

MINUTES

BROWNS PLAINS LANDFILL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING OF

11 DECEMBER 2012

ATTENDEES: M Asnicar (Manager Waste Services Branch - WSB)
K Venkatraman (WSB)
B Lee (WSB)
L Banks (Community Representative)
L Boyd (Community Representative)
F Laughton (Community Representative)

The meeting commenced at 2.30pm.

1.0 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Dalley, J A Lee (Community Representative) and L Millar (Community Representative)

E Koch (Community Representative), S Weber (Community Representative), S Willmet (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 25 September 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 August to October 2012.

The average number of odour incidents recorded by survey participants was 1.7 incidents/participant/month compared to 3.0 during the same period last year.

The duration of odour incidents recorded by survey participants was 1.2% of the month compared to 1.6% for the same period last year.

3.1.2 Odour Complaints

There were 16 complaints received during the four-month period of August to October 2012. This compared to 8 for the same period last year. Details were as follows:

- 07/08/2012 - 4:15pm - S Weber - 13 Junee Ct, Heritage Park - Resident complaint about the landfill odour and requested that the demister be turned on. Grounds staff advised demister system is out of action for next two weeks due to establishment of new water tank & relocation of the pump, used for operating the demister system. Resident was notified of the situation in a follow up call.
- 07/08/2012 - 5.46pm - Mrs Banks - 8 Volstead Street - Resident complained of odour from landfill. The caller advised that the odour is very offensive/ strong. She was advised at last contact with Council to call anytime and have call logged. Grounds staff advised demister system is out of action for next two weeks due to establishment of new water tank & relocation of the pump, used for operating the demister system. Resident was notified of the situation in a follow up call.
- 08/08/2012 - 5:00pm - S Weber - 13 Junee Ct - Resident complaint about the landfill odour. The On call officer was advised of the situation and contacted the landfill staff. The staff advised demister system is out of action for next two weeks due to establishment of new water tank & relocation of the pump, used for operating the demister system. Resident was notified of the situation in a follow up call.
- 16/08/2012 - 4.00pm - Eric Koch - 9 Tarrango Place - Odour Complaint - Caller advised that there is a stench coming from the landfill. He further added that it was smelling bad last week as well. Grounds staff were notified to assess the situation and advised that the wind was blowing in direction of residential area (SW). The resident was advised of WS's inability to operate the demister system last week due to relocation of the pump. However, as a control measure the demister was activated manually to run until the site closed.
- 30/08/2012 - 9:30am - Lynda Banks - 8 Volstead Road - The resident complained that the landfill odour was very bad and stinking the whole night and the smell was unbearable starting from evening 29 August to the morning of 30 August. Landfill staff advised that stripping activity was carried out and wind direction was toward the residential area. Since it was after hours no staff were available to start the demister system. The area was investigated and no odour was detected. The resident was advised that the landfill will be monitored for odour throughout the morning.
- 17/09/2012 - 2:00pm - Volstead Road - Resident complained that there was a very bad landfill odour starting around mid morning on 17 September 2012. The area was inspected and an odour was detected. As a result the demister system was turned on and customer was advised that further monitoring will be conducted.
- 21/09/2012 - 11.16am - Tarrango Place - Customer complained about the landfill odour. The odour control system was activated.
- 28/09/2012 - 10.40 am - Tarrango Place - Customer complained about the landfill odour. Landfill activities seem to have caused the odour with the wind direction towards the residential area at the time. The demister system was not operating at that time, but was activated in response to the call.

- 05/10/2012 - 4.55pm - Tarrango Place - Customer complained about the landfill odour. The resident was advised that, due to its relocation, it is currently not possible to run the deodoriser system after 5.00pm
- 06/10/12 - Written complaint regarding landfill odour sent to the Mayor from Volstead Road
- 10/10/2012 - 10:00 am - Volstead Road - Resident complained that the landfill smell was unbearable. Staff advised that it was difficult to ascertain wind direction, however, as a precautionary measure the demisters were activated.
- 10/10/2012 - 11:30 am - Tarrango Place - Resident complained about the odour. Strong wind blowing in the direction of the residential area was observed. WS Manager on receipt of few odour complaints inspected the area and confirmed the presence of odour. The demister was activated to run overnight and continue to operate till morning. It is noted that the tip face is near the fence facing the residential area and will continue to be in this area till mid-November thereby quite likely to affect operational efficiency of demister, especially when strong NW winds are experienced.
- 20/10/12 - 2.00pm - Junee Court - The resident was advised that no action could be taken as the odour control system was out of order and awaiting repair.
- 20/10/12 - 3.30pm - Bayliss Road - The resident was advised that no action could be taken as the odour control system was out of order and awaiting repair.
- 25/10/2012 - 2:15pm - Junee Court, Heritage Park - Resident complained that the smell was unbearable. The resident was advised that demister system wasn't working at that time due to an electrical fault and was expected to be in operation by 26/10/12.
- 25/10/2012 - 3:30pm - Volstead Road, Heritage Park - Resident complained that the landfill odour was very bad. The resident was advised that demister system wasn't working at that time due to an electrical fault and was expected to be in operation by 26/10/12.

M Asnicar advised that the tipping face had moved closer to Bayliss Road during the period under review and was consequently affecting Junee Court more. He showed attendees where tipping was taking place on an aerial photo.

There followed general discussion on how northerly winds carry odours to residents.

M Asnicar also advised that odour control system now runs every day until 9.00pm. It has also been relocated so that the storage tanks are on higher ground giving a better gravity feed and system performance. A larger fuel tank has been fitted to permit longer operation. Vegetation in the site buffer zone adjacent to the system had also been thinned to allow better penetration by the odour control agent.

M Asnicar then used the aerial photo to show attendees the sequence of landfill cells that will be filled. He explained that the WS Branch were planning so that by the time stage 2G (closest to Bayliss Road) is reached Council may consider the option to only use it for inert wastes with odourous wastes sent elsewhere for disposal.

L Boyd asked where it was suggested a new entrance for the landfill may be located.

M Asnicar used the aerial photo to indicate the location on Bayliss Road.

L Boyd asked why that location was being considered.

M Asnicar explained that it was due to traffic congestion and safety at the current landfill entrance which were being exacerbated by vehicles visiting the landfill, Recycling Market, playing fields and the Logan Metro Centre.

L Boyd advised she was strongly opposed to the proposed Bayliss Road entrance. She said she thought that all traffic issues should have been considered when the Logan Metro Centre was constructed and that there had been insufficient consultation with residents.

Action: M Asnicar 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.

L Banks said she's seen how high the landfill is from the top of Wembley Road and asked why it is so high.

M Asnicar referred to advice provided at a previous meeting of the Group about a recent Council decision for the filling height for the whole site to be the same as cell 2C, which is the section visible from Wembley Road.

L Banks asked why this was the case.

M Asnicar advised it was primarily to maximise disposal volume, but also to provide a practical profile for future uses.

L Banks asked if the height would be contributing to odour issues.

M Asnicar advised that odour was probably more a function of proximity than height.

F Laughton said that he vomited as a result of landfill odour he experienced last Friday 7 December 2012. He said he had lived in the house for 18 years and, as he was coming to retirement age, was looking forward to spending more time at home but feared he would be unable to do so due to the odour.

M Asnicar asked how long he had been noticing the odour and F Laughton replied that it had been two years to his recollection.

M Asnicar advised that the timeframe correlated to where waste tipping was occurring on site. He also asked at what frequency the odour was being experienced. F Laughton replied that it was every day, and he was spending less time outside in his yard as a result.

L Banks advised that the previous weekend (8 and 9 December) she heard truck activity and asked how that waste could have been covered at the tip face.

M Asnicar advised that the noise would have been from the transfer station, which is where residents tip their self-hauled waste. This waste is largely inert and odourless.

L Banks enquired about recent media reports that, as a result of the removal of the waste levy in Queensland, large quantities of waste were coming across the border into Queensland from New South Wales.

M Asnicar advised that these wastes from New South Wales weren't coming to the Browns Plains Landfill. Council's understanding is that if wastes are coming from New South Wales to Queensland they are most likely going to the private landfills in Ipswich.

3.2 Environmental Performance

B Lee advised that the results of monitoring conducted at the Browns Plains Landfill in July 2012 were received in August 2012. Exceedances were noted in relation to particulates (at one of eight sampling locations) and release waters as follows:

Particulate Monitoring

Sample No.	Total Insoluble Solids mg/m ² .day	Licence Limit
BPP2	270	130mg/m ² .day

Release Water Monitoring

Analyte Description	Units	W2	Licence Limit (Maximum)
Suspended Solids	mg/L	310	50

The following measures have been applied for mitigating above issues:

For particulate exceedance:

- A water truck is based on site and is utilised for the purpose of applying recycled water for dust suppression.
- Site roads and tracks are maintained in a condition that minimises dust.

For release water parameter exceedance:

- Cleaning of ponds and channels of sediments;
- Implementation of grass cover and flow diversions to limit sediment transport on slopes.

3.3 Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP)

B Lee advised that there was no contact with DEHP in relation to the Browns Plains Landfill from August to October 2012 apart from the report of the environmental monitoring exceedances.

3.4 Ibis Update

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

2012	Average of daily count recorded by contractor (Nature Call to May 2012 - and Ecosure thereafter) before dispersal
February	315
March	81
April	179

May	304
June	443
July	1,592
August	1,178
September	1,097
October	1,270

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. At the end of October 2012 WS officers were still in the process of negotiating with BQ and WMI with a view to having greenwaste removed unprocessed from Browns Plains.

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.

There were 16 complaints made during the August to October 2012 period and all were from residents who had been previously invited or were already group members.

4.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

4.1 Group Terms of Reference

B Lee advised that the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Browns Plains Landfill Community Consultative Group were reviewed and amended by Council on 6 November 2012. A copy of the ToR are attached to these minutes as Attachment 1.

L Boyd said the Group felt they were only receiving lip-service from Council.

M Asnicar responded by advising that, operationally, Council feels it is doing everything it can to minimise odours.

4.2 Ibis

F Laughton asked whether the ibis were considered to be under control.

K Venkatraman replied that the ibis control contractor had reduced numbers down from around 2,000 but they will never be reduced to zero.

F Laughton confirmed that ibis numbers had reduced in his area.

B Lee added that the contractor doesn't simply scare the ibis, they also remove nests and eggs.

5.0 CLOSED AND NEXT MEETING

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

ATTACHMENT 1

TERMS OF REFERENCE

BROWNS PLAINS LANDFILL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP

The Terms of Reference for the Browns Plains Landfill Community Consultative Group (the Group) were reviewed and amended by Council on 6 November 2012 (see Minute No 313/2012).

As a result, and as of 6 November 2012, the Terms of Reference are as follows:

Membership

The membership of the Group includes the Deputy Chief Executive Officer Strategy & Sustainability, the Waste Services Manager, the Waste Administration Program Leader, the Waste Operations Program Leader and interested Community Representatives.

Optional invitations to Group meetings may also be sent to the Browns Plains Landfill Divisional Councillor.

Objectives

The Group's objectives are as follows:

- *Provide a forum from which Council can communicate to the wider community the philosophy behind its management of the landfill.*
- *Enable the community to relay to and seek responses from Council on any matters of interest or concern regarding the management and operation of the landfill.*
- *Update the community on current and proposed activities at the landfill.*

Decision-Making

The decision-making boundaries for the Group are as follows:

- *The Group should be an information-sharing forum.*
- *It may communicate with the wider community through media releases and newsletters.*

Communication

The Group will communicate with the wider community through media releases and newsletters.

The minutes of Group meetings will be forwarded to all Councillors via email.