

MINUTES

BROWNS PLAINS LANDFILL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING OF 22 September 2015

ATTENDEES: R Oakley (Waste Services Branch - WSB)
B Lee (WSB)
L Banks (Community Representative)
JA Lee (Community Representative)
L Boyd (Community Representative)
J Ooms (Community Representative)
K Houliston (Community Representative)

The meeting commenced at 1:05pm.

1.0 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Dalley, M Asnicar (WSB)

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

2.0 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

L Banks expressed her view that the minutes of the meeting of 23 June 2015 were incorrect, and that eight odour complaints she made during the period of March to May 2015 had not been recorded. B Lee said that as monitoring of after-hours calls for landfill odour complaints had been underway for three months, he was unable to advise why complaints were not being recorded. L Banks advised that all of the calls had been made during office hours. B Lee asked if L Banks had recorded the names of anyone she had spoken to during any of those eight calls but she had not.

3.0 BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 Landfill Odour

3.1.1 Odour Complaints

B Lee reported that there have been 6 odour complaints received so far during the 2015/16 year to date. This compares to 3 for the same period in 2014/15.

JA Lee asked why there were more this year than last, given the development of the new stage 2D. WSB officers were unable to nominate a definitive reason.

There were 7 complaints received during the three-month period of June to August 2015. This compared to 4 for the same three-month period in the previous year. Details were as follows:

June 2015:

There was one odour complaint received regarding the landfill during June 2015. Details were as follows:

- 20/05/15 - 5:10pm - Lamberth Road Regents Park - The resident emailed late in the afternoon to complain about a bad odour which he has been experiencing for the past few months at exactly 12pm every day. Waste Services Environmental and Risk Management Officer notified grounds staff of this and have turned on the demisters to mask the odour and they will continue operating till late. At the time of the complaint wind was 3.2km/hr from the north, however there are many houses between the landfill and Lamberth Road and this was the only call received.

July 2015:

There were three odour complaints received regarding the landfill during July 2015:

- 20/07/15 - 10.40am - Melastoma Place - The resident said that there had been a bad odour the previous night and asked for the demisters to be turned on that night. Grounds staff were instructed to turn on the demisters. Grounds staff confirmed the demisters had been turned off at 8pm the previous night. They were then asked to continue operating mobile demisters throughout the night. Wind was 9.6km/hr from the east south east at the time of the complaint.
- 30/07/15 - 4:15pm - Volstead Road - The Waste Services ERMO toured around the residential area around about 10 minutes after the complainant had called. He experienced an intermittent smell that he described it as level 1-2. He made a call and notified Grounds staff to turn on the demisters to minimise the odour. The demisters will continue to run until late evening to mask the odour residents may be experiencing. Wind was 5km/hr from the east north east at the time of the complaint.
- 31/07/15 - 5.42pm - caller declined to provide name to after-hours operator. No action taken due to the call being made after hours.

August 2015

There were 3 odour complaints received regarding the landfill during August 2015. Details were as follows:

- 03/08/15 - 1:45pm - Volstead Road - The complainant advised that the landfill odour was bad at the time of the call (a Monday) and was also bad all weekend from 7pm the previous Friday night when the sprayer went off. The resident explained that the sprayer was not activated at all over the weekend despite odour going towards her house. Grounds staff were requested to turn on the demisters to minimise the odour. At the time of the call wind was from the WNW at 6.2km/hr.
- Saturday 01/08/15 - 4.25pm - Caller declined to provide name to after-hours operator - Resident complained about a landfill odour. No

action was taken due to the call being made after-hours

- 17/08/15 - 4:25pm - Volstead Road - An officer called the resident's area and spoke with her at around 4:50pm. At that time the resident agreed that she could not smell anything but said that the smell had been intermittent. The officer advised this was possibly due to works on the pipes of the landfill gas collection system which is expected to be completed by end of September. The officer notified Grounds staff to turn on the demisters to minimise the odour. Wind at the time of the incident was from the north at 10.6km/hr.

Residents were then asked to relay their recent odour experiences.

JA Lee said they have been noticing odours, which has been disappointing given that there should be zero odours with the development of the new cell 2D.

L Boyd said she had been experiencing odours, although not for the last month.

JA Lee asked if waste tipping had recommenced in the old cell 2F close to residents.

R Oakley reported that prior to last week the WSB were on target to complete filling in cell 2F with low odour risk transfer station waste by the end of September. (All putrescible wastes (higher odour risk) were and are continuing to be directed to the new cell 2D.) The target, however, will not be met due to a major fire that occurred in 2F last Wednesday 16 September 2015.

L Banks asked how the fire started and could it have been due to hot ashes or coals in a wheelie bin.

R Oakley replied that neither the WSB or the Queensland Fire and Emergency Service (QFES) know for sure, but it was highly likely that hot ashes or coals were the cause. Council's experience, however, is that the ashes or coals usually come in through transfer station waste (where it is often discovered before tipping). In any event, there was no sign of any fire when the site closed at 5.30pm on the day of the fire.

L Banks asked how long did the fire burn.

R Oakley advised that he got a call at 7.00pm, at which time he arranged for all available Council and contractor plant operators to attend and use earth-moving equipment to smother the fire. The Queensland Fire Service (QFES) attended but did not take part in firefighting as there was no readily available water supply in the area, QFES left the site at 10.30pm. Council staff left the site at around 11.30pm when it was thought the fire was out. A security guard was put on the site as a precautionary measure. R Oakley then got a call from the guard at around 1.30am and returned to the site but noted there were only very minor spot fires. He considered that there was very little chance of the fire growing and relayed this to the QFES. Those remaining small fires were dealt with in the morning.

JA Lee asked about bangs that could be heard and R Oakley replied that they were most likely aerosol cans.

L Banks asked why there had been a QFES truck in her street. R Oakley replied that they were probably watching the scrub on the southern boundary of the landfill site to make sure no fires started there.

JA Lee then asked what will happen in the area affected by the fire. R Oakley replied that, so far, nothing has happened in that area. There was concern that there may still be heat underground and that exposing it to oxygen may reignite a fire. For that reason, he has asked the QFES to return with thermal imaging equipment to ensure that the heat is gone before work recommences in the area, R Oakley was not sure when they will return.

JA Lee then asked what will happen after the QFS give the all clear. Specifically, was it necessary to do any more waste tipping in the area, and could it be left "as is". R Oakley advised the cell could not be left as it was as there are dips and hollows that would fill with rain. The area will need to be filled (with transfer station waste only), an interim cap applied and gas collection pipes installed. The area will then have to be left for approximately two years, as it's certain that there will be subsidence to various degrees. There will then need to be further filling to address this.

JA Lee asked if this area could become a dust nuisance source. R Oakley advised it will be monitored and grass seed applied if necessary.

L Banks asked how long the new cell 2D will be in operation. R Oakley replied that it has been in operation for a little less than a year now and has another three plus years to go. Work on the next cell (2E to the east of 2D) will have to start about 18 months prior to the completion of 2D.

L Banks asked why there is no height restriction to the landfill. R Oakley replied that there is a design height limit.

JA Lee asked why Stage 1 of the landfill wasn't as high as the rest of the site. R Oakley replied that that area of the landfill is over 30 years old and doesn't have the technological engineering of the newer areas.

JA Lee asked why the newer areas had to be so high. R Oakley replied that, although the height could have been greater, it was designed to maximise capacity to allow Council to make the most of its investment.

JA Lee responded by saying she wanted it recorded in the minutes that the landfill height is constantly mentioned in Community Consultative Group meetings but nothing happens in that regard. L Boyd agreed saying there is no question it is detrimental to the Heritage Park area.

L Boyd asked about the current estimate of when the landfill will be completed. R Oakley replied that the best current estimate was in the 2020's, although the actual date will depend on a lot of factors including whether future stage 2G (proposed for the south east corner of the site) goes ahead.

L Boyd stated that she felt that the Council can't be trusted when it comes to development of the landfill.

R Oakley asked the other Community Representatives present whether they were experiencing landfill odour. J Ooms advised that no odour was recently being experienced at the Bayliss Road roundabout. K Houlston said he did not live close enough to the landfill to be affected.

L Banks then advised she was resigning from the Community Consultative Group, and submitted a letter of resignation.

3.2 Environmental Performance

B Lee advised that the results of environmental monitoring conducted in July 2015 were received in August 2015.

All results were within landfill licence limits with the exception of release waters. Release point water sample W2 exceeded the limit for suspended solids (50 mg/L) this quarter with a value of 1,540 mg/L. WS continue to investigate improved stormwater management methods.

3.3 Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP)

B Lee advised that there had been no significant contact with DEHP officers during the period of June to August 2015.

3.4 Ibis Update

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

2015	Total
Average number recorded by contractor (Ecosure) before dispersal	
January	379
February	266
March	208
April	584
May	1145
June	1054
July	1048
August	1053

Only one complaint was received by the Waste Services Branch during the period:

- 27/08/15 - General complaint about ibis destroying trees in area.

The most recent report from the contractor conducting ibis control on the landfill site is summarised below:

- Initial daily ibis counts varied between 493 to 3998 on site, prior to harassment activities commencing;
- Average initial counts were 1,053, prior to harassment activities;
- Average final counts of Ibis were 271, after harassment activities. These numbers are made up of Ibis perched on tip face, in surrounding trees and flying overhead;
- Noise dispersal tools were not in use, resulting in higher Ibis numbers on site.

Note: Agency for co-ordinating control of the ibis roosting on the corner of Browns Plains and Bayliss has been given to Council's Animal & Pest Services Branch. They recently provided the following update on activities:

Council has decided to continue with a non-lethal mitigation program up until 30 June 2016.

The program, which recommenced in August 2015, involves the removal of eggs and nests on a fortnightly basis to actively break the 23 day incubation cycle, therefore reducing breeding success and discouraging physical nest construction. During a recent visit licensed contractors removed 190 eggs and 165 nests. A trial conducted between April and June 2015 provided a result in population reduction in that location. Those results are anticipated to be initially duplicated and then exceeded.

Council will receive periodic reports of the outcomes from me and will make a further determination before July 2016 regarding the ongoing action required to maintain or reduce the Ibis population in that location.

This Animal & Pest Services Branch will be including Ibis control funding in 2016/17 budget deliberations to ensure the ongoing financial means for control.

L Boyd commented that the ibis are causing great damage to the trees on the corner of Bayliss and Browns Plains and due to their numbers the creek must be toxic.

B Lee said the Group would continue to be updated regarding Animal & Pest Services Branch activities in this regard.

3.5 Fire Ant Update

Nothing to report.

3.6 Bayliss Road Entry to Landfill

B Lee advised that roadworks on the project is not likely to commence until 2016.

L Banks asked if there would be two lanes at the landfill entry and R Oakley confirmed that there would be.

L Boyd asked if people using the sports facilities would be likely to use the new entrance. R Oakley replied that there would be no reason for them to do so.

L Boyd asked if there will be a right-hand turn out of the site with the new exit. R Oakley advised that there would not be a right-hand turn.

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.)

Of the seven complaints made during the June to August 2015 period:

- One invitation to join the Group was issued
- Two were made after-hours and the caller declined to leave details
- Three were from residents who are already members of the Group

3.8 Log Cabin House

A question was asked about when the log cabin house would be demolished.

Action: *B Lee to enquire with Council's Property Branch about whether they have a date of demolition of the dwelling.*

4.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

JA Lee expressed disappointment that the meeting had again been schedule in school holidays and B Lee apologies for the oversight. A request was made for the next meeting to be on 8 December 2015.

Action: *B Lee to ensure that the next meeting of the Group is scheduled for 8 December 2015.*

5.0 CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING

The meeting closed at 1.55pm.

Invitations and agendas for the next meeting in December 2015 will be issued in due course.