

**MINUTES**  
**BROWNS PLAINS LANDFILL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP**  
**MEETING OF**  
**8 December 2015**

**ATTENDEES:** B White (Acting Manager Waste Services Branch - WSB)  
R Oakley (WSB)  
B Lee (WSB)  
L Boyd (Community Representative)  
J Ooms (Community Representative)

The meeting commenced at 1:05pm.

### **1.0 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Dalley

JA Lee, N Martin, L Miller, S Weber, 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, (all Community Representatives) did not attend.

### **2.0 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

It was agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting of 22 September 2015 were accurate.

### **3.0 BUSINESS ARISING**

#### **3.1 Landfill Odour**

There have been 8 odour complaints confirmed (from a total of 10 received) during the 2015/16 year to date. This compares to 14 for the same period in 2014/15. (The two unconfirmed complaints were from residences that are well over a kilometre from the landfill and are much closer to chicken farms.)

There were two complaints confirmed (from a total of four) received during the three-month period of September to November 2015. This compared to 11 for the same three-month period in the previous year. Details were as follows:

#### September 2015:

There were two odour complaints received regarding the landfill during September 2015. Details were as follows:

- 15/09/15 - Lamberth Road East - details of the complaint were not recorded at the time. The complaint only came to light sometime after the meeting.

- 21/09/15 - Windamere Court - Resident complained about a landfill odour by email. The WSB Environment and Risk Officer called at the resident's home the next afternoon, when no odour was noted. The resident advised that the odour is usually noted at night. Due to the distance of the residence from the landfill (1.3km) it was considered more likely that a chicken farm near Green Road was the odour source. The wind was 0.1km/hr from the north east at the time of the complaint.

#### October 2015:

There were two odour complaints received regarding the landfill during October 2015:

- 08/10/15 - 11.00am - Powell Street - Resident complained about odours, mostly in the evenings. The location of the caller's address was checked and it was found to be a very long distance (about 1.3 km) from the landfill and considerably closer to the chicken farm on Green Road. There are hundreds of homes between the complainant's residence and the landfill and no other calls about odour were received. An officer called at the complainant's residence later that day and no odour was noted. The officer explained the situation about the poultry farm and left a number for the State Government Department of Environment and Heritage Protection who regulate the site. Wind speed was 2 km/hr from the east at the time of the complaint.
- 21/10/15 - 2:15pm - Tarango Place - The resident complained about landfill odour and investigations revealed that the tip face was the likely source. Grounds staff confirmed that the odour control system was on at the time of the complaint. Wind speed was 11 km/hr from the north-east at the time of the complaint.

#### November 2015

There was one odour complaint received regarding the landfill during November 2015. Details were as follows:

- 25/11/15 - 3:30pm - St James Circuit - The resident explained that the odour had been noticed around this time (3:30pm-4pm) for the last 2 or 3 days. She explained that she was expecting guests on the weekend at that time and was concerned that this smell will be noticed during their visit. A WS officer spoke to the resident the following morning and later that afternoon noted an intermittent odour in the vicinity of the residence. The resident asked if the demisters could be turned on during the afternoons on the weekend and arrangements for that were made. Wind was 11 km/hr from the north east at the time of the complaint.

B Lee asked Community Representatives present if they had experienced much landfill odour recently. J Ooms advised he only very rarely experienced odour. L Boyd advised that odours have recently been detectable, but they haven't been too bad and not bad enough to call Council.

R Oakley advised that tipping has all recently been in cell 2D (away from the site boundary). There is still a minor amount of tipping remaining in cell 2F, partly as a result of the September fire and partly due to machinery breakdown, but this has

been deferred until next January. There should be work in the area for approximately 10 days.

R Oakley also advised that all other routine odour controls are in place and operating normally.

### **3.2 Environmental Performance**

B Lee advised that the results of environmental monitoring conducted in October 2015 were received in November.

All results were within landfill licence limits with the exception of release waters. Release point water sample W2 exceeded the limit for suspended solids (50 mg/L) this quarter with a value of 780 mg/L. WS continue to investigate improved stormwater management methods.

B Lee also noted that, unlike other recent sampling rounds, there were no dust exceedances for the period. R Oakley commented that heavy traffic movements on non-sealed roads have ceased for the time being.

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

B Lee advised that the only significant contacts with DEHP officers during the period of September to November were the notifications of:

- The fire that occurred on 9 September 2015 - see section 4.1; and
- The environmental monitoring exceedance - see section 3.2 above.

### **3.4 Ibis Update**

B Lee reported that numbers of ibis recorded at the landfill site have been as follows:

<b>2015</b>	<b>Total</b>
Average number recorded by contractor before dispersal	
January	379
February	266
March	208
April	584
May	1145
June	1054
July	1048
August	1053
September	1054
October	862

Two complaints were received by the Waste Services Branch during the period:

- 15/09/15 - Sharni Court Heritage Park. The resident claimed that around about 2,000 ibis birds were roosting at the end of his street after having relocated from the landfill site, and were causing an odour and noise nuisance. The WSB Environment and Risk Officer contacted the resident and explained the actions that Council is taking.

- 06/11/15 - 10.30am - Hawthorn Street - The resident advised that every morning at 5:30am ibis occupy her backyard and cause her dog to start barking and wake her up as well as having an odour. An officer spoke with the resident and explained the restrictions in dealing with native wildlife, as well as the control methods used. He also explained that some residents have issues with the noise tools being used. The resident was invited to attend the next Community Consultative Group meeting to monitor the status of control activities.

The most recent report (October 2015) from the contractor conducting ibis control on the landfill site is summarised below:

#### On Site

- Average daily Ibis counts for October reduced to 862 from the previous 1054 due to the commencement of harassment activities.
- Average final counts of Ibis were 285, after harassment activities;
- The stock whip made up for 71% of harassment activities during the month of October. The stock whip is a highly effective tool due to the noise and physical movement required to crack it. It is also small enough to be carried on foot and on the quad-bike, therefore increasing the ability for it to be used site-wide. This is however becoming less effective as it is heavily relied upon while noise making tools are not permitted.

#### Off Site

- Egg and nest removal works off site continues for the month of October.
- During the month of October, a total of 248 eggs and 162 nests from offsite area were removed
- The offsite egg and nest removal alongside Bayliss Road is conducted on a fortnightly basis, typically prior to dispersal at the landfill.
- A significant decline in Ibis numbers is identified on site when the tip face has been capped. Regular capping will assist in the overall management of the program.

L Boyd commented that the ibis roosting at the corner of Browns Plains and Bayliss Roads is very unsightly. J Ooms also commented that they must be polluting the nearby creek.

R Oakley advised of his understanding that Council is in the process of applying for State Government permission to conduct a limited cull of the birds. Approval will (at least) be conditional on issues such as Council demonstrating it has taken all other reasonable control measures and that there is a credible threat to human health. He also advised that two Wildlife Service officers visited the landfill recently in connection with this issue.

L Boyd and J Ooms mentioned that another problem posed by the birds is being hazardous to traffic. They both mentioned having seen cars evading birds and bird bodies on the road.

**Action:**        ***B Lee to check with Council's Animal & Pest Services Branch that they are aware of the traffic hazard posed by the birds and have used it in their limited cull application.***

### 3.5 Fire Ant Update

There were two interactions with officers of Biosecurity Queensland during the September to November period:

- On 2 November officers visited to advise they were relieving restrictions on the management of greenwaste at all of Council's sites, including Browns Plains. Rather than all greenwaste having to be ground prior to removal, unprocessed greenwaste is now permitted to be removed. The requirement for stockpiles to be "lured" for fire ants prior to removal has also been rescinded. The changes relate to the fact that all of Council's sites as well as the contractor's treatment facility are all in the "Fire Ant High Risk Zone".
- A suspected fire ant nest was located next to the entrance road by WS officers on 18 November and Biosecurity Queensland was notified.

L Boyd asked if the relieving of restrictions was due to the site being cleared of fire ants. R Oakley replied that it was not. The change was more due to off-site issues including changes to the boundaries of High Risk Fire Ant Areas that now included the location where Greenwaste is currently taken to from Council facilities.

### **3.6 Bayliss Road Entry to Landfill**

B White advised that:

- The project will be going to tender in the next few weeks.
- It's being done in three parts being the Logan Recycling Market carpark, fire safety hydraulics for the Market and entry road.
- It's likely that the first stage, the Market carpark, will commence in March 2016.
- Best advice on the road is that it will start sometime after that.

L Boyd asked if there was any chance of a change in Mayor resulting in the new entry road being cancelled. B Lee advised that it was unlikely, but not impossible.

L Boyd asked that the minutes again specifically record the disappointment of the Community Representatives present that Cr Dalley was not in attendance.

### **3.7 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.

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.)

B Lee advised that of the four complaints made during the September to November 2015 period:

- Two invitations to join the Group was issued
- One was from a resident who is already a member of the Group
- One was from a resident who had twice previously been invited to join

### **3.8 Demolition of Log Cabin House**

At the last meeting an action was placed on B Lee to determine if a date had been set for the demolition of the "log cabin house". He reported that Council's Property Section recently advised that the matter was due to be considered by Council before the end of the year.

**Action:** *B Lee to continue to liaise with Council's Property Section on when the "log cabin house" will be demolished.*

### **4.0 GENERAL BUSINESS**

#### **4.1 Landfill Fire**

On the evening of Wednesday 9 September 2015 there was a significant fire incident at the Browns Plains Landfill. At around 7.00pm that evening Council received a report via Queensland Fire and Emergency Service (QFES) a fire at the site. The Waste On-Call officer and Program Leader (PL) Operations were notified and attendance requested.

The fire was located in the south west corner of landfill cell 2F. Previously deposited transfer station waste in the tipping area was well ablaze generating significant flames and smoke. QFES used firefighting foam to tackle a small section of the fire front in a bid to safeguard damage to site infrastructure. Waste On Call and the PL mobilised local Waste Services plant operators and site contractor to attend the site. Plant operators then used Council machinery to smother the fire with earthen cover material. The fire took around 4 hours to bring under control. QFES were satisfied with the fire management and left prior to completion of works.

The PL did return to site later that night as security personnel deployed to monitor the site identified small spot fires reoccurring. These minor fires were reported to QFES as low risk and no further attendance or action was necessary. The prompt and excellent response to the fire by the QFES and Council team certainly minimised the impact of the fire.

The cause of the fire is unknown.

#### **4.2 Landfill Entry Road**

L Boyd asked that her opposition to the new landfill entry road be recorded again.

#### **4.3 Traffic Lights**

J Ooms commented on what an improvement the new traffic lights were at the current site entrance.

### **5.0 CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING**

The meeting closed at 1.35pm.

Invitations and agendas for the next meeting in March 2016 will be issued in due course.