

MINUTES

BROWNS PLAINS LANDFILL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING OF

26 June 2012

ATTENDEES: M Asnicar (Manager Waste Services Branch - WSB)
K Venkatraman (Waste Services Branch)
B Lee (Waste Services Branch)
L Banks (Community Representative)
J A Lee (Community Representative)
E Koch (Community Representative)
S Weber (Community Representative)

The meeting commenced at 2.30pm.

1.0 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor C Dalley and L Boyd (Community Representative)

S Willmet (Community Representative), N Martin (Community Representative), D Moore (Community Representative), G Williams (Community Representative), L Millar (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 27 March 2012 were an accurate record.

3.0 BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 Landfill Odour

3.1.1 Odour Survey

The meeting reviewed odour survey data for the three-month period of February to April 2012.

The average number of odour incidents recorded by survey participants was 4.1 incidents/participant/month compared to 2.5 during the same period last year.

The duration of odour incidents recorded by survey participants was 2.4% of the month compared to 1.76% for the same period last year.

B Lee advised that there are only three residents regularly contributing to the survey. They are in Columbard Place, Montgomery Court and St James Circuit. He asked if,

given the low level of participation, it is considered necessary to continue with the survey. It was generally considered that the survey should continue.

3.1.2 Odour Complaints

There were 24 complaints received during the four-month period of February to May 2012. This compared to 20 for the same period last year. Details were as follows:

- 01/02/12 at 8.17am - Bayliss, Heritage Park - Difficulties in covering the exposed landfill area due to wet tip have caused odour issues in spite of ongoing operations of demister. Measures to cover the wet tip with dry soil are ongoing and are expected to resolve the issue in next few days. Situation was explained to the resident.
- 07/02/12 - 1:45 pm - Saint James Circuit - Resident experiencing landfill odour issues for the last 5 days. She requested that a check be made that the odour control system (in between the rubbish and her house) is working. A walk adjoining the buffer zone located between the operational landfill area and the resident's address was carried out, immediately after receipt of the complaint. No foul odour was detected. The demister system had been operational since the morning as confirmed by the grounds staff. It is noted that the end point of the system length is just around the area nearing the residential address and is considered sufficient. WS will continue to monitor the odour issues arising from this zone and would take necessary action of extending the demister length if required.
- 07/02/12 - 1:45 pm - Saint James Circuit - Ground staff advised that three separate pieces of heavy plant used at the tip face are currently out of operation due to machine faults, thereby affecting the tip waste covering process. Council's Plant Fleet Branch were requested to have the machines repaired as soon as possible.
- 10/02/12 - 3.37 pm - Saint James Circuit - Resident spoke to staff regarding landfill odour and requested that the demisters be activated outside of operational hours due to a personal event. The process of increasing the operational hours is ongoing. Demister length has been extended to cover half of cell 2C after receipt of the complaint. The length is now sufficient to cover the resident's area.
- 11/02/12 - 10.50pm - Junee Court - Complaint recorded. No action possible due to the time of call.
- 20/02/12 - 4.12pm - Tarrango Place - Landfill odour complaint. Stripping of landfill & wet tip due to heavy rainfall may have caused odour. Deodorisers are operational.
- 21/02/12 - 8.30 am - Tarrango Place - Customer complained about the landfill odour. Stripping of landfill & wet tip due to heavy rainfall may have caused odour. Deodorisers are operational.
- 29/02/12 - 4:30pm - Volstead Road - Customer stated the landfill smelled bad for the whole day.

- 29/02/12 - 4.39pm - Tarrango Place - Landfill odour complaint - Staff spoke to resident and advised that, amongst other things, the deodoriser unit was operational.
- 01/03/2012 - 2:30pm - Volstead Road - No specific landfill activity (special burial) was being conducted at the time. Demister system was operational whole day except during the tank refill, as confirmed by the ground staff. It is to be noted that landfill operator toured the area at around 10:30 and sensed no landfill odour. But it is considered that ongoing tip operations of waste covering & soil stripping may have escaped the odour control system and generated the odour issues.
- 12/03/2012 at 1:40pm - Kentish Court - The resident stated the landfill was smelling really bad. Investigations revealed that the demister system was operational at the time. A visit to the resident's area by Waste Services staff was conducted soon after the call. No landfill odour was detected at the time, however, staff did not doubt there was odour at the time of the call. Stripping of landfill and ongoing dump of fresh waste into the tip may have generated odour issues.
- 15/03/2012 - 11:18am - St James Circuit - Odour complaint that the landfill has smelt bad for the past 3 weeks. An investigation revealed that there was no specific landfill activity (eg: special burial) at the time of the complaint. The demister unit was operating at the time of the call. The resident was notified about the ongoing quarterly consultative meeting.
- 21/03/2012 - 2.50 pm - St James Circuit - The call wasn't a complaint as such. The resident advised she's having events at her house on Sunday 25/03/12 and Saturday 31/03/12 and has asked for action to be taken to try and reduce odours on those days.
- 23/04/12 - 4.00pm - Tarrango Place - Odour complaint. Grounds staff confirmed that the demisters were running as usual.
- 23/04/12 - 4.35pm - Tarrango Place - Odour complaint. Resident states she's been home since 3pm and the smell has been quite bad. Grounds staff confirmed that the demisters were running as usual.
- 02/05/2012 - 4.00pm - St James Circuit - The demisters were operational at the time of the complaint. Landfill staff advised that there was some water ponding at the tip face as a result of recent rainfall. Another potential contributor to odour could have been ongoing soil stripping activity (to reclaim cover material), at the tip face. The ponded water was in the process of being drained. In a follow-up call at 4:40pm on the same day, resident advised that landfill odour has improved.
- 03/05/2012 - 2.00pm - Saint James Circuit - Demisters were off at the time of the complaint for maintenance purposes. The system was turned back on at 2.30pm.
- 04/05/2012 - 9:08pm - Volstead Road - Resident rang to say the smell has been very bad coming from the tip. She said on 24 & 25/4 the smell was especially bad during the day and at night. Records revealed that the landfill was covered with daily cover and lids on these days (24/4 & 25/4). Further, the issue was discussed at a WS meeting where it was resolved that the

deodorising system is to be switched on as required and for limited periods after hours (until the water tank is empty) at the discretion of the Program Leader Waste Operations.

- 05/05/2012 - 5.06pm - Volstead St - An odour investigation was completed and no odour was detected in the resident's area.
- 05/05/2012 - 5.00pm - Tarrango Place - Caller advised the Council's after hours operator that there is a stench coming from the landfill.
- 06/05/2012 - 3.26pm - Volstead Road - The resident advised that she had called two days in a row and wanted a call back as no one rang her on 05/05/12. The resident stated that it was her 5th call this week with no call back. The resident stated that the landfill smelled very bad and the sprayers were not on and that the sprayers don't make a difference as even when they are on the smell is still present. The resident states she is writing to the mayor in regards to this issue. An after hours complaint was received from call centre on 08/05/12. The resident was called on 09/05/12 and was advised that the demister system is operational. The resident pressed to speak with a higher authority. The call was passed to Program Leader who explained that all the practical odour control measures have been applied. The complaint was escalated to WS Manager who personally inspected the landfill face and also visited Ms Banks on 10/05/12. Other WS staffs visited Bayliss Road on a number of occasions (morning and afternoon) during the week (but not during the night) and no odour was detected. It was identified that the landfill operation causes odour mainly during the day when the tip face is working and waste is being dumped. End of day soil cover and landfill lids over the tip face should minimise odour after the landfill is closed for the day. In the meeting with the Manager Ms Banks, whilst not satisfied with the odour she was experiencing, was prepared to accept that WS is doing everything possible to manage the landfill to reduce odour. It was agreed that if the issue continued over the weekend, WS would arrange a staff member to monitor at night to investigate further. It is to be noted that there is a possibility that the odour may be from another source (a poultry farm). But with the very still nights, it may be that odour from the landfill which would normally dissipate easily with light winds, is somehow concentrating in nearby areas causing the odour.
- 09/05/2012 - 2.15pm - Junee Ct - Resident wanted to advise that there were no odour issues at the time of the call - but wanted to complain about bad odours most nights after 9.00pm. She also mentioned recently noticing the odour at the Yugumbir State School on Vansittart Road. She also requested that WS check that waste is being covering the as much as possible, and that consideration be given to moving the active tipping face from wherever it currently is in 2F to somewhere further away in 2F. For further response, see the complaint dated 06/05/12 above.
- 12/05/2011 - 4:30pm - Bayliss Road - Staff conducted a visit (within 45 minutes) of the residential area. A strong odour was detected. Investigations at the tip face revealed that no putrescibles or special burials were received around the time of the complaint. The demister was turned on for the remaining operational hours of the site (to 5.30pm) but had to be turned off after hours due to a malfunction in the automation of the system. Staff called back to Bayliss Road the next morning and no odour was detected.

- 22/05/2012 - 4.10pm - Tarrango Place - The automatic switching on the odour control system was still in the process of being repaired so it could not be activated after hours.

L Banks submitted a diary record she had compiled in relation to impacts from the landfill. The record was subsequently reviewed and placed on the relevant Council file.

L Banks noted that:

- Odours seem to occur in a northerly wind.
- Odours have been surprisingly bad considering the cooler weather.
- It is remarkable how the odour level can change over short distances. Odours can disappear and reappear between houses, and even in different parts of the same property.

L Banks also advised that a neighbour who regularly arrives home late from work (around 9.00pm) has commented to her about odours at that time.

M Asnicar commented that the lack of wind at nights doesn't help dissipate odour, and that it seems as if odour is hanging in the inverted atmosphere. He commented that, while the odour control system is aimed at minimising odour, it can't eliminate odour and he can't promise that odours won't occur.

M Asnicar also advised the Group that Council had recently approved a final design height for the landfill. He explained that, as the end use of the site will be mainly sports fields, there is a need for level surfaces. The consequence of this is that the final height of fill will be no higher than the current high point of the site. A letter to this effect will be delivered to all residents in the area before 29 June 2012.

A question was asked about how long it would take to fill the current working landfill stage (2F). K Venkatraman advised that it is currently estimated to take 12 to 18 months.

J A Lee asked if filling would continue in 2F until it was filled. M Asnicar replied that it would, and filling after that would then move to stage 2D, which is further away from resident's homes. (He demonstrated the location of 2D on an aerial photo.)

M Asnicar also advised the Group that, for every year that the Browns Plains Landfill operates, the Council saves \$3 million in transporting the waste elsewhere for disposal.

L Banks referred to her contacting the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP) with complaints about the landfill. She asked what the DEHP officer (Amanda Grey) relayed to the Waste Branch after her inspection. M Asnicar advised that she was generally happy with the measures being taken. No specific verbal or written directions were issued to the Waste Services Branch as a result of the visit.

K Venkatraman advised that the DEHP officer seemed mainly concerned with the noise issue, and that had now been addressed.

J A Lee asked what happened to the minute of the Group meetings, and if they were considered at formal Council meetings. M Asnicar replied that meeting minutes are emailed to Councillors rather than be presented at meetings. However, he added that all landfill odour complaints were detailed in the Waste Services monthly report

that is considered by Council. He also mentioned that Council considered a "Quarterly Complaint Report" which also covered landfill odours.

J A Lee expressed the concern that Councillors may not be "getting the message" about landfill odour and that the same mistakes about landfill siting could be made again.

L Banks asked how long after the landfill is closed will the sports fields be built. B Lee advised that development of sports fields over cells A, B, C, D, E and F will be after all of these cells are completed. As an example, sport field development of Stage 1 of the landfill commenced about 15 years after its completion to allow time for subsidence.

L Banks asked about progress on the mobile telephone tower that is being built on the southern boundary of the site. B Lee explained that the WSB had recently received advice that it should be put up in the near future.

3.2 Noise Level Assessment

At the last Group meeting an action was placed on the Waste Services (WS) Branch to investigate noise levels of landfill plant reverse alarms.

On 18 April 2012 a noise complaint regarding the plant on the tip face was received from a resident of Volstead Road. The resident stated that a Council officer came to her house to monitor the noise coming from the landfill. She advised it was a quiet day compared to most days.

The WS Branch had arranged the monitoring in response to concerns that had been raised in the Landfill Community Consultative Group. As a result of the resident's call, arrangements were made to conduct the monitoring again on Friday 20 April 2012 when plant would be operating closer to the resident's home. A summary of the results of the monitoring conducted by Council's Environmental Health Compliance Branch is as follows:

The noise would not be an unlawful nuisance. However, the noise from the reversing alarms on the plant have the potential to have a significant impact on some residents. In particular if they are active for hours at a time.

In the interests of public relations it is recommended that consideration be given to investing in broadband (or croaker) reversing alarms. These alarms cannot be heard at all from more than about 30-50m away.

3.3 Landfill Plant Reversing Alarms

At the last Group meeting an action was placed on the WS Branch to report back on the potential use of the "White Sound Alarm".

On 1 June 2012 the WS Branch arranged for representatives of Council's Plant Fleet and Workplace Health and Safety Branches to attend the landfill and test the noise levels of the existing beeper and the proposed new "croaker" alarm systems. It was agreed that it would be acceptable for the croaker alarms to be fitted to the compactor and dozer and they were fitted that day.

It has been noted, however, that:

- Some of the waste transport vehicles regularly tipping waste at the site, over which Council has no control, have loud reverse alarms.
- Some of the private plant contractors that work at the site, over which Council has limited control, have loud reverse alarms.
- WS Branch operated loaders working around the transfer station and metal yards will continue to use the louder alarms as there is much higher pedestrian traffic in these areas.

3.4 Makes and Models of Landfill Plant

At the last Group meeting an action was placed on the WS Branch to report back on the makes and models of the plant used on the tip face. They are as follows:

- Compactor - Caterpillar 826H
- Dozer - Caterpillar D6 TXL
- Loader - Volvo L70F

3.5 Environmental Performance

The results of environmental monitoring conducted at the Browns Plains Landfill in March 2012 were received in April 2012 and the following exceedance of licence conditions in relation to release waters (stormwater leaving the site) was recorded:

Release waters (stormwater) from the site were sampled on 1 March 2012 and exceedances of two parameters were recorded as follows:

- Dissolved oxygen (which is required to be at least 4.0mg/L) was 2.3mg/L.
- Suspended solids (which are required to be no more than 50mg/L) were 350mg/L.

Corrective actions will include:

- Continual use of the water for irrigation and dust suppression for the purpose of avoiding future discharges.
- In coming months the sedimentation pond will be dredged to increase depth to allow more suspended solids to settle out.

3.6 Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP)

There was no contact with DEHP in relation to the Browns Plains Landfill from February to May 2012 apart from the report of the release water exceedance, and the previously mentioned inspection.

3.7 Ibis Update

There were no complaints received regarding ibis during the period of February to May 2012

Numbers of ibis recorded at the site were as follows:

2011/12	Average of daily count recorded by contractor (Nature Call) before dispersal (Tip Face, Tip Face Surrounds, Trees, Dam and Other Places)
October	322
November	308
December	440
January	304
February	315
March	81
April	179

The ibis control program commenced on the site in early-July 2010.

3.7 Fire Ant Update

A new fire ant nest was discovered at the Logan Recycling Market on 15 April 2011. The matter was reported to Biosecurity Queensland who have investigated. As at the end of October 2011 no further advice had been received from BQ, and possible implications for the ongoing off-site movement of greenwaste are unknown.

3.8 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.

There were 14 complaints made during the February to April 2012 period and:

- Three resulted in invitations being issued.
- Of the remaining 11, all were from residents who had been previously invited or were already group members.

4.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

4.1 Action After 4pm

M Asnicar said he had become aware of reports of residents being advised that there was nothing the WSB could do about odour complaints after 4pm. He advised that this was not correct and acknowledged that WSB staff had not been adequately advised of odour control protocols. He gave an assurance to improve WSB communication in this regard.

4.2 Operation of Odour Control System

M Asnicar advised that the WSB had ceased operating the odour control system all day. Due to concerns of cost and excessive water usage, the system will only be

activated as a result of complaints or a need being detected through on-site monitoring.

4.3 Phone Contact

E Koch advised that, regardless of the time of day, whenever he heard a machine start, he noticed odour around 10 minutes later. He also mentioned that he had recently called to report an odour at 4.40pm on a week day and the call had gone to Customer Service at Beenleigh and they couldn't find anyone to put the call through to.

M Asnicar said that those calls should come to the WSB administration office which was open until 5.00pm. He gave an assurance to check on the procedures of the Customer Service Branch to make sure they were correct.

Action: WSB to check on Customer Service Branch procedures in the event of receiving a landfill odour complaint.

4.4 Night Odours

There was general discussion on the recent increase in odours at night. M Asnicar asked residents to monitor odours between 7 and 9pm each evening between and including Saturday 30 June and Wednesday 4 July 2012, and the correlation between the odour control system operating and odour presence can be tested during this time.

J A Lee agreed that members of her family would assist with monitoring odour and would report back

Action: WSB to conduct a night time odour control system experiment between 30 June and 4 July 2012 and resident are to monitor odour during this time.

5.0 CLOSED AND NEXT MEETING

The meeting concluded at 3.25pm. The next meeting will be held in late-September 2012. The date will be conveyed in due course.

