed minutes of the previous meeting (on 26 March 2019) were an accurate record with the following exception:

On page 5 there was a reference to "B Cox" that should have been "B Chambers".

The minutes of the meeting were amended accordingly.

3.0 BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 Landfill Odour

B Lee reported there have been 96 confirmed odour complaints in the last 12 months compared to 68 for the previous 12 month period.

There were seven odour complaints received during the three-month period of March to May 2019. This compared to 16 for the same three-month period the previous year. Details of the seven recent complaints were as follows:

March 2019

There was one odour complaint received regarding the landfill during March 2019:

- 19/03/19 - 10.20pm - St James Cct, Heritage Park - No action could be taken due to the time of the call. A light to moderate odour was noted at the tip face at 8.30am the next morning.

April 2019:

There were three odour complaints received regarding the landfill during April 2019:

- 04/04/19 - 11.30am - Mayfair Drive Browns Plains - An officer proceeded to the resident's premises but could not detect any odour. The office spoke with the resident and explained the usual odour controls. The odour control system could not be activated as it required maintenance.
- 09/04/19 - 11.10am - St James Cct, Heritage Park - An officer immediately attended the tip face where they noted a moderate odour blowing in the direction of the complainant's residence. The landfill compactor was also out of operation which may have contributed to odour. The odour control system was activated. The officer proceeded to the resident's premises but could not detect odour for the five minutes they spent there.
- 09/04/19 - 4.10pm - Lamberth Road East, Heritage Park. See above. Officers also spent five minutes at this resident's premises soon after the call but could not detect odour.

May 2019:

There were three odour complaints received regarding the landfill during May 2019:

- 03/05/19 - 1:10pm - St James Cct, Heritage Park - At the time of complaint there was a light breeze from north east. An officer attended the resident's address and noticed a faintly discernible odour. There was a moderate odour noticed at the tip face. The odour control system was activated at 1:40pm.
- 07/05/19 - 4.50pm - St James Cct Heritage Park - No other details recorded
- 10/5/19 - 1:50pm - Lamberth Road East - An officer had been at the tip face before the call and had noticed a discernible odour. The odour control system was activated as requested by the resident.

B Chambers noted the complaints from Lamberth Road East and queried if it was not too far away to be affected by landfill odours. B Lee said that odours had been confirmed there and a line could sometimes be drawn from the premises affected, to affected premises in St James Cct, and then to the tip face.

B Chambers commented that he had noted odours in the park on the corner of Lamberth Road East and Millwood Street in summer, but not lately.

W Cox commented that she'd experienced one bad period of odour in the last three months, but not recently.

L Boyd commented that her last complaint was on 7 May. She did note an odour last week (17 - 21 May) but didn't report on that occasion.

R Oakley then gave an update on current and future tip face operations. He referenced a plan, a copy of which has been included with these minutes as Attachment 1. He explained that:

- Operations were currently near the centre of cell 2D and "on the last lift, meaning level of waste won't go too much higher.
- Later this year construction of the next cell 2E would commence. He described how, as the access road for cell 2D runs through 2E, 2E would be constructed in two stages, with the northern part being followed by the southern part.

L Boyd asked how long would cells 2D and 2E last.

B Lee replied that rough estimates at current tipping rates would be 18 months and four years respectively. R Oakley added that the waste levy comes into effect on 1 July 2019, and one of its main purposes is to reduce waste to landfill. Any significant reduction in the tipping rate will extend the life of the landfill.

Not mentioned at the meeting, but being included here for full disclosure and greater clarity:

- The order that cells were operated prior to cell 2D were 2A, 2B, 2C and 2F.
- There are still some voids and settled areas that require further filling in cells 2A, 2B, 2C and 2F to bring these cells to finished design height.

L Boyd asked what will happen with cell 2G. R Oakley replied that Council has Department of Environment & Science approval to develop 2G as a general waste landfill cell, but no decision on its operation and use has been made. L Boyd asked who will be making that decision and R Oakley replied that will be Council.

R Oakley also made reference to the future waste management expression of interest that Council is undertaking with sub-regional partners the Redland City Council, Ipswich City Council, Lockyer Valley Regional Council and the Somerset Regional Council. The purpose of the exercise is to investigate what waste disposal options Council will have after use of the Browns Plains Landfill ceases. Economies of scale may make regional and non-landfill options viable.

L Boyd asked if it was only Logan City Council waste being disposed of at Browns Plains. B Lee confirmed that it was, and that in fact some wheelie bin waste (from the former Beaudesert Shire area) was going to the Scenic Rim Regional Council landfill.

B Chambers made reference to a number of complaint records and noted that in some cases response times were excessive, up to hours. R Oakley advised that when he personally investigates he makes an effort to immediately attend the tip face followed by the complainant's residence. Having said that, and even with the best of intentions, he acknowledged that for numerous reasons there would sometimes be delays.

B Lee mentioned that the position of the officer whose responsibility it is to investigate odour calls recently became vacant and is in the process of being filled. Doing so will provide an opportunity to train the officer to give priority to odour complaints.

3.2 Environmental Performance

The results of environmental monitoring of the landfill site that was conducted in February 2019 were received in May 2019. There were no exceedances of landfill licence limits.

3.3 Department of Environment and Science (DES)

The only contact had with DES from March to May 2019 related to the waste levy being introduced on 1 July 2019.

R Oakley advised that in May 2019 the DES requested that groundwater monitoring results submitted to the department be presented in a different manner that would make discrepancies and analytical trends easier to detect. There was no suggestion that the results were outside acceptable parameters.

3.4 Ibis Update

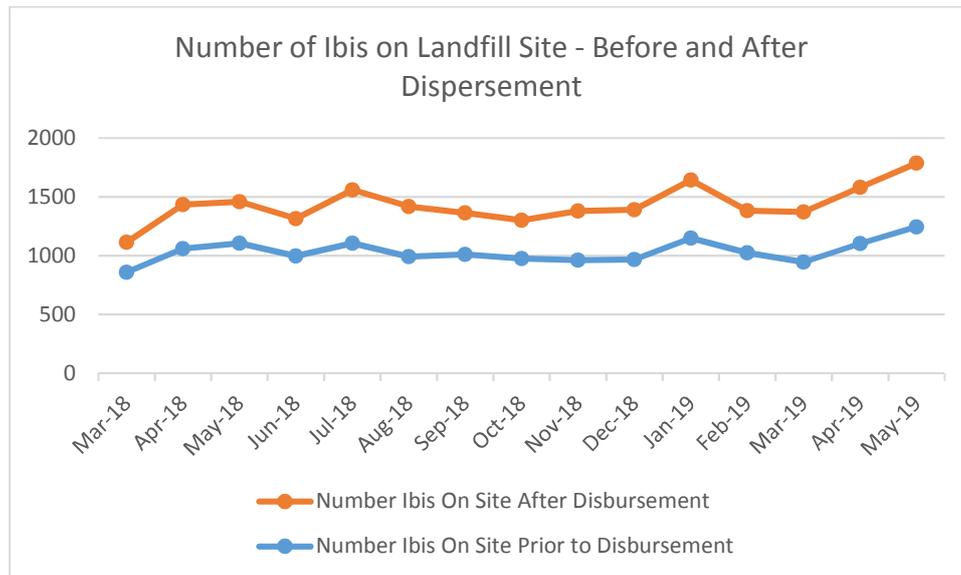
B Lee reported that the May 2019 report from the wildlife management contractor stated that:

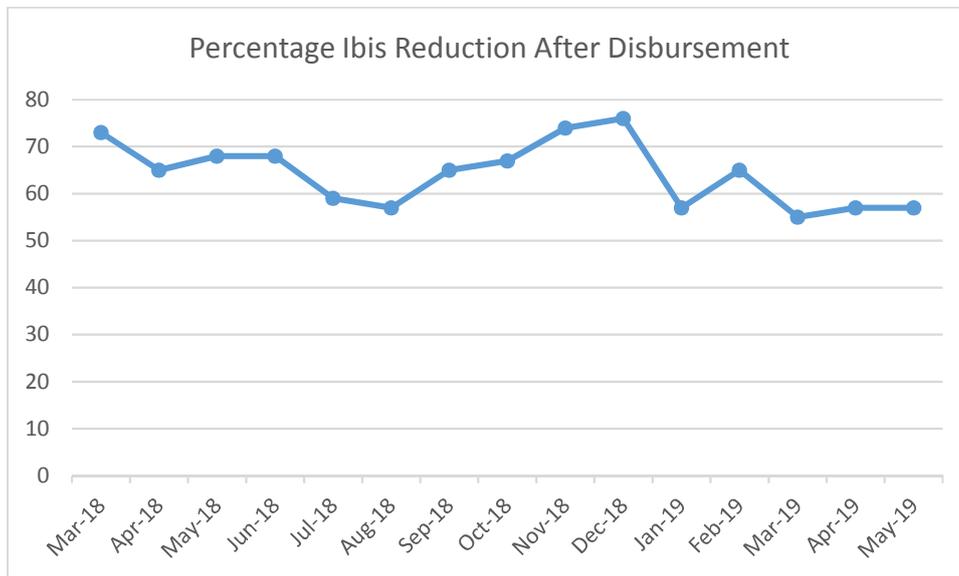
- Average initial ibis counts in January were 1,245 prior to harassment activities.
- Average final counts of ibis were 541 after harassment activities.

- On average, ibis numbers were reduced by 704 individuals, equating to 57% per day during the harassment period (compared to an average reduction of 57% in April 2019)
- The primary dispersal methods was 'quad and noodle'.

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

	Number Ibis On Site Prior to Disbursement	Number Ibis On Site After Disbursement	Percentage Ibis Reduction After Disbursement
Mar-18	859	254	70
Apr-18	1060	375	65
May-18	1105	353	68
Jun-18	997	319	68
Jul-18	1106	454	59
Aug-18	992	427	57
Sep-18	1012	353	65
Oct-18	976	325	67
Nov-18	963	416	57
Dec-18	968	423	56
Jan-19	1149	494	57
Feb-19	1025	357	65
Mar-19	947	424	55
Apr-19	1103	477	57
May-19	1245	541	57





B Lee reported that there were no ibis complaints received regarding ibis during the March to May 2019 period, but there was one on 21 June 2019.

W Cox reported seeing numerous ibis near the corner of Bayliss and Volstead Roads.

R Oakley advised that the complaint related to noise from birds in trees between the landfill and houses in Saint James Circuit, and on the vacant lot (where the house had been removed). He had attended himself and actually noted more noise from crows than ibis. L Boyd and W Cox agreed that crow noise was noticeable and perhaps a bigger nuisance than that of ibis.

R Oakley noted that crows are unlikely to be attracted by the landfill as they are only very rarely seen scavenging on the tip face.

He advised that the ibis complaint had been referred to Council's wildlife management contractors to investigate and report.

B Chambers noted that a number of figures in the "Percentage Ibis Reduction After Disbursement" column of the above table seemed to have been incorrect in the minutes of the 26 March 2019 meeting. B Lee advised that this had been noted and corrected for these minutes.

3.5 Fire Ant Update

No new fire ant nests were discovered at the site over the March to May 2019 period.

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 seven complaints made during the March to My 2019 period:

- one invitation was sent
- two were from existing Group members
- four were from residents who had been previously invited.

4.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

4.1 Dosing of Odour Control System

W Cox said she noted in the minutes of the last meeting mention was made of a problem dosing the odour control system.

R Oakley advised that, as a result of an issue raised at a previous meeting, an investigation revealed the dosing was being done incorrectly, and corrective action was taken.

W Cox advised she hadn't smelt the odour control agent recently. R Oakley replied that the system was only being used very occasionally in recently weeks due to the prevailing conditions.

W Cox made reference to an unusual "sour" odour noted in the last 10 days. R Oakley advised that, from the description, it's highly likely that the source was mulched green waste on the pad closest to residents (Pad A) that had got wet in the recent rain and was likely now decomposing at a quicker rate, it was green compostable waste only and was being removed from site.

5.0 CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING

The meeting closed at 6.45pm. Invitations and agendas for the next meeting in September 2019 will be issued in due course.

ATTACHMENT 1

