

MINUTES
BROWNS PLAINS LANDFILL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING
OF
19 MARCH 2013

ATTENDEES: K Venkatraman (Waste Services Branch - WSB)
B Lee (WSB)
L Banks (Community Representative)
L Boyd (Community Representative)
J A Lee (Community Representative)
S Willmet (Community Representative)

The meeting commenced at 2.30pm.

1.0 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Dalley, M Asnicar (Manager WSB)

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 11 December 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 November 2012 to January 2013.

For the months of November and December the average number of odour incidents recorded by survey participants was 6.4 incidents/participant/month compared to 3.0 during the same period last year.

The duration of odour incidents recorded by survey participants was 5.6% of the month compared to 2.7% for the same period last year.

B Lee reported that, for the month of January 2013 two of the three participants reported landfill odour as bad, but they recorded no data. They indicated that they were no longer prepared to record odour data. If these two residents continue to decline to record odour data, there may be no point in continuing to report data from one resident.

3.1.2 Odour Complaints

B Lee reported that there were 34 complaints received during the four-month period of November 2012 to February 2013. This compared to 32 for the same period last year. Details were as follows:

November 2012

- 01/11/2012 - 4:10pm - Volstead Road - Resident stated the smell coming from the tip was really bad and asked for the demisters to be turned on. Landfill staff advised that routine soil stripping activity may have cause odour issues. It was noted that wind was in the direction of residential area and that the demisters were already in operation at the time of the complaint. However, due to electrical fault the automated function of the system can only be operated manually and is therefore inoperative after-hours.
- 08/11/2012 - 11:30pm - Volstead Road - Resident complained that the landfill odour was unbearable. Resident was advised that demister system wasn't operating at that time and it was turned on immediately.
- 14/11/2012 - 2.30 pm - Volstead Road - Resident complained about landfill odour. The demister was activated in response to the call.
- 15/11/2012 - 12.20 pm - Junee Court - Resident complained about landfill odour. The demister was activated in response to the call.
- 16/11/2012 - 3.00 pm - Volstead Road - The resident complained about strong odour. The demister was activated in response to the call.
- 17/11/12 - 3:30pm - Grier Drive - Resident complained about the landfill odour. He further added that he moved to this address in 1989 and was advised that the landfill site would be closed in about 5 years. Resident requested Councillor Dalley to look into resolving this matter. The complaint was forwarded by Cr Dalley to Waste Services. A visit to the residential address on 19 November 2012 was conducted however no one was home and a note was left with contact details. The following day contact with Mr Hansen was established and he was notified that the advice on closure of landfill in 5 years time was not correct and that it is difficult to give a guarantee of a closure date in the future. The resident agreed that his source of information was not from the Council but the property seller. The resident was advised that Council is doing its best to minimise the odour issues that may escape the demister system due to factors like system downtime allowing its maintenance, strong wind, extreme weather etc and was further encouraged to participate in Community Consultative Group meetings. A formal written invitation to join the Group was subsequently issued.
- 26/11/12 - 3.30pm - Junee Court - Resident advised the Customer Service officer who took her call that the tip has smelled really bad for the last 2 weeks. Resident was informed that the sprayers were on at the time of her call. Waste Operations Program Leader assessed the operation for any malodourous waste loads received during the time of the complaint and was advised that there had been none. The Supervisor Weighbridge and Transfer Stations drove around the estate adjacent to the landfill shortly after the complaint and reported no odour.

December 2012

- 2/12/12 - 9.20am - Cr Able - A WS Supervisor drove down to tipface & walked around the outside boundary of the tipping area. Minor to moderate strength odour was detected. The demister was operating. He then drove around to Bayliss Rd, Volstead Rd & St James Court to assess odour. Only a very faint & mild rubbish odour was detected at the intersection of Bayliss & Volstead. A large hole had been dug in the morning to accommodate the chicken load which is suspected as having caused the increase in odour earlier.
- 3/12/12 - 3.05pm - Cherokee Place - The resident often gets the smell from both the nearby chook farm and the tip - over this weekend in particular, the smell from the tip has been really bad, and he says it's been getting worse during summer over the last few years. It is noted the address is located quite a distance from the landfill and is unlikely to be affected by waste odour. It is understood that a poultry farm is located closer to the address. Further no other complaints were received from the vicinity.
- 03/12/2012 - 12.39pm - Bayliss Road - The resident advised that the landfill had been quite smelly all weekend. She was calling to ask that the demister be activated, but it was already operating.
- 03/12/2012 - Junee Court - Resident complained about landfill odour and was advised that the demisters were operating.
- 03/12/2012 - 2.56pm - Tarrango Place - Odour Complaint. The resident reported absolutely putrid smell all weekend and today. Demisters were already activated at the time of the receipt of the complaint. However, extreme hot weather conditions coupled with special burial and soil stripping activity may have cause odour issues in the adjoining residential area. Landfill staff have been advised to keep up with the best practice of using day cover and using lids for uncovered waste.
- 03/12/12 - 4.30pm - Bayliss Road - The resident advised that today was the worst the landfill odour has ever been. The demisters had already been activated.
- 7/12/12 - 12.20pm - Junee Court - The resident said the tip smells particularly bad. She was advised that the demisters have been on since this morning. Soil stripping activity coupled with hot weather & strong wind may have cause the bad odour to escape the demister system.
- 07/12/12 - 11.40am - Junee Court - The resident have had to close all their windows and turn the air conditioning to escape the smell. He also mentioned he had vomited several times during the course of the morning because the smell made him feel ill. They would like an explanation of how the demisters work. They do not want to have to call to complain whenever the tip smells before the sprayers are turned on. Soil stripping activity coupled with hot weather & strong wind may have cause the odour to escape the demister system. The resident was given a follow up call at 4pm on the same day and was advised of the measures Council has already implemented (i.e. demister system is turned on everyday from 8am continues to run till 8pm). The resident was not detecting odour at the time of the call. Further the resident

was encouraged to participate in community consultative meetings to discuss timeline about relocation of the landfill cell.

- 07/12/2012 - 12:27pm - Address not recorded - The resident reported that a bad smell was coming from the landfill. The resident would like a call back to discuss. A call was made on 10/12/2012 which was received by the resident's daughter. It was explained that the hot weather coupled with wind direction may have caused the odour issue. The resident showed interest in participating in community meetings. An invitation will be issued.
- 17/12/2012 - 1.35pm - Junee Court - The resident simply asked if the odour control system was operating. A staff member advised her that it should be, but that he would check with operational staff to make sure. He found that it was. A Supervisor also drove around to Bayliss Rd and St James Court. Very mild odour detected near Bayliss Rd & Volstead Rd roundabout. Tipface staff were consulted on any high odour activities that had occurred during the day and they advised that one hole had been dug to receive a special burial but according to the operator odour at the tipface was very low.
- 18/12/12 - 3.42pm - Volstead Street - The resident phoned to advise that the landfill odour was dreadful and that it was making her vomit. A Supervisor confirmed that demisters were on. Landfill staff advised that stripping activity coupled with special burials round noon, coupled with hot humid winds blowing toward the address may have caused the problem. Demister would continue to run till 9 pm.

January 2013

- 03/01/2013 - 2:55 pm - Rincon Street - The resident complained that the smell coming from the Browns Plains landfill was very bad. Further, she is of the opinion that community meetings are of no use. Resident was assured that the council is doing its best to keep odour under control. It was noted that the demisters were working properly at the receipt of the complaint. However, extreme weather conditions may have caused odour issues. Council staff drove to the vicinity of the resident's address within an hour of the complaint and noted that there was no detectable odour along the resident's street.
- 04/01/13 - 3.02pm - St James Circuit - The resident complained that the smell coming from the Browns Plains landfill over the previous hour had been unbearable and requested that the demister be turned on before the end of the day. Council staff visited the residential address. At first very little odour was detected, however during a prolonged stay, intermittent bad odours were detected. Landfill staff advised that the demister was functional and in operation. A follow-up call was made to the resident, who voiced several concerns which they were advised to raise at the next community meeting.
- 08/01/2013 - 4:45 pm - Tarrango Place - Resident complained about odour. The ground staff were contacted immediately, and it was reported that the demister was active at the time of the complaint.
- 13/01/13 - 10.50am - Sylvan Road Park Ridge South - The resident complained that the smell from the landfill had been bad since the previous day and was getting worse. She also stated that the smell was so bad that she could not open her windows. It was noted that the residential address was a very long distance from the landfill and that it is extremely unlikely that

the odour came from the landfill. In order to explain the situation to the resident, a follow-up call was attempted, however the phone number recorded does not appear to belong to the resident in question. It was noted that the original phone call may not have been a genuine complaint.

- 11/01/2013 - 3:15 pm - Volstead Road - Resident complained about odour, and stated that she did not believe that the demister was active. The ground staff reported that the demister was active but may need to top up the control agent in the mixing tank. This was actioned straight away. A follow-up call was made to the resident at 4 p.m. to explain the situation, and the resident stated that she was satisfied with the actions taken.
- 12/01/2012 - 11:00pm - St James Circuit - Bad smell coming from the tip on Tuesday and Wednesday.
- 16/01/2013 - 3:15 pm - Volstead Road - Resident complained about odour, and stated that she did not believe that the demister was functioning. The groundstaff reported that the demister was active at the time of the complaint, and that the odour control chemicals had been topped up around 2:30 pm. The resident was informed of this in a follow-up call. The resident then stated that the landfill operation was illegal, and it was explained to her that the landfill is a registered operation. The resident was further encouraged to attend the community meetings to voice her concerns.
- 18/01/2013 - 9.29am - Grier Drive - The complaint related to odour coming from tip. Demisters were operational and running at full strength. Landfill staff advised no special activity i.e. dead animal burial or soil stripping that are likely reasons for malodorous smell, had been undertaken since morning. Removal of day cover and vector wind towards residential area may have cause odour issues. Foul smell is expected to disappear as the day progresses with increase demister effect & routine operations. Landfill odour will be re-monitored & documented today afternoon.
- 23/01/2013 - 4:15pm - St James Circuit - Bad smell coming from the tip on Tuesday and Wednesday. Resident advised that her neighbour told her to call customer service (34123412) every time it smells. Grounds staff advised that the demister was active at the time of the complaint and no special burial was taking place. A follow-up call was made to the resident at 2:20pm the following day. The resident was advised of the measures taken by the Council to reduce odour problems, and that, if she wished, an invitation letter to the next community meeting would be sent.
- 23/01/13 - address not provided - The complaint was in the form of a letter which was responded to the same day.

February 2013

- 01/02/2013 - 2:40 pm - Volstead Road - The resident stated that she could smell the demister all day yesterday, however today she could not smell it. She requested that the demister be checked to see if it was working properly. The demister was checked and it was noted that it was working properly at the time of the complaint.
- 23/02/2013 - 2.21pm - Bayliss Road - Odour complaint: Customer advises that the odour that's coming from the Browns Plains Transfer Station is very strong and has been for the past two hours.

- 27/02/2013 - 12:45 pm - Saint James Circuit - Odour Complaint. The resident was informed that Council was aware of the odour issue which was likely due to high humidity, rapid degradation of waste due to high moisture content, and breakdown of the demister system.
 - The demister pump broke down due to a faulty solenoid and arrival of a replacement part was awaited. In the meanwhile, the demister system will be operated manually till 4.00 pm.
-
- 27/02/2013 - 12:45 pm - Saint James Circuit
and
 - 27/02/2013 - 3:00pm - Calford Court .
and
 - 28/02/2013 - 12:23pm - St James Circuit
and
 - 28/02/2013 - 3:48pm - Junee Court - Odour complaint: The residents were informed that the Council was aware of the odour issue which was likely due to high humidity, rapid degradation of waste due to high moisture content, and breakdown of the demister system. The demister pump had also broken down due to a faulty solenoid and a replacement part was awaited. In the meanwhile, the demister system will be operated manually.

L Boyd pointed out that some odour complainant's names appeared in the minutes of the last meeting. B Lee thanked her for pointing this out and gave a commitment that the practice would stop.

L Boyd advised that she had personally made 11 reports during the period.

B Lee advised that problems were experienced with the odour control system for a week in January and again for the last week. K Venkatraman advised that the problem, which would be fixed by Wednesday 20 March, related to the solenoid switch that enabled the system to operate automatically. He said that while the problem was being experienced the system was operated manually from 8.00am to 4.30pm. The automatic switch allowed the system to operate until 9.00pm.

J A Lee advised that the odour had been disgusting over the last week to the point where her family were almost gagging.

L Banks said she feared extra noise and visual pollution if the tipping area continued to increase in height. K Venkatraman used an aerial photo of the site to show where the current highest point in the site was, and to explain that would eventually be the height across the whole site.

K Venkatraman explained that waste tipping in the current stage 2F would continue for around 12 months while the next stage (2D) was being constructed. It is planned that, as soon as it is possible, odourous wastes will be tipped into stage 2D which is much further away from residents being affected by landfill odour. Waste from the transfer station (which is much less odourous) would then be tipped in stage 2F until it was completed.

NOTE: B Lee received advice after the meeting that the proposal described above is conditional upon Council approval of a budget request for funding of equipment hire and labour necessary to facilitate the proposal.

J A Lee asked how long construction of stage 2D would take and questioned whether Council was giving the matter sufficient priority. K Venkatraman advised that the

matter was being progressed as quickly as possible. Design of the stage had already been obtained and tenders have been called for the excavation of the cell. It's expected that construction of the cell will commence within three months.

3.2 Environmental Performance

B Lee advised that the results of monitoring conducted at the Browns Plains Landfill in October 2012 were received in December 2012. Exceedances were noted in relation to particulates (dust) at two of the eight sampling locations as follows:

Sample No.	Total Insoluble Solids mg/m ² .day	Licence Limit
BPP2	160	130mg/m ² .day
BPP5	230	130mg/m ² .day

The increase in dust levels is attributed to the following factors:

- Excavation of soil from 2G for use as tip face day cover;
- Mulching activities;
- Unusually low rainfall for the testing period September – October.

The following control measures are in place:

- A water truck is based on site and is utilised for the purpose of applying recycled water for dust suppression. These activities are carried out on site roadways and in particular the operational areas that have a high risk of generating excess particulate matter.
- Site roads and tracks are maintained in a condition that minimises dust.

J A Lee asked if recent we weather had hampered landfill operations. K Venkatraman advised that it caused some problems, limiting waste compaction for example, but nothing significant.

3.3 Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP)

B Lee advised hat there was no contact with DEHP in relation to the Browns Plains Landfill from November 2012 to February 2013 apart from the report of the environmental monitoring exceedances and the submission of the annual return.

3.4 Ibis Update

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

2012	Average of daily count recorded by contractor before dispersal
July	1,592
August	1,178
September	1,097
October	1,270
November	990
December	1000
2013	
January	1350

B Lee asked Community Representatives whether they had been experiencing ibis problems and was advised there had been nothing significant. K Venkatraman advised that the ibis control contractor had recently been doing work removing eggs from nests.

3.5 Fire Ant Update

B Lee advised that in early September 2012 an officer of Biosecurity Queensland (BQ) called the WS Branch to offer possible a possible relaxation in the Inspector's Notice which details how WS is to manage greenwaste prior to it being moved off site. The offer was made as a result of the change in greenwaste management contractor from Phoenix Power Recyclers to Wood Mulching Industries (WMI). While Browns Plains is in the fire ant Restricted Area, Phoenix's facility at Yatala was not, resulting in a higher risk movement. WMI's facility at Swanbank is, like Browns Plains, in the Restricted Area, resulting in lower risk movement. By November 2012 WS officers had received BQ approval to have greenwaste removed unprocessed from the site.

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 advised that there were 34 complaints made during the November 2012 to February 2013 period and this resulted in eight invitations being issued. The remainder of complainants were from Councillors or residents who had been previously invited or were already group members.

3.7 Bayliss Road Entry to Landfill

At the last meeting of the Group M Asnicar was requested to investigate and report back to the next meeting of the Group on any likely future consultation with residents in relation to the proposed Bayliss Road entry to the landfill.

B Lee passed on advice received from M Asnicar that an updated concept plan was expected to be received in March 2013, and that consultation with the public would be conducted when it was received.

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 Waste Strategy

B Lee advised that Council has drafted a new Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan 2013-2016 to accommodate an increase in population of 165,000 people over the next 20 years. The Strategy focuses on three main areas:

- Minimising Waste Generation
- Providing Cost Effective Levels of Service and Infrastructure
- Reducing Environmental Impacts of Waste Generation & Disposal.

Copies of the consultation document will be sent to Group Community Representatives. Responses need to be submitted by 5pm April 26, 2013.

4.2 Landfill Stage 2G

K Venkatraman advised that, with the excavation of stage 2D commencing in the near future, some trees in stage 2G will have to be cleared to provide space to store the excavated fill.

4.3 After Hours Call

L Boyd referred to her advice previously provided to B Lee that on Wednesday 27/02/13 at 5.18pm she called 3412 3412 to report an odour. She says she was told that she couldn't be put through to anyone and to call back with her issue at 7.00am the next day. There was reportedly no attempt to take her name, address and phone number.

B Lee reported that he raised this issue with Council's Customer Service Branch who liaise with the after hours operator. They were reminded that it was the intention of the WS Branch for the details of after-hours callers to be taken by the operator so that there would be a record of the call - and so that it would be possible to contact them the next day if necessary. They were asked to confirm that remains the instruction to the after-hours operator.

Advice was subsequently received from the Customer Service Branch that they checked the log for the day in question and the call was logged, however, it stated that the caller declined to provide details. An assurance was received that the Customer Service Branch would contact the after hours operator to ensure that they were operating under the correct procedures.

4.4 Odour Control Communication

L Banks reported that she has noticed that odours are regularly worse on Fridays. She has also noticed that odours often stop soon after she makes a report, and wondered why she had to make a report before the odour control system was activated. She accused WS Branch officers of being disingenuous with the information they provide to her.

K Venkatraman advised that advice is provided truthfully. He also mentioned that the odour control system cannot be operated at the levels it is without maintenance issues arising. When they do, they are addressed as quickly as possible.

4.5 Community Representative Resignation

S Willmetts advised that she would be resigning from the Group due to personal reasons.

B Lee thanked her for involvement with the Group and expressed appreciation on behalf of Council.

5.0 CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING

The meeting concluded at 3.20pm. The next meeting will be held in June 2013. The date will be conveyed in due course.