

MINUTES

BROWNS PLAINS LANDFILL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING OF

21 June 2011

ATTENDEES: P Menon (Logan Waste Services - LWS)
B Lee (LWS)
L Boyd (Community Representative)
John Armstrong (Community Representative)
J A Lee (Community Representative)
L Miller (Community Representative)

The meeting commenced at 2.35pm.

1.0 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor C Dalley, Councillor L Bradley and S Willmet (Community Representative).

N Martin (Community Representative), D Moore (Community Representative), S Weber (Community Representative), and M Sams (Community Representative) did not attend.

2.0 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 29 March 2011 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 2011.

B Lee reported that the average number of odour incidents recorded by survey participants was 2.50 incidents/participant/month compared to 1.33 during the same period last year.

The duration of odour incidents recorded by survey participants was 1.76% of the month compared to 0.16% for the same period last year.

3.1.2 Odour Complaints

There were 13 complaints received during the three-month period of February to April 2011. This compares to one for the same period last year.

- There were four odour complaints received regarding the landfill during February 2011. Due to LWS staff acting in unfamiliar positions however, no details of the complaints were recorded.
- 25/03/11 - 10.50pm - G Howells - Paul Drive Regents Park - Landfill odour at night for the last few nights - No action was taken due to the time of the complaint, the distance of the complainant from the landfill and the likelihood that poultry farms were the source of the odour.
- 12/04/11 - evening - Michelle Reardon - 16 Lincoln Court - Resident is a lot closer to Green Road than the landfill. Considered that the poultry farms were more likely to be the source of the odour.
- 12/04/11 - evening - P Domanjko - address not recorded - Another complaint received the same night was considered to be as a result of poultry farm odours.
- 15/04/11 - 10.15am - Mrs Rose - Tarango Place - Landfill odours detected in the area by LWS Officers at various times throughout the day. Odour control system activated.
- 15/04/11 - 10.20am - Marlene Laughton - 29 Junee Court - Landfill odours detected in the area by LWS Officers at various times throughout the day. Odour control system activated.
- 15/04/11 - 2.20pm - George Sadilnikoff - 2 Kentish Court - Landfill odours detected in the area by LWS Officers at various times throughout the day. Odour control system activated.
- 15/04/11 - 3.00pm - Mrs Sam - 27 Volstead Road - Landfill odours detected in the area by LWS Officers at various times throughout the day. Odour control system activated.
- 21/04/11 - 4.15pm - Eric Koch - refused to provide address - Due to the time of day the On-Call Officer had to be contacted and he activated the odour control system.
- 21/04/11 - 4.30pm - Mr Sam - 27 Volstead Road - Due to the time of day the On-Call Officer had to be contacted and he activated the odour control system.

At the last meeting of the Group an action was placed on LWS to investigate improved performance of the odour control system through:

- Replacement of blocked nozzles; and
- Checking capacity of water tank; and
- Increasing fuel capacity to allow longer running time.

B Lee reported that:

- All blocked nozzles have been replaced.
- The capacity of the water tank has been increased through the removal of sludge from the tank.
- An increase in fuel capacity is due to be completed by 24 June 2011.

At the last meeting of the Group an action was also placed on LWS to ensure S Weber is provided with Odour Survey Forms. B Lee reported that forms were delivered on 1 April 2011.

J Armstrong asked if the sludge build up in the water tank of the odour control system was the result of a lack of maintenance. P Menon advised this was not the case. He explained that the water used in the tank is from on-site stormwater ponds and, as a result, it contains a lot of suspended solids, and this is where the sludge comes from.

P Menon asked, of the 13 complaints, how many had the landfill been confirmed as the odour source. B Lee advised it was 12 of the 13.

P Menon then showed Group members a plan of the landfill site indicating where waste was being handled and how weather monitoring is used to confirm whether the landfill was the source of odour complaints.

L Miller advised that she had called the weighbridge number between 3.45 and 4.05pm on Sunday 5 June and there was no answer.

Action: LWS to raise this with the supervisor of weighbridge staff.

3.2 Environmental Performance

Apart from odour complaints, B Lee reported that there were no other significant environmental complaints or incidents recorded at the Browns Plains Landfill during the period of February to April 2011.

3.3 Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DERM)

B Lee reported that there was no contact with DERM officers during the period of February to April 2011.

3.4 Ibis Update

B Lee reported that there were no complaints received regarding ibis during the period of February to April 2011. Numbers of ibis recorded at the site were as follows:

2010	Tip Face	Tip Face Surrounds	Trees	Dam and Other Places	Total
October - average of daily count recorded by contractor (Nature Call)	145	80	101		326
November - average of daily count recorded by contractor (Nature Call)					130
December - average of daily count recorded by contractor (Nature Call)					149

2011	Tip Face	Tip Face Surrounds	Trees	Dam and Other Places	Total
January - average of daily count recorded by contractor (Nature Call) after dispersal					93
February - average of daily count recorded by contractor (Nature Call) after dispersal					88

March - average of daily count recorded by contractor (Nature Call) after dispersal						105
April	Figure not available					

The ibis control program, which commenced on the site in early-July 2010 appears to be continuing to be very effective in reducing ibis numbers. While there were up to 2,000 birds on site in June 2010, these numbers have dropped to below 100 in recent months.

At the last meeting of the Group an action was placed on LWS to request that the ibis control contractor limit use of "bomb" control measure. Contact was made with the contractor and a response was received that:

To mitigate this, we will reduce the gas gun use on the days that the wind may have an effect and use other tools such as whips and so on. In the next years control program we have a new devise we would like to add to the program which has virtually no noise and this will hopefully reduce the amount of gas gun usage. Over the next couple of weeks could you let us know if you do receive any further complaints so we are more aware specifically of the day.

B Lee advised that no further complaints have been received. P Menon corrected him by pointing out that he had received one complaint from a resident of Volstead Road that the sounds were upsetting his dog.

L Boyd put the view that the ibis are likely to return to the site as soon as control measure cease.

L Miller asked if there was some sort of pheromone or other chemical that could be used to disperse the ibis. P Menon replied that there wasn't a simple control measure of this type. Control currently involves limiting the area of exposed waste, and generally making life unpleasant for the birds.

J Armstrong reminded the Group that a previous request for DERM approval to cull the ibis was rejected.

3.5 Fire Ant Update

B Lee advised that 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 May no further advice had been received from BQ, and possible implications for the ongoing off-site movement of greenwaste are unknown.

L Boyd asked if greenwaste was still being processed on site. P Menon advised that it was, and that it was occasionally the source of odour complaints.

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 reported that there were 13 complaints made during the February to March 2011 period. Invitations were only issued two of the complainants because:

- Details of the four February complaints were not recorded.
- The landfill was not considered to be the source of the March complaint.
- Of the eight April complaints - three were from people who are either current or previous members of the Group, two refused to give their address and one had been invited previously.

There followed general discussion on the appropriateness of sending multiple Group invitations to residents making repeat complaints. B Lee advised that he had not been doing so out of a desire to not "annoy" residents with repeat letters. It was generally agreed to maintain the current process.

J Armstrong asked if Group meeting minutes could be sent to odour complainants. B Lee advised that there was no need as the minutes are publicly available on Council's website.

4.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

4.1 Site Tour

L Miller asked if it would be possible to organise a site tour for the next meeting of the Group.

Action: *LWS to organize a site tour for Group members after the September 2011 meeting.*

4.2 Recent Odour

J A Lee noted that the odour situation seemed to have recently (after April) improved. P Menon advised that this was probably more to do with cooler weather than any actions taken by LWS.

4.3 Councillor Attendance

J Armstrong expressed disappointment at Councillors missing the last two meetings of the Group.

Action: *LWS to advise Councillors of the disappointment of the Group on non-attendance at meetings.*

4.4 Councillor Able

L Boyd asked if it would be possible for Councillor Able (who lives in close proximity to the landfill) to attend Group meetings. P Menon advised that this was probably not necessary as he provides LWS with regular feedback.

5.0 CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING

The meeting closed at 3.00pm. The next meeting of the Group will be in late-September 2011. A date and time will be advised in due course.