

MINUTES

BROWNS PLAINS LANDFILL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING OF 13/09/16

ATTENDEES: R Oakley (Waste Services Branch - WSB)
B Lee (WSB)
JA Lee (Community Representative)
L Boyd (Community Representative)

The meeting commenced at 1:05pm.

1.0 APOLOGIES

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

N Martin, J Ooms, 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, (all Community Representatives) did not attend.

2.0 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

No Community Representatives who attended the previous meeting were present to confirm that the minutes of that meeting (on 22 March 2016) were accurate.

3.0 BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 Landfill Odour

B Lee advised there have been 10 confirmed (from a total of 13) complaints in the last 12 months compared to 33 for the previous 12 month period.

There were six odour complaints received during the three-month period of June to August 2016. This compared to seven for the same three-month period the previous year. Details of the six were as follows:

June 2016:

No complaints.

July 2016:

- 22/07/16 - 3.30pm - Bayliss Road - Resident complained about the odour coming from the landfill. Waste Services staff attended the resident's address and no odours were detected. The resident confirmed that there were no longer any smells but that there had been intermittent odours throughout the day starting from about 10:00 am. Council's efforts to minimise odours were explained.

- 22/07/16 - 4:45pm - LCC Waste Services employees - An operations officer stood in waste Admin centre carpark area for a few minutes and was able to detect an intermittent faint waste odour (rated 1 DEHP monitoring scale). He visited tip face where staff were in the process of placing landfill lids on exposed waste. Stronger waste odour was present in the area and the operations staff advised that a commercial customer had recently tipped waste containing a high proportion of putrescible waste. It had only just been covered with other waste a short time earlier and was about to have lids placed over it.
- 29/07/16 - 5.09pm - St James Circuit - A Waste Services officer drove to the resident's house and had a discussion with her and her husband. They said they had only noted a "wiff" of the odour and explained it was the first time in 18+ month they had smelt it. The officer requested Waste staff to let demisters go all weekend to minimise odours.

August 2016:

- 18/08/16 - 8.04am - Bayliss Road - The resident advised that the odour began the previous morning and persisted through the day ceasing after 5pm. It then returned again late that night was still present. Grounds staff were notified to put the demisters on during operational hours till late evening and over the weekend.
- 19/08/16 - 4.45pm - St James Circuit - Resident complained about the odour coming from the landfill. Resident was satisfied when advised the odour demisters would be running all weekend.
- 23/08/16 - 4.40pm - St James Circuit - Resident complained about the odour coming from the landfill. The Waste Services officer who received the phone call went to the property and noted a landfill odour with a strength of 3.5 out of 6. Demisters were already on.

R Oakley advised that Council had experienced some unexpected plant breakdowns in recent weeks resulting in an inability to compact and cover waste as quickly as would otherwise occur and this may have contributed to odour generation.

JA Lee asked if tipping operations were still in the same landfill cell. R Oakley confirmed that they were (in cell 2D) and used a diagram on the white board to demonstrate how waste tipping will be progressively moving away from residents from now until the end of summer.

L Boyd queries whether the odour demisters were on permanently. R Oakley replied that they weren't, primarily as there is a cost associated with running them. They are, however, activated when conditions (which are monitored) are such that the wind may carry odours to residents and upon receipt of complaints.

3.2 Environmental Performance

R Oakley advised that there was a fire in the active tipping cell 2D of the landfill in the early hours of 2 September 2016. He was notified at 9.20pm and he attended with a number of Council's plant operators. The Queensland Fire Service also attended but only observed. The job was awkward due to very strong winds but staff managed to

smother and put out the fire by around 1.30am. Security staff were kept on for the rest of the night after the Council officers left to keep watch for any flare ups.

The next day (12 to 16 hours later) three separate fires were noted in scrub land around and outside the landfill site. No evidence of a link to the previous night's fire was found.

All fires were reported to the Department of Environment & Heritage Protection (DEHP).

B Lee advised that the results of environmental monitoring conducted in May 2016 were received in July.

Three groundwater bores surrounding landfill Stages 2B, 2C and 2F recorded statistically significant results exceeding the Browns Plains Landfill licence criteria during this quarter. These results represent natural fluctuations in groundwater chemistry and are not considered to be environmentally significant or impacted by leachate as they are consistent with previous monitoring results.

Surface water monitoring of Scrubby Creek at Browns Plains and Waller Road Landfills indicates that the quality of the water in Scrubby Creek is not adversely affected by either of the landfills.

Three dust monitoring locations exceeded the limit of 130mg/m²/day. These were locations BPP-2 (146 mg/m²/day) and BPP-4 (243 mg/m²/day) and BPP-7 (150 mg/m²/day). There is a possibility these exceedances are attributed to on-going earthworks associated with the new cell 2D as well as traffic on the dirt roads adjacent to the monitoring locations generating loose soil during dry weather.

3.3 Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP)

Other than the notification relating to the fire referenced above, there was no contact with DEHP officers relating to landfill operation during the period of June to August 2016.

3.4 Ibis Update

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

Average number recorded by contractor before dispersal	Total
November 2015	663
December 2015	721
January 2016	761
February 2016	947
March 2016	1643
April 2016	1100
May 2016	1339
June 2016	1172
July 2016	1158
August 2016	855

There was one complaint received regarding ibis during the June to August 2016 period. Details were as follows:

- 08/06/16 at 3.00pm - St James Circuit - The resident complained about an increase in the number of ibis in the trees over his back fence. Waste Services contacted the wildlife control contractor and asked them to continue to focus more on the resident's side of the landfill to warn off the ibis. The contractor is continuing with afternoon dispersals and assessment of the area to see where the ibis are roosting.

The wildlife management contractor's report for August included the following:

- Average initial counts were 855 prior to harassment activities which is a significant decrease on the previous month.
There were 5 dispersal techniques that were implemented during the month of August. Quad bike (36%), pool noodles (21%), and whip (19%) were the most widely used harassment activities.
- Nest removal continues to impact on the rate of which the ibis can reproduce.
- Ibis numbers remain high both on site and in surrounding trees. Ibis are increasingly difficult to disperse from surrounding trees without the use of noise techniques.
B Lee noted that the above comment about "noise techniques" is the contractor subtly complaining about Council restricting use of the air cannon. Use of the cannon usually results in complaints about the effect it has on pets in the area.
- The overall number of Ibis present on site has decreased relative to data collected in June and July 2016. This may be due to birds spending more time building nests and raising chicks.
- Off-site egg and nest removal to continue as the breeding season comes into its peak.

3.5 Fire Ant Update

B Lee advised that the Biosecurity Act 2014, administered by Biosecurity Queensland (BQ) to, among other things, manage the control of fire ants, was subject to significant amendment as of 1 July 2016. Basically, specific requirements were withdrawn and replaced by a "General Biosecurity Obligation". Waste Services officers met with BQ officers on 15 July to discuss specific impacts for Council's waste management activities, and it appears that impacts will be minimal.

3.6 Bayliss Road Entry to Landfill

R Oakley advised that the road is still on track to be completed by the end of the year.

3.7 Narrowness of Bayliss Road

At the last meeting there was discussion about a barrier that had gone up along the edge of Bayliss Road, which JA Lee reported made the road very narrow. An action was placed on R Oakley to raise the issue with the contractor.

R Oakley reported that he followed up as required and was advised by the contractor that the barriers had been installed in accordance with the relevant standards and specifications.

R Oakley also advised that just that morning he had raised the issue of confusing road markings with the contractor project manager. The contractor said they were aware of complaints about the matter and were considering remedial actions.

L Boyd asked what the arrangements would be for pedestrians walking along the western side of Bayliss Road past the new landfill entrance. Neither R Oakley and B Lee were able to advise.

L Boyd also asked, when the new entrance is complete, whether the current entrance on Browns Plains Road would be for sports fields and Logan Metro users only. R Oakley confirmed that would be the case. Waste facility customers will no longer be using that entrance.

3.8 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.)

B Lee advised that of the six complaints made during the June to August 2016 period:

- Three were from existing Group members
- Two were from residents who have been previously invited
- One was from Council staff

4.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

5.0 CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING

The meeting closed at 1.30pm. Invitations and agendas for the next meeting in December 2016 will be issued in due course.