

MINUTES

BROWNS PLAINS LANDFILL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING OF

26 JUNE 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)

L Boyd, J Ooms, 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.

2.0 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

It was agreed that the distributed minutes of the previous meeting (on 27 March 2018) were an accurate record.

3.0 BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 Landfill Odour

B Lee reported that there have been 68 complaints received during the 12 months between 1 April 2017 and 31 May 2018 compared to 32 between 1 April 2017 and 31 May 2018.

There were 16 odour complaints received during the three-month period of March to May 2018. This compared to seven for the same three-month period the previous year. Details of the 16 recent complaints were as follows:

March 2018

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

- 09/03/18 - 08:44am - Kensington St - A report was received that, depending on the wind, an unbearable odour was being experienced. Soon after an officer walked the resident's street but could only sense a mild landfill odour. Only the mobile odour control system (installed for the northern boundary of the site) was operational as the fuel hose of the main system was found to be leaking. The main system was repaired soon after. The resident was advised of the status of systems, and that wet weather conditions were adding to odour issues as covering of waste is becoming difficult.
- 09/03/18 - 09:16am - Mayfair Drive - The resident advised that the odour had gotten worse since the previous day. Soon after an officer walked the resident's street but could only sense a very mild landfill odour. Contact was made with the resident later that day. See above for advice provided.

- 09/03/18 - 2:32pm - Savoy Ct Browns Plains - The resident advised that he'd lived at the location for two years but odours were getting worse lately. Contact was made with the resident soon after his call. See above for advice provided. An officer also confirmed with tip face staff that the odour control system was still running and that covering of waste is scheduled to commence at 3.30pm.
- 09/03/18 - 3.54pm - Berkley Drive - The resident advised that the smell has been bad all day. A Waste Officer took the call -see above for advice provided.
- 11/03/18 - 10.17am - Zorina St - The complaint was made by email and was general in nature asking how Council is addressing odour control. A response was provided.
- 28/03/18 - 3.00pm - Alrak Ave - Resident complained that landfill odour was bad from late-morning. An officer called at the caller's residence at 3.40pm, noting it was approximately two kilometres from the tipping face. Neither the officer nor the resident could detect any odour during the visit. The resident, however, advised that she was a regular user of the landfill and was very familiar with its smells. General odour control practices were explained and the resident encouraged to report future incidents.

April 2018:

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

- 06/4/18 - 11.00am - Browns Plains (no other details provided) - Resident complained (via face book) regarding landfill odour. A request for the resident to contact Council via Facebook was not responded to.
- 12/4/18 -1.45pm - Lamberth Road - An officer was aware that landfill staff were working on a new entry track to the tip face and some old buried waste had been exposed. The activity was ceased and covering of the waste was completed later that afternoon. The complainant's address was visited around 4.30pm and no odour was detected during discussions with the resident.
- 12/4/18 -3.40pm - St James Cct - See above - the resident was visited during the afternoon.
- 12/4/18 -3.40pm - Lamberth Road - See above - the resident was visited during the afternoon.
- 12/4/18 - 3:50pm - Tarrango Place - See above - the resident was visited during the afternoon.
- 12/04/18 - 4.15 - St James Cct - See above - the resident was visited during the afternoon.
- 12/04/18 - 4.15pm - St James Cct - See above - the resident was visited during the afternoon.
- 13/04/18 - 9.26am - Myola Street - The resident was experiencing an odour from the landfill. An officer explained odour control measures to the resident and soon after (9.40am) attended the area and could detect no odour. Calls to the resident at that time were not responded to. No further action was taken.

- 19/4/18 - 8.06am - Saville Court - Resident requested that someone attend the home to note landfill odour immediately and an officer arrived at 8.15am. There was no odour at the time, and this was confirmed by the complainant's partner. The opportunity was taken explain odour control management at the site. No further action was taken.

May 2018:

There was one odour complaint received regarding the landfill during May 2018:

- 30/05/18 - 4.25am - St James Cct - No particularly odorous wastes were being handled around the time of the complaint. The landfill operators undertook waste cover as usual. No further action was deemed necessary.

B Chambers noted that complaint numbers were up on a year ago and seemed to be staying up. R Oakley responded by advising that odours generated were a function of not only cell location but also cell height and of course the weather.

W Cox advised that strong odour had been noted around midday four or five times recently over the last few weeks, but wasn't sure how long it lasted. R Oakley encouraged reporting of all odours, even retrospectively.

B Chambers advised experiencing only the occasional odour at his residence. He also asked if, given the complaint numbers, Council had any plans to change procedures in the coming months. R Oakley advised there was no change expected to waste handling procedures. He also reported that a trial of a probiotic odour control agent was conducted in late-March and early-April 2018. Results were inconclusive, with no definitive benefit noted. Another trial with the same product but with a changed application methodology is being considered.

R Oakley added that he and the HEW Manager also visited a landfill site where an alternative spray-on fibre-mulch cover was being used but the applicability to Browns Plains site operations and the benefits it potentially offered were also inconclusive. Consideration may be given following potential adaptations to the process.

W Cox asked if cover of waste always stops all odours. R Oakley replied that under normal circumstances it should help reduce the risk greatly.

W Cox advised that on numerous occasions she had noted odours at sunset, and asked how that could be if waste was covered. R Oakley advised that it is possible for gases to permeate through cover material. In addition, odours can also be trapped by temperature inversions caused by air temperature and pressure. He also reported that in mid to late-August 2018 new landfill gas collection wells are being installed into the current operational landfill cell which can only have a positive effect on odour reduction.

B Chambers again made reference to the large increase in year on year complaints and asked what additional action will be taken to address that. R Oakley replied that the usual management practices would be ongoing as would investigation of alternative controls. He reiterated, however, that there was no avoiding the height of the landfill increasing as it was being constructed to final design height.

B Chambers asked if residents can expect more odours as the landfill cells get higher. R Oakley replied that it was not Council's intention at all that odour will increase and reduction of odours would always be the goal.

B Chambers asked if Council could consider extra monitoring and control measures and put these forward at the next meeting. R Oakley responded that this could be done and while Council is always on the lookout for different techniques and control measures we are always happy to receive any information from others on techniques out there that we may have missed.

Action: *Waste Services officers to consider extra monitoring and control measures and present these to the next meeting.*

W Cox asked why she had to call and ask for the odour control system to be activated, and why staff can't do it proactively. R Oakley replied that staff who work on the tip face have become desensitised to the landfill odour and are poor judges of when the system needs to be turned on. He added, however, that the system is regularly proactively turned on at the request of himself and other staff, Waste Services do not wait to receive a report if internal monitoring has identified a potential odour risk.

B Chambers advised that according to Council's report in the minutes of the March 2018 meeting, on 6 December 2017 a complaint was made, the odour control system was activated, but another complaint was made later in the day. He asked if anything has happened to improve checking effectiveness of control measures taken. R Oakley advised that the odour control system can run automatically for much longer periods and is frequently left running after the site has closed. Grounds and tip face staff liaise to keep the system topped up with fuel and odour control agent.

3.2 Environmental Performance

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

3.3 Department of Environment and Science (DES)

Officers from the Department of Environment and Sciences (DES - formerly the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection) inspected the Browns Plains operations on Monday 28th May. The inspection was conducted over all areas of the facility, Recycle Shed, Metal Yard, Transfer Station and Landfill.

Apart from some minor housekeeping matters that were all rectified by the end of the same day, no non-compliances of Council's environmental authority were identified or have been so far reported. Council had received a final inspection report from the Department closing the inspection on two of our other facilities (Logan Village and Greenbank Transfer Stations) but no final report had yet been received in relation to the Browns Plains Facility.

W Cox mentioned sometimes noting litter on the road leading to the landfill. R Oakley advised that collection of litter on roads outside of the site, i.e. Bayliss Road is the responsibility of other Branches but the Waste Program is happy to take reports and pass them on.

3.4 Ibis Update

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

- average initial ibis counts in May were 1,105 prior to harassment activities; this average has risen since the previous month in which the initial average number of ibis observed was 1,060; and
- on average, 68.1% of ibis initially observed on site were successfully dispersed off site during dispersal periods; and
- average final counts of ibis were 353 after harassment activities, indicating that there has been a 5.86% decrease in the number of ibis remaining on site following harassment activities since April (375); and
- two types of dispersal methods were utilised during the month of May: 'Quad, whip & noodle' (5%), 'Quad & Noodle' (95%).

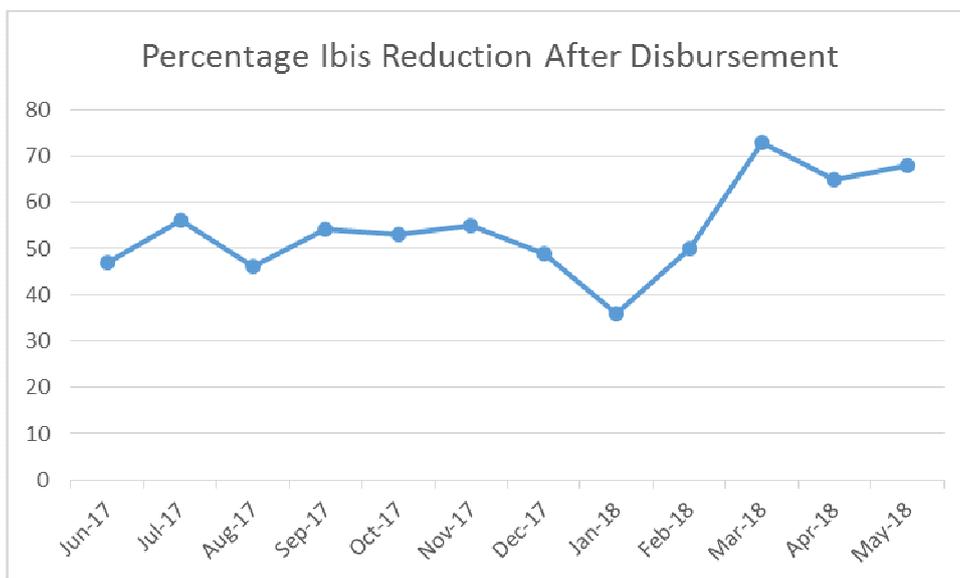
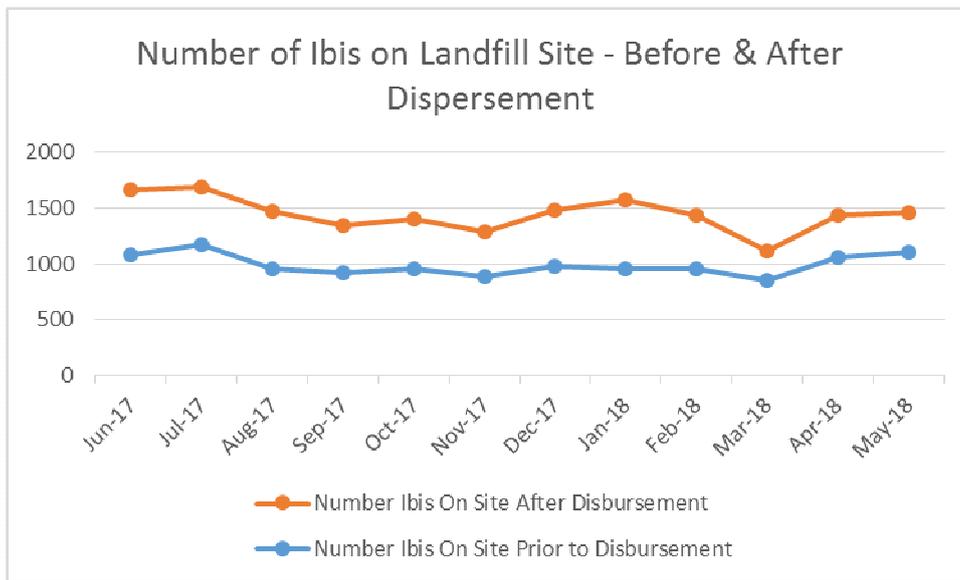
There were no ibis complaints received regarding ibis during the March to May 2018 period.

W Cox noted that ibis numbers do not appear to be reducing. R Oakley agreed but mentioned that, apart from dispersal, the wildlife management contractors also remove eggs and nests.

B Chambers asked if would be possible for future ibis reporting to include ibis numbers after dispersal and percentage reduction in ibis numbers.

Action: *Future reports on ibis control are to include ibis numbers before and after dispersal and the percentage reduction.*

	Number Ibis On Site Prior to Disbursement	Number Ibis On Site After Disbursement	Percentage Ibis Reduction After Disbursement
Jun-17	1087	577	47
Jul-17	1178	516	56
Aug-17	959	514	46
Sep-17	920	426	54
Oct-17	958	446	53
Nov-17	883	401	55
Dec-17	978	501	49
Jan-18	958	612	36
Feb-18	959	480	50
Mar-18	859	254	73
Apr-18	1060	375	65
May-18	1105	353	68



R Oakley added that the wildlife management contractor will soon also be trialling a dog in ibis dispersal operations.

3.4.1 December 2017 Data Conflict

At the meeting of the Group on 27 March 2018 B Chambers pointed out that there appeared to be a conflict between the data presented in dot points 1 and 3 in section 3.4 in the minutes of the meeting of 5 December 2017. B Lee reported that the matter had been reviewed and it had been established that there had not been a conflict. Dot point 1 compared numbers of ibis still on site after harassment activities from month to month. Dot point 3 compared the number of ibis on site before and after harassment.

3.5 Fire Ant Update

In mid-April 2018 a number of new fire ant nests were discovered near the Recycling Market car park and near the site entrance. These were reported to Biosecurity Queensland and treatment was subsequently applied.

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 16 complaints made during the March to May 2018 period:

- 5 invitations were issued (1 was accepted)
- 3 were from existing Group members
- 6 were from residents who had been previously invited.
- 2 were from residents whose addresses were not recorded (1 submitted via Facebook)

3.7 Volstead Road House

At the last meeting an action was raised to check on if there were any plans for the two-story brick house on landfill property fronting Volstead Road. B Lee reported that the house was demolished in April 2018.

R Oakley reported that some asbestos containing material was discovered under the foundations of the house and a specialist contractor was brought in to manage that. He also reported that:

- the site will soon be planted out with trees; and
- a stockpile of top soil from the landfill site will be moved onto the site in the next few weeks to top up depressions and make it level and suitable for future planting.

4.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

4.1 Landfill Fire

B Lee reported that at 11.00pm on 19 March 2018 Waste on -call was notified of a fire at Browns Plains Landfill. The On-call Officer notified the Manager and plant operators who attended site at 11.30pm to find a fire of approximately 50m x 30m in size.

Logan West Fire Brigade were on site already. Council and Fire Officers assessed the situation and decided to smother fire with soil. The fire was extinguished at approximately 2.00am. Further cover material was placed over area until approximately 3.00am when Council officers left the site.

A private security contractor was summoned to observe the landfill until staff arrived in the morning. The matter was subsequently reported to the Department of Environment and Science.

5.0 CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING

The meeting closed at 1.55pm. Invitations and agendas for the next meeting in September 2018 will be issued in due course.