

MINUTES

BROWNS PLAINS LANDFILL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING OF

18 SEPTEMBER 2018

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

The meeting commenced at 1:00pm.

1.0 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Dalley, M Asnicar (Manager HEW), J Ooms and L Boyd

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.

B Lee passed on an enquiry from HEW Branch administration staff about the possibility of distributing agendas and minutes to members by email, noting the difficulty that the email addresses of members were not on file.

Action: *In future meeting invitations, Waste Services may invite Group Members to supply email addresses so that agendas and minutes can be distributed by email.*

2.0 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

It was agreed that the distributed minutes of the previous meeting (on 26 June 2018) were an accurate record.

3.0 BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 Landfill Odour

There have been 70 confirmed odour complaints in the last 12 months compared to 40 for the previous 12 month period

There were 18 odour complaints received during the three-month period of June to August 2018. This compared to 14 for the same three-month period the previous year. Details of the 18 recent complaints were as follows:

June 2018

There were three odour complaints received regarding the landfill during June 2018:

- 12/06/18 - 4:20pm - St James Ct - An officer contacted staff at the tip face and was advised operations and waste loads were as normal. The officer advised workers to turn on the odour control system. The officer proceeded to the resident's house and on arrival detected a slight odour that was intermittent over the next 5 to 10 minutes.
- 12/06/18 - 5.00pm - St James Ct - See above.
- 29/06/18 - 5.30pm - St James Ct - The resident was advised that no action could be taken due to the site being closed – but that the complaint would be recorded.

July 2018:

There were nine odour complaints received regarding the landfill during July 2018:

- 20/07/18 - 11.00am - St James Ct Heritage Park - Odour from the tip face towards the residence in question was confirmed. The odour control system was activated at 12 noon.
- 22/07/18 - 5.00pm - Thistle St Regents Park - The resident emailed about an unpleasant odour coming from the direction of the landfill. The email was received on a Sunday. An officer called the resident back on 25/07/18 and he advised the odour had been noted over the last few days between 3.00 and 5.00pm. The officer considered that the landfill may not be the odour source given the distance of the residence from the site (approximately 1 kilometre). The resident was asked to call back when the odour was being experienced so it could be further investigated.
- 24/07/18 - 3.45pm - St James Ct Heritage Park - An officer investigated and noted no unusual activity or loads at the tip face. A light breeze in the direction of the residence in question was confirmed. The odour control system was activated. The officer called the resident and explained action taken including that the odour control system would run overnight.
- 24/07/18 - 4.30pm - St James Ct Heritage Park - See above.
- 26/07/18 - 3.40pm - Thistle St Regents Park - Odour control system was activated.
- 27/07/18 - 3.35pm - St James Ct Heritage Park - An officer inspected the tip face and noted an obvious odour. Another officer called at St James Cct and noted a moderate odour for only a brief time. The odour control system was activated.
- 31/07/18 - 3.45pm - Junee Ct Heritage Park - An officer inspected the tip face and noted an obvious odour. The same officer called at St James Cct and noted the odour for short portion of the time they were there. The odour control system was activated.
- 31/07/18 - 3.50pm - Tarrango PI Heritage Park - See above.
- 31/07/18 - 4.20pm - St James Ct Heritage Park - See above.

August 2018:

There were six odour complaints received regarding the landfill during August 2018:

- 03/08/18 - 4:00pm - St James Cct - The odour control system had already been turned on. An officer checked the tip face and noted an odour coming from the section of uncovered waste and heading into the direction of the residents. The officer then went to the resident's address and could smell the deodourant. A landfill odour was briefly noted at resident's address during a conversation regarding action taken.
- 14/08/18 - 5:05pm - St James Cct - As a precaution the odour control system was activated by an officer still on site.
- 21/08/18 - 10:30 - Leicestershire Close - Resident contacted the divisional Councillor. The resident expressed concerns about an odour issue possibly from the landfill. The Councillor advised of the possibility that another source of the odour may be a septic tank located on property much closer to the complainant's residence. The complainant lives 1.6 km from the landfill. An officer visited the complainant's residence at around 12.30pm on 21st Aug and could sense no odour of any description. A request via the Council's property management system had already been raised by the Councillor Office for investigation by the City Standards Branch.
- 24/08/18 - 11:30am - St James Cct - An officer called at St James Cct soon after the report and noted a very variable wind which occasionally brought odour into the area. The odour control system was activated as a result.
- 28/08/18 - 3:40pm - St James Cct - Officers checked the tip face where they noted odours that could be directed towards residents by the wind. The odour control system was immediately turned on. The officers then called at St James Cct where they could smell deodorant but no landfill odour. They briefly spoke to the resident.
- 28/08/18 - 4.50pm - St James Cct - The odour control system had already been activated - see above. This was relayed to the resident who advised that the system was having no effect. This advice triggered a subsequent desk-top review of the incident, looking at the precise locations of the resident, the tip face, the odour control system line and wind direction. The review revealed that there is an area between the resident and the tip face where extension of the odour control system line could potentially assist. This matter was still being considered at the end of August 2018.

W Cox advised that she has experienced odour on and off recently but today it was at a strength that made it difficult to sit outside.

B Lee made reference to the above complaint made at 4.50pm on 28 August 2018. R Oakley reported that work on extension of the odour control system referenced above had commenced.

B Chambers reported that he had not experienced any problems at his home but he is regularly near a park in Lamberth Road East around 4.30 to 5.00pm and odours are noted from time to time.

R Oakley reported that, in terms of the medium-term, the tip face will soon be moving away from its southern winter location (closer to residences) to the more northern summer location (further away from residences).

B Chambers noted that there were single days in both March and April when multiple odour complaints had been made on that day. He noted that, on the day in April, the record indicates that the work causing the complaint only ceased after a complaint was made, suggesting a reactive rather than a proactive approach by Council. R Oakley responded by advising that work had been held off for some time while awaiting favourable weather conditions. On the day in question, a calculated risk was taken that early morning good conditions would last for the day. Conditions changed, however, and the work was stopped. The work was completed a few days later without incidence when, again, favourable conditions were predicted.

R Oakley advised that Energy Developments Limited (EDL - the company that install the landfill gas collection system and operate the associated power plant) have been eager for some time to install some new collection wells. They have been delayed, however, by the necessary equipment not being available. It now seems as though the work may be done in the next three to four weeks. The work involves excavating old waste, so odour nuisances are always a potential problem. To mitigate the risk, excavated waste will be immediately transported to and buried at the tip face, and well holes will be plugged when not in use. The work, when it does commence is expected to take around two weeks. The installation and operation of these additional wells can only help in the reduction and management of fugitive releases.

3.1.1 Extra odour monitoring and control measures

At the last meeting in June 2018 an action was raised for "*Waste Services officers to consider extra monitoring and control measures and present these to the next meeting*".

When subsequently considering this matter officers realised that the Group is probably not aware of a considerable amount of scheduled (multiple times a day) and unscheduled odour monitoring that is conducted by staff but not reported to the Group. A recent example of a record of this monitoring was presented to the Group.

B Chambers noted that:

- There seemed to be fewer odour checks in the afternoons; and
- It appeared as though the forms may be getting completed "in bulk" rather than at the time checks were done. (e.g. use of 'ditto' quote marks, etc...)

Action: ***Waste Services to arrange for more odour checks to be done in the afternoons and to instruct staff to complete records as checks are done and mix the times of monitoring throughout the day.***

3.2 Environmental Performance

The results of environmental monitoring of the landfill site that was conducted in April 2018 were received in July 2018. There were no exceedances of landfill licence limits.

3.3 Department of Environment and Science (DES)

There was no interaction regarding the landfill with officers from the Department of Environment and Sciences (DES) during the June to August 2018 period.

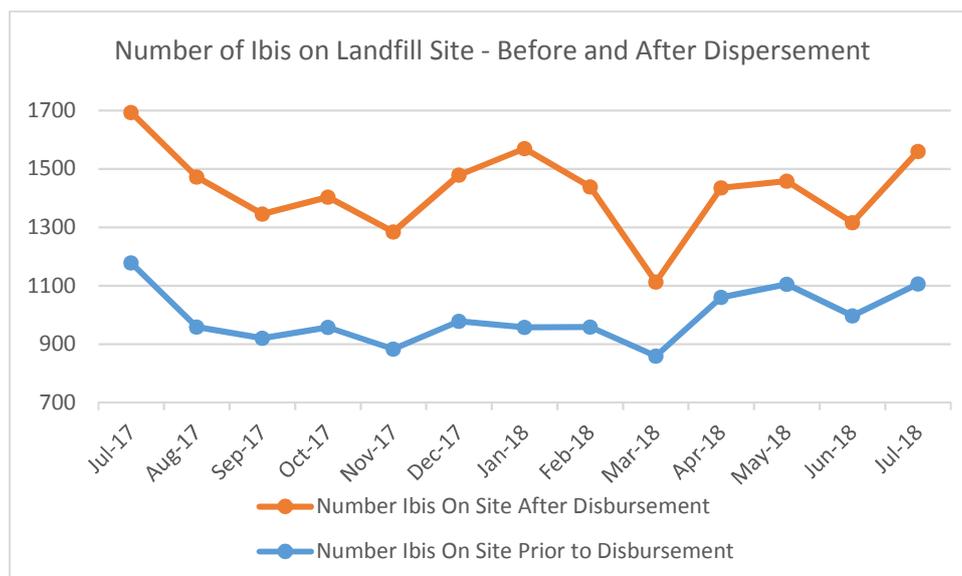
3.4 Ibis Update

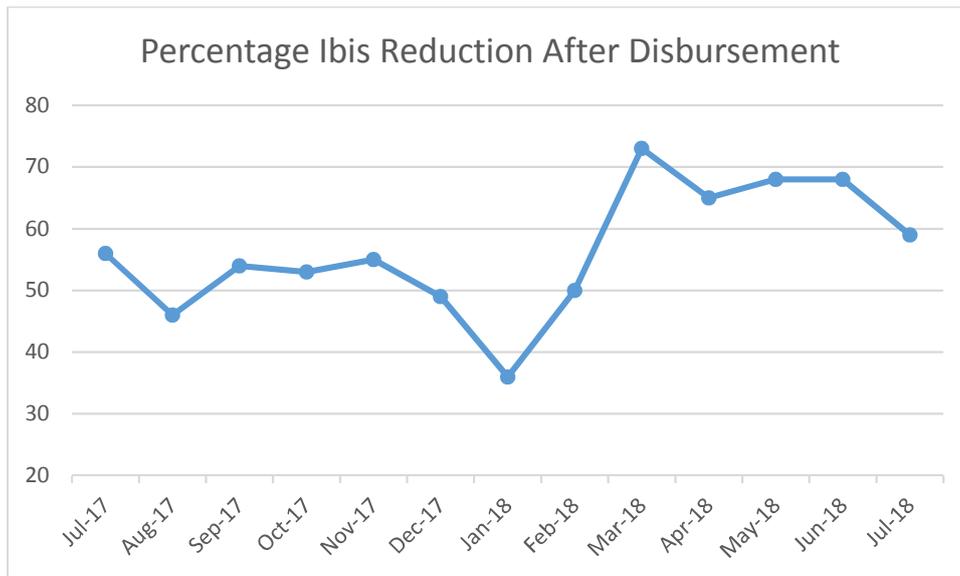
Numbers of ibis recorded at the landfill site have been as follows:

Average number recorded by contractor before dispersal	Total
2017	
August	959
September	920
October	958
November	883
December	978
2018	
January	958
February	959
March	859
April	1,060
May	1,105
June	997
July	1,106

The most recent (July 2018) report from the wildlife management contractor stated that:

- Average initial ibis counts in June were 1,106 prior to harassment activities.
- Average final counts of ibis were 454 after harassment activities.
- On average, ibis numbers were reduced by 652 individuals (59%) per day during the harassment period (compared to an average of 678 in June).
- The primary dispersal methods were the following combinations: 'car, horn, noodle & whip' (79%), 'car, noodle & whip' (16%), and 'car, horn & whip' (5%).





There were no ibis complaints received regarding ibis during the June to August 2018 period.

B Chambers asked at the meeting if the scale of the graph titled "Number of Ibis on Landfill Site - Before and After Dispersement" could be compressed - and this was done for the graphs above.

3.5 Fire Ant Update

No new fire ant nests were discovered at the site over the June to August 2018 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 18 complaints made during the June to August 2018 period:

- 1 invitation was issued
- 8 were from existing Group members
- 9 were from residents who had been previously invited.

4.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

4.1 Future Waste Disposal Expression of Interest

Council on 20 March 2018 resolved that Expressions of Interest (EOI) be called in relation to:

- Council's future waste disposal options post-closure of the Browns Plains facility; and
- a future waste infrastructure network options study

4.2 Presence of Dogs in Area

R Oakley asked if Community Representatives had seen or heard anything about wild dogs in the area.

W Cox advised that a neighbour had told her husband about three weeks ago that some wild dogs had been seen in the area. B Chambers advised that he had not heard anything, but recent noticed a wallaby carcass that appeared to have been interfered with by wild animals in bushland near the landfill.

R Oakley advised that around four weeks ago HEW were approached by Council's City Standards and Animal Care (CS&AC) Branch about reports of dogs not under control being in the area. They initially set up motion-activated cameras on the landfill site that didn't detect anything. This prompted CS&AC to set up baited (humane) traps on the landfill site. Five dogs without chips or registration tags have been caught in the last two or three weeks. It could be that all 'wild' dogs have been caught. The traps will remain in place for some time to give confidence that is the case.

R Oakley asked Community Representative to pass on any relevant information they may hear.

4.3 Waste Levy

R Oakley advised that Council is in the process of responding to a round of consultation with the State Government in relation to a waste levy that is proposed to commence in March 2019. The Queensland Government waste levy will apply to waste that is disposed of landfill, thereby making disposal by landfill less attractive, and encouraging recycling, reuse etc. Levy revenue will be used to encourage and develop processes, markets and industries to increase recycling and diversion from landfill. The State Government has stated that levy will be implemented in a manner that will not financially impact on households.

5.0 CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING

The meeting closed at 1.40pm. Invitations and agendas for the next meeting in December 2018 will be issued in due course.