

## MINUTES

### BROWNS PLAINS LANDFILL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING OF

11 DECEMBER 2018

**ATTENDEES:** B Lee (Health Environment & Waste Branch - HEW)  
R Oakley (HEW)  
W Cox (Community Representative)  
G Burns (Community Representative)

The meeting commenced at 1:00pm.

#### **1.0 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Dalley, M Asnicar (Manager HEW), J Ooms, B Chambers, and L Boyd

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 18 September 2018) were an accurate record.

#### **3.0 BUSINESS ARISING**

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

There have been 83 confirmed odour complaints in the last 12 months compared to 57 for the previous 12 month period

There were 38 odour complaints received during the three-month period of September to November 2018. This compared to 26 for the same three-month period the previous year. Details of the 38 recent complaints were as follows:

##### **September 2018**

There were 10 odour complaints received regarding the landfill during September:

- 06/09/2018 - 3:00pm - St James Cct - Grounds staff activated the odour control system at 3:15pm to try and mask the odour.
- 06/09/2018 - 4:30pm - St James Cct - See above for response to complaint made earlier that afternoon. An officer did inform the resident that a review of the effectiveness of the odour control system had been conducted after her complaint on 28/08/2018 and it was discovered that there is currently no odour control system dispersal on the direct line between her residence and the tip-face, which could be

why the system is recently less effective. The resident was advised that extension of the system is being investigated.

- 12/09/2018 - 2:15pm - St James Cct - An inspection revealed that the waste had been moved towards the southern side of the landfill which is a little more adjacent to the resident. Wind did seem to be taking odour towards the resident. The odour control system was activated at 2:30pm. Officers then went to the resident's address but were not able to detect odour at that time.
- 18/09/2018 - 3:05pm - St James Cct - The grounds team turned the odour control system at 3:10pm. Officers went to the resident's address at 3:15pm where they did not detect any odour. The officers then went to the tip face where they observed conditions that would direct any odours towards the resident's premises.
- 19/09/2018 - 9:40am - Tarrango PI - Landfill staff were removing cover to apply a fresh waste layer which is a high risk activity for odour. Grounds team turned on the odour control system at 10:15am. Officers visited the resident soon after and she confirmed that there was no odour at the time and coming occasionally on the wind. The officers explained about the landfill activity. The following day a review of tip face operations was conducted and it was decided to bring forward the timing of moving the tip face north (and away from residents on the southern boundary) ahead of schedule.
- 19/09/2018 - 10.00am - Tarrango PI - See above for response to complaint made earlier that day.
- 19/09/2018 - 2.50pm - St James Cct - See above for response to complaint made earlier that day.
- 19/09/2018 - 3.45pm - Lamberth Road East - See above for response to complaint made earlier that day.
- 19/09/2018 - 4.30pm - St James Cct - See above for response to complaint made earlier that day.
- 20/09/18 - 1:35pm - St James Cct - Grounds team instructed to turn on the odour control system at 1:40pm. Odour control system will be extended on 27/09/2018 which should help with the odour as this line will provide cover along that part of St James Cct.

#### October 2018:

There were 16 odour complaints received regarding the landfill during October:

- 03/10/2018 - 4.30pm - Lamberth Road East - An officer attended the tip-face where it was noted that the mobile odour control system was running but the mainline system was down due to an upgrade being conducted. The purpose of the upgrade was to extend the control system line to give better coverage of a residential area in St James Cct.
- 03/10/18 - 4.40pm - St James Cct - See above

- 04/10/18 - 3:35pm - St James Cct, Heritage Park - The odour control system (except for the section being upgraded) was activated at 3:40pm. An officer attended the resident's address to further investigate odour.
- 09/10/18 - 4:30pm - St James Cct - Officers immediately attended the tip face and noted north easterly wind carrying relatively minor odour. The usual landfill activities – dispose, spread, compaction and covering was in operation. The odour control system, with the newly extended line, was turned on at 4:35pm. Officers then attended the resident's address and could detect no odour. They drove around the immediate vicinity of address for five minutes and again no odour was noted. While driving back to the landfill a minor odour was detected.
- 10/10/18 - 4:20pm - Lamberth Rd East - The resident reported a light odour. Officers attended the tip-face where north easterly winds were noted. The mainline odour control system was activated at 4:30. Part of the system could not be activated due to an oil leak. It was repaired later that day.
- 10/10/18 - 4:30pm - St James Cct - See above.
- 18/10/18 - 4:10pm - St James Cct - The tip-face was checked and an odour was noted to be heading towards the resident. The (fully operational) odour control system was activated. An officer attended the resident's premises at 4.15pm. The resident reported that she could detect a waste smell when she got home but that it wasn't as bad as it had been. The officer said he would go back to check conditions and call back. At the tip face he noted staff were in process of covering and they advised no particularly odorous loads had been deposited that day. The wind was a mild intermittent breeze, and in the direction of St James Cct as indicated by wind sock. Waste odour was detectable at cell perimeter fence but only just and occasionally detectable at the site perimeter fence downwind of the cell when the breeze got up. The officer reported his findings back to the resident.
- 18/10/18 - 4:30pm - St James Cct - See above.
- 19/10/18 - 12:20pm - St James Cct - An officer visited the tip face and noted conditions similar to previous day, wet under foot but not raining, wind intermittent and in the direction of St James Circuit. Again odours were present by cell perimeter fence but very low and mild at site perimeter fence. No unusually odorous loads were reported by tip face staff. The dozer was moving wet soil about which did have a slight waste odour about it. The odour control system was activated as a precaution only. A number of messages were left for the resident and contact was eventually made around 2.00pm. The resident advised there were no odours at that time.
- 19/10/18 - 4:00pm - Thistle St, Regents Park - North easterly winds towards the resident's area were noted. An officer visited the residents' address soon after and could not detect odour. The officer returned to the residence around 5pm and confirmed no odour was present at that time. The officer advised that although the residence is far from tip (approximately one km), strong winds towards the resident may generate temporary odours. The officer further explained use of the odour control system. Towards the end of the discussion a minor odour was briefly sensed. The officer encouraged further reporting of odours persist.

- 23/10/18 - 2:00pm - St James Cct - Council officers inspected the tip face and could sense odour along the southern site boundary near the resident. The odour control system was activated. The officers called at the resident's area around 4.00pm to check the effectiveness of the odour system) and noted one brief odour in five minutes.
- 24/10/18/ - 3:15pm - St James Cct - Officers proceeded to the street and saw the resident in her yard and they explained that they were doing some odour monitoring. The resident subsequently called the Waste Services office and told another officer she would like some observations done behind her property as she felt it was more noticeable at the rear than at the front - which was agreed to. Observations to be done behind property when doing odour checks in future. The mainline odour control system was activated and left running to operate till late night (i.e. until system runs out of fuel).
- 24/10/18 - 4:20pm - St James Cct - See above.
- 27/10/18 - 1:20pm - St James Cct - This call was made on a Saturday. The staff that were on site were notified of the complaint and activated the odour control system.
- 30/10/18 - 2:20pm - St James Cct - Officers proceeded to the south west corner of the active landfill cell and noted an obvious odour. No unusual loads were reported being received around that time. The odour control system was activated around 3.25pm. Officers then went to the address and spoke to the residents. The officers could not detect odours during the visit but residents advised odours were coming and going on the wind.
- 31/10/18 - 4.40pm - St James Cct - Confirmation was obtained from tip face staff that the odour control system was operating.

#### November 2018:

There were 13 odour complaints received regarding the landfill during November 2018:

- 01/11/18 - 4:50pm - St James Cct, Heritage Park - Weather was observed to be hot and sunny with temperature around 27C and north easterly winds. The tip face staff that were on site were notified and told about the odour complaint. The odour control system was already turned on.
- 02/11/18 - 3:50pm - St James Cct, Heritage Park - Hot weather with temperature around 26C, coupled with easterly north winds had the potential to lead to odour issues. An officer advised the resident that the odour control system was already on. The officer then went to check the waste loads at the tip face and was advised particularly malodourous loads deposited two hours previously had been covered. The officer attended the resident's address at 4:05pm and no odour could be detected which was confirmed by the resident who said the odour was coming and going. The officer mentioned that the odour control system will run overnight.
- 06/11/18 - 4:20pm - St James Cct, Heritage Park - Weather was hot and sunny with temperature around 29C and north easterly winds. Council officers could detect odour along the southern site boundary adjacent to the complainant's residence. The odour control system was turned on. Council staff were in the resident area at 4:30pm and detected only mild intermittent odours.

- 07/11/18 - 12:51pm - Colombard Place, Heritage Park - Weather was hot and sunny with temperature around 32C and winds from the NNE. An officer investigated and could detect odour along the southern site boundary adjacent to the complainant's residence. The mobile odour control system was activated. The officer went to caller's address but no odour could be detected. The resident met with the Officer on the footpath and agreed that the odour was no longer present.
- 07/11/18 - 3:35pm - St James Cct, Heritage Park - Weather was hot and sunny around 29C and wind from north/north east. An officer went to investigate odour on the southern site boundary but none was detectable. The mainline and mobile odour control systems were already operating. The officer stood outside the caller's house at approximately 4:30pm and could not detect any odour. The officer then walked around the walking track between house and the site and again no odour was noticeable.
- 07/11/18 - 4:35pm - St James Cct, Heritage Park - See above.
- 15/11/18 - 3:50pm - St James Cct, Heritage Park - Weather was overcast with temperature around 24C and wind from north/north east. An officer proceeded immediately to the resident's area and walked the path behind the houses at 4.05pm. In the vicinity of #13 he noted that the breeze was light but very steady from the direction of the landfill and a light but fairly constant odour was noticeable.
- 25/11/18 - 6:00am - (reported on 26/11/18) - St James Cct, Heritage Park - Weather was overcast and around 18C with wind from north. The complaint was received out of office hours and there were no council staff on site to investigate. The resident did mention that the odour was very unusual in her experience, with there usually being no odours that early in the morning.
- 26/11/18 - 5:30am - (reported later on 26/11/18) - St James Cct, Heritage Park - Weather was overcast and around 24C with wind from north north east. The complaint was received out of office hours and there were no council staff on site to investigate. The resident did mention that the odour was very unusual in her experience, with there usually being no odours that early in the morning.
- 27/11/18 - 11:55am - Bayliss Road, Heritage Park - The tip face was checked and no excessive odour observed was detected. The mainline odour control system was operating, and the mobile unit was turned on. An officer met with caller at her residence. No odour was observed at this time. Officers explained to caller what actions had been taken and that odour was, to a degree, dependent on meteorological conditions including wind strength and direction.
- 27/11/18 - 2:55pm - Lamberth Road East, Heritage Park - Regular odour was observed at the tip face. An officer spoke with tip face operators who advised that no special burials or particularly odorous waste had been tipped. The mainline odour control system was activated and the mobile unit was turned on. The officer met with the caller at her residence. No odour was observed at this time. The officers explained to the caller what actions had been taken and that odour was partly dependent on meteorological conditions including wind strength and direction.
- 27/11/18 - 4.30pm - Lamberth Road East, Heritage Park - See above.

W Cox reported that since the last meeting odours at her residence had been 'fairly regular and not great'. There had, however, been an improvement in the last week or so except for earlier in the day of the meeting at 9.00am (for 15 to 20 minutes) and 11.00am (only briefly). She also advised that since the last meeting she was regularly hearing the odour control system pump, without detecting the odour control agent.

**Action:**        ***R Oakley to check that operations staff are properly dosing the odour control system for after-hours operation.***

W Cox also commented that soon after the last meeting (in mid-September 2018) she had made a few calls about odour, and felt that she had been dealt with in a perfunctory manner. She wondered if, had she been a first-time caller, this may have put her off calling again, or attending Community Consultative Group (Group) meetings.

G Burns commented that work commitments make it difficult to attend Group meetings.

**Action:**        ***R Oakley gave an undertaking that Waste Services would give considerations to proposals that may improve Group meeting attendance.***

G Burns also advised that he noted odour at his residence last Saturday from 7.00am for a large part of the day and around 4.00pm on Sunday. He also asked if odour would normally be expected at 7.00am, and how often waste is covered.

R Oakley advised that 7.00am odours did seem unusual. He added that because waste is constantly being received, it is covered progressively. The area of exposed waste is kept as confined as possible.

G Burns advised that he was satisfied with the response-time to his most recent complaint which was within five minutes.

G Burns commented that his residence is approximately 1 kilometre to the west of the landfill, and somewhat elevated. He asked if any recent elevation changes at the landfill could be affecting odour. R Oakley responded saying there had not been any significant elevation changes on the site. He added that wind can be both a help and a hindrance, with still or very windy conditions being preferred to a steady breeze. He also said site operations manage odour by using the southern end of the current tipping cell (closest to residents) during winter and the northern end in summer.

R Oakley also offered a site tour to G Burns.

G Burns mentioned that a recent response to an emailed complaint wasn't personally addressed, and gave the impression of a pro-forma reply.

**Action:**        ***R Oakley to raise the issue of personally addressing responses to odour complaints with relevant staff.***

G Burns commented that he had only noted odours at his residence for the last four to five years. He asked if anything had changed around that time to explain the odour. B Lee commented that a previous waste cell, used much earlier than four to five years ago, had been much closer to G Burns' residence. R Oakley added that landfilling practices would not have changed, nor would waste composition. The most odorous waste is wheelie bin waste which is handled from Mondays to Fridays. Hard wastes self-hauled by residents on

weekends would not be so bad. Special (immediate) burials are conducted for particularly odorous commercial waste loads.

G Burns asked if wheelie bin waste is ever received on a weekend as he recently saw four to five JJ Richards trucks on the site on a Saturday. B Lee replied that these would have been transporting waste from commercial properties.

G Burns asked about the appropriate phone number to call about odour issues on weekends. B Lee confirmed that it was 3412 3412.

### **3.1.1 Extra odour monitoring and control measures**

At the last meeting of the group Waste Services were requested to arrange for more odour checks to be done in the afternoons and to instruct staff to complete records as checks are done.

Some Quality Management System forms showing a more even distribution of checks through the day were tabled and copies are attached.

### **3.2 Environmental Performance**

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

### **3.3 Department of Environment and Science (DES)**

In September 2018 correspondence was received from DES in relation to a site inspection conducted on 28 May 2018.

The correspondence raised four matters of concern. Three of those matters were noted and discussed at the conclusion of the May inspection. They were also the subject of an email (outlining actions to address concerns) sent from Council to DES on 1 June 2018.

Council officers, however, had no recollection of the fourth matter relating to the leachate tanks contained in the September 2018 correspondence.

The matter has since been the subject of email exchanges between Council and DES in which they acknowledged the length of time between the inspection and the correspondence and apologised for the lack of communication. DES have since asked whether Council had taken any action with respect to the leachate tanks. Council has responded by advising leachate tank arrangements have been unchanged for many years and, regardless, the referenced environmental risk is considered very low with the landfill cell is itself "bunded" around its perimeter with a drainage channel that would capture any spillage therefore reducing the risk of any release.

Waste Program officers believe the matter is now closed off.

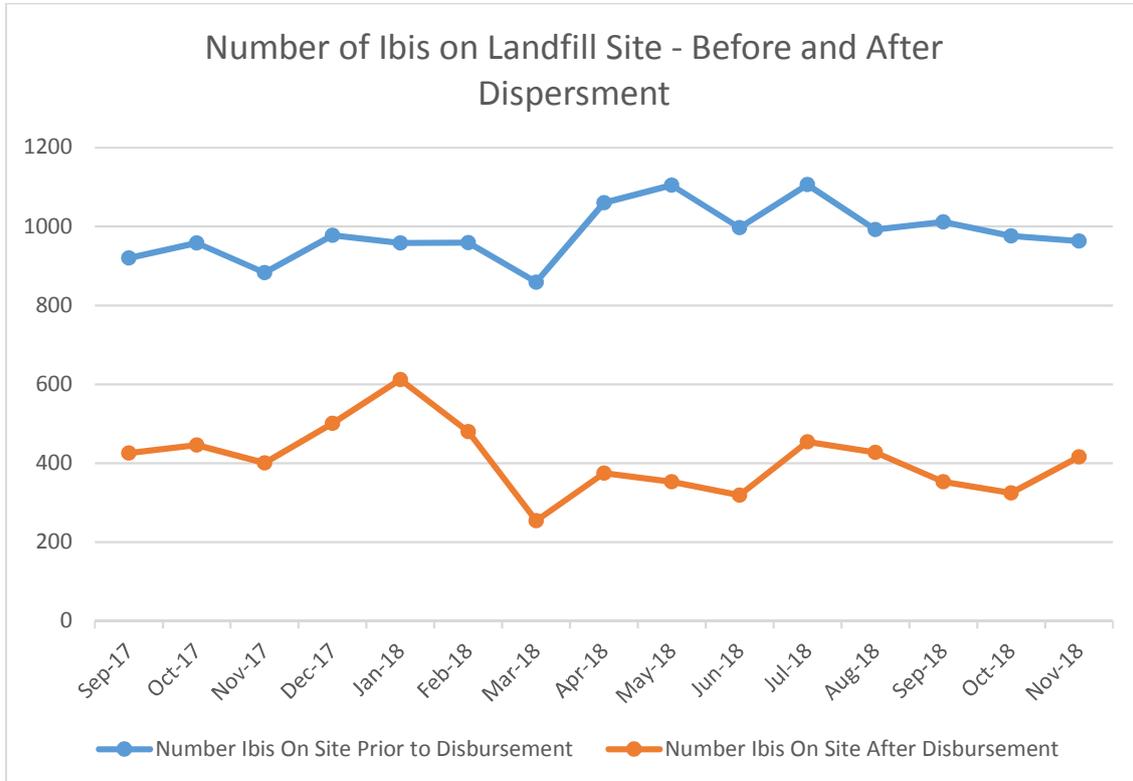
### **3.4 Ibis Update**

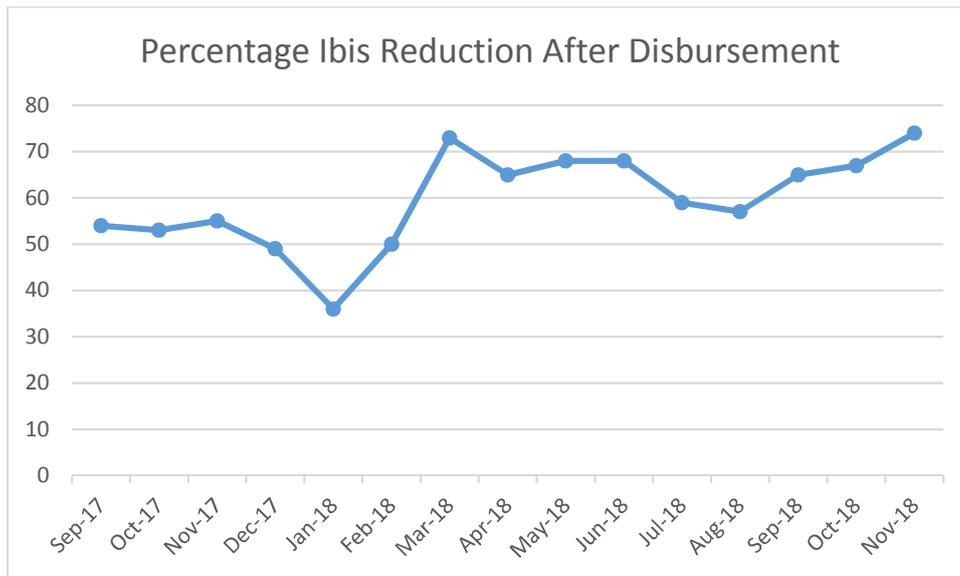
Numbers of ibis recorded at the landfill site have been as follows:

Average number recorded by contractor before dispersal	Total
<b>2017</b>	
December	978
<b>2018</b>	
January	958
February	959
March	859
April	1,060
May	1,105
June	997
July	1,106
Aug	992
Sep	1012
Oct	976
Nov	963

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

- Average initial ibis counts in November were 976 prior to harassment activities.
- Average final counts of ibis were 325 after harassment activities.
- On average, ibis numbers were reduced by 550 individuals (67%) per day during the harassment period (compared to an average of 658 in September).
- The primary dispersal methods were the following combinations: 'quad, whip, noodle' (55%), 'quad, and noodle' (18%) & 'quad, car & noodle' (14%).





There were no ibis complaints received regarding ibis during the September to November 2018 period.

### 3.5 Fire Ant Update

No new fire ant nests were discovered at the site over the September to November 2018 period.

### 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 38 complaints made during the September to November 2018 period:

- 2 invitations was issued
- 10 were from existing Group members
- 26 were from residents who had been previously invited.

## 4.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

### 4.1 Future Waste Disposal Expression of Interest

R Oakley reported that council on 20 March 2018 resolved that Expressions of Interest (EOI) be called in relation to:

- Council's future waste disposal options post-closure of the Browns Plains facility; and
- a future waste infrastructure network options study

EOI's are expected to be called in the first half of 2019.

#### **4.2 Fire of 10 October 2018**

B Lee reported that a fire occurred on-site at 6.15am on 10 October 2018. It was a small fire that released smoke which did not reach residents. The onsite water truck sprayed the affected area at the tip face, putting the fire out. The compactor then pushed affected material off the face onto the floor & the water truck again drenched it. The fire was extinguished at approximately 7.15am. DES were notified appropriately.

#### **4.3 Feral Dogs**

At the last meeting of the Group R Oakley reported that there had been a report of a number of dangerous and possibly feral dogs in the area of the landfill. Council's Animal Control staff were requested to assist and they trapped a number of dogs. No dogs have been sighted since the last was trapped four to five weeks ago.

#### **5.0 CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING**

The meeting closed at 2.00pm. Invitations and agendas for the next meeting in March 2019 will be issued in due course.

X20

Landfill Odour & Fire Ant Survey

Responsibility: Ground staff

Month: Oct Year: 2016

Monday. Sign Tim P Date 5/11/16

Site	Time	Odour		Wind	
		Strength	Direction	Strength	Direction
1	10-30	LITE	South	LITE	
2	11-00	LITE	South	LITE	
3					
4	3-00	MED	S/WEST	MED	
5	3-40	MED	SOUTH	MED	

Fire ants detected, Tick > Y  N

Wednesday. Sign Tim P Date 7/11/16

Site	Time	Odour		Wind	
		Strength	Direction	Strength	Direction
1	10-30	HIGH	NORTH	HIGH	
2	11-00			HIGH	
3					
4	2-00	MED	NORTH	MED	
5	2-15				

Fire ants detected, Tick > Y  N

Friday. Sign Tim P Date 9/11/16

Site	Time	Odour		Wind	
		Strength	Direction	Strength	Direction
1	7-00	LITE	South	LITE	
2	11-00	LITE	South	LITE	
3					
4	2-30	MED	EAST	MED	
5	3-00	HIGH	EAST	MED	

Fire ants detected, Tick > Y  N

Tuesday. Sign Tim P Date 6/11/16

Site	Time	Odour		Wind	
		Strength	Direction	Strength	Direction
1	7-30	HIGH	WEST	MEDIUM	
2	11-00	MED	N/WEST	MEDIUM	
3	2-45	MED	N/WEST	LITE	
4					
5	3-20	MED	WEST	MEDIUM	

Fire ants detected, Tick > Y  N

Thursday. Sign Tim P Date 6/11/16

Site	Time	Odour		Wind	
		Strength	Direction	Strength	Direction
1	10-45	MED		MEDIUM	
2	11-55	MED		LITE	
3	2-30	LITE	WEST	LITE	
4					
5	3-30	MED	S/WEST	LITE	

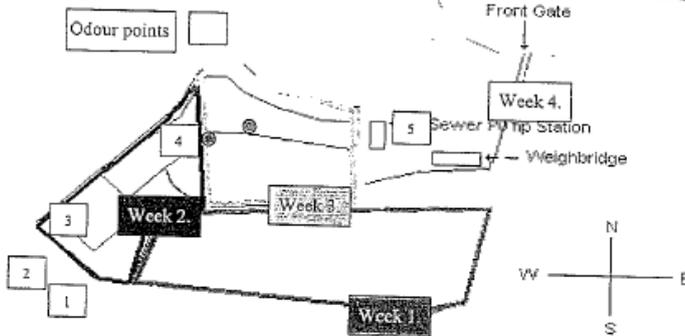
Fire ants detected, Tick > Y  N

Fire Ant

Weekly Inspection:

- a: Perimeter of buildings & storage areas.
- b: Along fence lines.
- c: Grassed/soiled areas, around soil stockpiles. Each area is marked,  through to  Week 4 and are to be visually checked for Fire Ants, one area per week. Week 1, corresponding with first week of month and so on to week 4.
- d: Green waste areas to be checked daily.

MARK AREA, IF FIRE ANTS DETECTED, AND INFORM SUPERVISOR IMMEDIATELY.



FORM TO BE SUBMITTED BEFORE THE 10th OF EACH OF THE FOLLOWING MONTH TO:  
π SITE SUPERVISOR.

*X 20*

**Landfill Odour & Fire Ant Survey**

Responsibility: Ground staff

Month: NOV Year: 2018

Monday. Sign		Time	Date: <u>12/11/18</u>		
Site	Time	Odour		Wind	
		Strength	Direction	Strength	
1	9-50	HIGH	EAST		
2	9-50	MED	EAST	MED	
3	10-03				
4	2-00	MED	N/EAST	MED	
5	2-30	MED	EAST	MED	

Fire ants detected, Tick > Y  N

Tuesday. Sign		Time	Date: <u>12/11/18</u>		
Site	Time	Odour		Wind	
		Strength	Direction	Strength	
1	9-20	HIGH	SOUTH	LITE	
2	9-05	MED	SOUTH	LITE	
3	11-00	HIGH	S/EAST	MED	
4	2-15	MED	EAST	MED	
5	2-05	MED	EAST	MED	

Fire ants detected, Tick > Y  N

Wednesday. Sign		Time	Date: <u>14/11/18</u>		
Site	Time	Odour		Wind	
		Strength	Direction	Strength	
1	10-00	MED	EAST	LITE	
2	11-15	MED	N/E	LITE	
3					
4	2-20	MED	NORTH	LITE	
5	3-00	HIGH	N/EAST	MED	

Fire ants detected, Tick > Y  N

Thursday. Sign		Time	Date: <u>15/11/18</u>		
Site	Time	Odour		Wind	
		Strength	Direction	Strength	
1	9-45	HIGH	N/EAST	MED	
2	11-00	MED			
3	2-15	HIGH	EAST		
4	3-00	MED	N/EAST		
5	3-15	HIGH	N-EAST		

Fire ants detected, Tick > Y  N

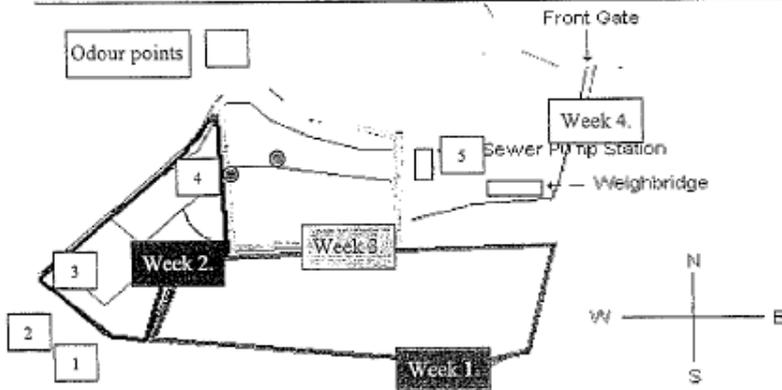
Friday. Sign		Time	Date: <u>16/11/18</u>		
Site	Time	Odour		Wind	
		Strength	Direction	Strength	
1	7-30	HIGH	N/EAST	N/EAST	
2	11-00	MED	N/EAST	LITE	
3	11-30	HIGH	N-EAST		
4	2-00	MED	NORTH	MED	
5	2-30				

Fire ants detected, Tick > Y  N

**Fire Ant Weekly Inspection:**

- a: Perimeter of buildings & storage areas.
- b: Along fence lines.
- c: Grassed/soiled areas, around soil stockpiles. Each area is marked,  through to  Week 4 and are to be visually checked for Fire Ants, one area per week. Week 1, corresponding with first week of month and so on to week 4.
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π SITE SUPERVISOR.