

## MINUTES

### BROWNS PLAINS LANDFILL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING OF

16 December 2014

**ATTENDEES:** M Asnicar (Waste Services Branch - WSB)  
R Oakley (WSB)  
B Lee (WSB)  
L Banks (Community Representative)  
J A Lee (Community Representative)  
J Ooms (Community Representative)

The meeting commenced at 1pm.

#### **1.0 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Dalley, L Boyd (Community Representative)

L Miller, F Laughton, E Koch, N Martin, D Moore, G Williams, D Eldridge, P Cohen, M Lawton, H Priday, S Weber, L Blunt and S Baker (all Community Representatives) did not attend.

#### **2.0 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 23 September 2014 were an accurate record.

#### **3.0 BUSINESS ARISING**

##### **3.1 Landfill Odour**

##### **3.1.1 Odour Complaints**

There have been 14 odour complaints received so far during the 2014/15 year. This compares to 35 for the same period in 2013/14.

There were 11 complaints received during the three-month period of September to November 2014. This compared to 17 for the same period in 2013. Details were as follows:

##### **September 2014**

There were no odour complaints received regarding the landfill during September 2014.

##### **October 2014**

There was one odour complaint received in October 2014. Details were as follows:

- 20/10/2014 - 3:00 pm - Volstead Road - A WS officer immediately called Council's Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP) contact to advise of the complaint. He then proceeded to the tipping area where he noted a NNE wind (as indicated by the wind sock). Grounds staff were towing the mobile odour unit ready for deployment. The perimeter odour system had not yet been activated. The officer then called at the complainant's residence and noted a waste type odour with a level/intensity of 1 to 2 (out of 6). A conversation with the resident then took place and covered the height of the landfill and the timing of opening of the next landfill cell. The resident rated the odour a 6. The officer then returned to the landfill where the mobile and perimeter odour systems were immediately deployed. He also advised the DEHP officer of action taken. The weather station subsequently showed that at the time of the complaint wind was from the NNE at 0.4 to 1.8 km/hr.

#### November 2014

There were 10 odour complaints received regarding the landfill during November 2014. Details were as follows:

- 19/11/14 - 9.05am - Colombard Street - Resident was making a general complaint via email. Complaint related to the resident recently buying a house in the area and searches not showing up that it was subject to odours from the landfill.
- 19/11/14 - 12:55pm - St James Circuit - Resident complained about a landfill odour. Admin officers notified Grounds staff to turn on the odour demisters. At the time of the complaint the wind was 2.1 km/hr from the east.
- 19/11/14 - 2.45pm - Volstead Road - See above. At the time of the complaint the wind was 1.6 km/hr from ENE.
- 20/11/14 - 8:10am - Volstead Road - Resident complained about a landfill odour. Administration officers notified Grounds staff to turn on the odour demisters. Grounds staff confirmed the demisters were already switched on for the day, and they will continue to operate the deodorisers for the rest of the day. At the time of the complaint wind was 0.9 km/hr from the NNE.
- 21/11/14 - 10.10am - Colombard Place - An email complaint about the general, rather than a specific, odour situation was received.
- 21/11/14 - 10:35am - Colombard Place - Resident complained about a landfill odour and asked if Council has another control strategy in place other than the demister system. He was advised of the imminent availability of the new cell further away from residents.
- 21/11/14 - 11.03 am - Colombard Place - Resident complained about the landfill odour and asked why use of the odour control system had been discontinued. The resident was advised that the demisters are still in use and were operational that day. The resident did not accept this but acquiesced after being issued with an invitation to view the equipment in operation.
- 25/11/14 - 1.20pm - Bayliss Road - An email complaint about the general, rather than a specific, odour situation was received.

- 25/11/14 - 9:20am - Volstead Road - A WSB officer spoke to the complainant and confirmed the tip face is covered every night in accordance with license requirements. The resident was also advised that the new landfill cell, located a further 300m away from residential area, will soon be accepting all the putrescibles which is expected to minimise odour risks. At the time of the complaint wind was 1.6 km/hr from the east.
- 26/11/14 - 07:55pm - St James Circuit - Weighbridge staff confirmed that a special burial (chicken load) was received that morning. They also confirmed that the demisters had been operating since morning and continued to operate overnight.

L Banks asked if many complaints had been received from residents other than herself. B Lee advised that four of the November complaints were from residents in Colombard Place who Council hadn't heard from previously.

### 3.1.2 Construction of Cell 2D

R Oakley gave a brief review of cell construction including excavation, lining, sump, drainage and geo-fabric. He mentioned that it was very important not to damage the drainage and, as a result, only soft (putrescible/odorous) waste is being tipped as a first layer. Tipping of limited quantities of putrescible waste in 2D commenced on 26 November 2014, with a view to all such waste being tipped in the new cell as soon as possible.

L Banks said her understanding was that tipping of putrescible waste stopped soon after.

R Oakley confirmed that was the case and it was due to the recent storms and heavy rainfall. While vehicles could still get in and out of the new cell because so little waste had been tipped at that time the soft ground conditions made it difficult to safely manoeuvre vehicles. Putrescible waste was redirected back to cell 2F on the boundary. With conditions again favourable putrescible waste has been redirected back to cell 2D.

L Banks asked if the odour control sprayers were being moved to the new cell 2D. R Oakley replied that the existing system will be staying where it is. M Asnicar added that the WSB has purchased a mobile sprayer, and are also in the process of purchasing extension pipes. R Oakley demonstrated on an aerial photo that deployment of the new piping will be flexible and able to be moved depending on wind direction and need. It's expected, however, that it will mainly be deployed around the south-west corner of the cell.

JA Lee sought confirmation that Council's intention was for all putrescible waste to now go to cell 2D and R Oakley confirmed that was the expectation. Low odour risk transfer station waste and skip waste containing solid household waste or construction and demolition waste (ie no or very little putrescible waste) will continue to be deposited in cell 2F.

L Banks advised that Department of Environment and Heritage Protection office J Rice recently appeared unannounced in Volstead Road at about 6.45pm. The odour had been much worse an hour earlier.

L Banks asked if the odour control system is continuing to be left on overnight and R Oakley that the mobile unit has the benefit of being able to run through the night.

JA Lee asked if residents could now expect there to be no odours from the landfill. R Oakley replied saying the expectation was that odours would be greatly reduced.

JA Lee asked for the contact phone number on which to make reports of odours and 3412 3412 was provided.

LBanks asked if Council had the use of two compactors to handle the waste and R Oakley confirmed that there were.

### 3.2 Environmental Performance

The results of environmental monitoring conducted in August were received in October. They contained two instances of particulates (dust) being in exceedance of the licence limit of 130 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day. The two readings in question were 150 and 260 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day. The exceedances were reported to the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection along with the following advice:

- A water truck is based on site and is utilised for the purpose of applying recycled water for dust suppression. These activities are carried out on site roadways and in particular the operational areas that have a high risk of generating excess particulate matter.
- Site roads and tracks are maintained in a condition that minimises dust.
- No dust complaints were received during the monitoring period.

There are a total of eight dust monitoring locations around the site. On an aerial photo R Oakley showed the one location where he knew of the dust exceedance.

JA Lee and L Banks both commented that dust has been bad recently including in the last two weeks. R Oakley said this was unexpected as there has been no unusual activities in that area recently. Council will continue to use the water truck to try and keep dust down.

### 3.3 Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP)

B Lee advised that there had been a number of interactions with DEHP officers since the last meeting including:

- An unannounced inspection on 7 October 2014 in response to an odour complaint. Discussions were had in relation to a number of issues including the effectiveness of the perimeter deodoriser system and the timing of the opening of the next landfill cell.
- Early in October 2014 an invitation was extended to the DEHP landfill regulators to visit the site to inspect operations and the construction of the new cell. Five officers from DEHP attended the site on the morning of 23rd October.

L Banks commented that she thought a DEHP officer would be attending today's Landfill Consultative Group meeting. R Oakley advised he had discussed the matter with a DEHP officer and their attendance may be considered in future.

### 3.4 Ibis Update

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

2014	Daily Count
January	1559

<b>2014</b>	<b>Daily Count</b>
February	1160
March	700
April	1300
May	1420
June	1569
July <i>First month operation of new contractor. New method of conducting counts: 64,025 sightings over 31 days = 2,065/day</i>	2065
August <i>17,583 sightings over 29 days</i>	606
September <i>25,780 sightings over 21 days</i>	1228
October <i>27,140 sightings over 31 days</i>	875

The most recent report from the ibis control contractor is summarised below:

- ProScare – a pyro technique tool is being used in small amounts when bird numbers are noticed to increase;
- No nesting has been occurring on site;
- Foraging surveys are finding Berrinba Wetlands to be increasing in nest numbers (approximately 500 sighted from the road);

JA Lee asked when the ibis management contractors attend the site. M Asnicar advised that they attend most days, but at varying times.

M Asnicar also mentioned that Cr Able, who lives in Heritage Park, had reported high numbers of ibis in his yard at times. This matter has been referred to the contractor for investigation.

### **3.5 Fire Ant Update**

Nothing to report.

### **3.6 Bayliss Road Entry to Landfill**

M Asnicar advised that:

- Construction of the new entrance road is expected commence in the 2015 calendar year.
- The WSB has been advised that installation of the new traffic lights at the current site entrance on Brows Plains Road is expected to commence in January 2015.

### **3.7 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.

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.)

There were 11 complaints made during the September to November 2014 period and:

- Four invitations to join the Group were issued;
- In two cases invitations to join the Group had been issued in the last six months; and
- The remainder were from members of the group

#### **4.0 GENERAL BUSINESS**

##### **4.1 Log Cabin House**

L Banks asked if anyone was aware of Council's plans for the "log cabin" house at the rear of the landfill site.

**Action: B Lee to make enquiries with Council's Property Section about the house.**

##### **4.2 Landfill Inspection**

M Asnicar asked the Community Representatives if they had time to take a tour of the landfill and they agreed. Representatives were taken down and shown where the putrescible waste was being tipped in the new cell 2D and where solid transfer station waste was being deposited in cell 2F.

#### **5.0 Close and Next Meeting**

The meeting closed at 1.30pm and was followed by a site inspection. The next meeting will be held in March 2015. The date will be conveyed in due course.