

MINUTES

BROWNS PLAINS LANDFILL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING OF

19 SEPTEMBER 2017

ATTENDEES: B Lee (Health Environment & Waste Branch - HEW)
R Oakley (HEW)
B Chambers (Community Representative)

The meeting commenced at 1:05pm.

1.0 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Dalley and M Asnicar (Manager HEW)

L Boyd, J A Lee, J Ooms, 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, (all Community Representatives) did not attend.

2.0 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

B Chambers confirmed that the distributed minutes of the previous meeting (on 20 June 2017) were an accurate record.

3.0 BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 Landfill Odour

B Lee reported that there have been 40 complaints received between 1 September 2016 and 30 August 2017 compared to 13 between 1 September 2015 and 30 August 2016.

There were 14 odour complaints received during the three-month period of June to August 2017. This compared to six for the same three-month period the previous year. Details of the 14 recent complaints were as follows:

June 2017

There were no odour complaints recorded in June 2017.

July 2017:

There were five odour complaints recorded in July:

- 05/07/17 - 4.30pm - St James Circuit -The Operations Program Leader inspected the landfill tipping area and found it neat and tidy after extensive covering past few days There had just been a short sharp shower and it was still raining slightly. There was an occasional breeze from the N/NE. The officer drove to the area of the complainant's residence and no waste odours were detected. The resident was advised of action taken the next morning.
- 28/07/17 - 4.28pm - Jessica Circuit - A leachate system blockage issue has made it necessary to uncover some of the waste at the tip face and this was the likely cause of the odour. At this stage re-covering was expected by around early-August when specialised machinery to clear the blockage is next

available. Arrangements were made to ensure the odour control system are kept operational as deemed necessary. Operational staff were also requested to compact waste around the dug up area to minimise odour.

- 31/07/2017 - 4pm - Tarrango Place - The situation is as per that recorded above on 28 July - with the added complication that plumbing problems meant that the odour control system was also down with repair expected that day. An officer visited the area and spoke to the resident and rated the odour a 7/10.
- 31/07/2017 - 4pm - Lamberth Rd East - An officer visited the area and spoke to the resident and rated the odour a 3/10. Otherwise the situation was as per the above complaint details.
- 31/07/2017 - 4.20pm - St James Cct - The situation was as per the above complaint details.

August 2017:

There were nine odour complaints recorded in August:

- 03/08/2017 - 4.15pm - St James Cct - The resident requested activation of the odour control system and this was done. A HEW officer called at the resident's home the following day (04/08/17) and advised the odour was occurring because of a problem with the leachate collection system.
- 10/08/2017 - 4.20pm - St James Cct - Odour was the result of the ongoing leachate collection system issue. A HEW officer called at the general area of the resident and confirmed the odour. Grounds staff were subsequently reminded to consider activation of the odour control system daily until the riser issue is resolved.
- 11/08/2017 - 3.40pm - Lamberth Road - A HEW officer took the resident's call, explained the leachate collection system issue, and checked and advised that the odour control system was operational.
- 15/8/2017 - 4.45pm - St James Cct - The odour control system had a defect and couldn't be activated. The defect was only minor and the system was on line the next day.
- 16/8/2017 - 2.20pm - St James Cct - A HEW officer called the resident and explained that the odour control system would be turned on. Grounds team turned on the odour control system.
- 16/08/17 - 3.00pm - Tarrango Street - See above complaint made earlier in the day.
- 23/8/2017 - 4.30pm - St James Cct - A HEW officer spoke to the landfill staff and they hadn't received any bad loads in the last hour. The odour control system were immediately turned on. The officer then visited the residential area to assess the odour and none was detected. The officer spoke with the resident who agreed that the odour had stopped and that the odour control system was now detectable. It was considered likely that the odour experienced had arose from site activities, likely from waste being tipped by multiple trucks at the tip face at the same time late in the day.
- 23/08/2017 - 4.30pm - St James Cct - See above complaint made the same day.

- 29/8/2017 - 4.30pm - St James Cct - The resident requested activation of the odour control system which was done immediately. An officer attended the tip face and noted low activity and no conspicuous odours. The resident acknowledged activation of the odour control system at 4.50pm.

R Oakley advised that for the period of 27 July to 16 August some complaints were likely to have been a result of a problem being experienced with a blocked leachate riser. (A leachate riser is a vertical pipe that goes from landfill top level to the base of the cell where it connects with the leachate collection system. It is buried in the waste and provides pump access to the leachate collection system to allow liquid leachate to be removed and disposed of.) In order to safely attempt to remove the blockage, it was necessary to excavate and expose a large area of previously buried waste which was particularly odorous. Excavated waste was redeposited and covered. Landfill operations from mid-August were otherwise routine.

B Chambers asked if landfill lids (manufactured waste covers) were still being used on the tipping face and R Oakley confirmed that they were.

B Chambers said he recalled at the last meeting it was mentioned that quite a lot of food waste was received at the landfill in early-April 2017 as a result of the Cyclone Debbie flooding. He asked if more resources were utilised to manage the extra waste and R Oakley confirmed that there were higher machine hours but these were to manage the general increase in waste received and were not linked with increased food waste deposit.

B Chambers asked if a wet weather tipping area is still maintained. R Oakley confirmed that it is. A large stockpile of road profile is kept on site so that "all-weather" approaches to tipping areas can be constructed and maintained.

3.2 Environmental Performance

The results of environmental monitoring of the landfill site that was conducted in April 2017 were received in June 2017. The only exceedance of landfill licence limits was at one of the eight dust monitoring stations around the site. It was adjacent to the sports fields construction work.

3.3 Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP)

The only recent contact with DEHP officers relating to landfill operation was a meeting in early-September 2017. The meeting resulted from a DEHP decision that responsibility for regulation of the landfill would change from officers of its Ipswich office to officers from its Gold Coast office. The meeting was effectively a hand-over exercise.

3.4 Ibis Update

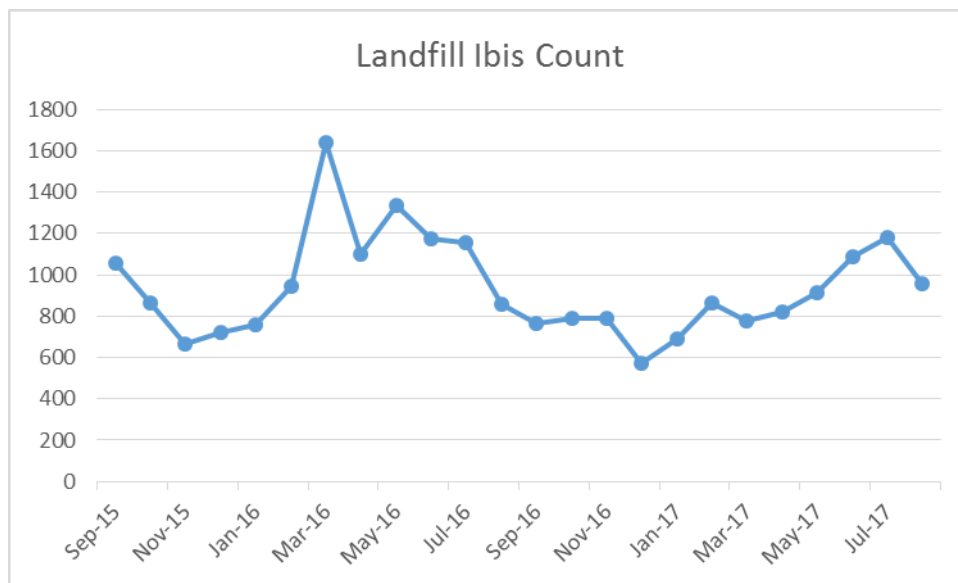
Numbers of ibis recorded at the landfill site have been as follows:

Average number recorded by contractor before dispersal	Total
2016	
September	767
October	791
November	788
December	572

Average number recorded by contractor before dispersal	Total
2017	
January	692
February	866
March	776
April	821
May	914
June	1,087
July	1,178
August	959

B Chambers asked if ibis numbers could be presented in graph form and over a longer period. B Lee agreed to do so.

Action: *B Lee to ensure that ibis numbers are presented in meeting minutes in graph form and over a longer period.*



There were no ibis complaints received regarding ibis during the June to August 2017 period.

A summary of the ibis control contractor's most recent report (August 2017) is summarised below:

- Average final counts of ibis were 514 after harassment activities; this number has decreased by approximately 2 ibis since July;
- Three types of dispersal methods were utilized: 'Car, horn and noodles' (20%), and 'Horn and noodles' (61%), and 'Car, horn, drone & whip' (19%).
- 21 nests were removed from the onsite green waste piles.

3.5 Fire Ant Update

There were no developments regarding fire ants during the period.

3.6 Instructions to After-Hours Operator

At the previous meeting reference was made to a perception that after-hours odour complaints were recorded but no action was taken. It was suggested that this may not be appropriate particularly when supervisors are on site from 7am to 4pm on

Saturdays and Sundays. An action was placed on B Lee to review and report back on instructions to the after-hours operator.

B Lee reported that odour calls received between 7am and 4pm were referred to the Duty (on-call) Officer. An extract from Council's After Hours Manual is provided below.

Public health and safety – odour, Waste

Updated 17 Mar 2016 11:04

Odour Complaints for Browns Plains Landfill

For information about opening hours, refer to [landfill sites](#).

Any complaints relating to odour from Browns Plains Landfill on any day (including weekends and public holidays) between 4pm and 7am are not considered an emergency and a Duty Officer should not be contacted.

Any complaints relating to odour from Browns Plains Landfill between 7am and 4pm any day (including weekends and public holidays) are considered an emergency and a Duty Officer should be contacted.

3.7 Ibis at Rear of St James Circuit

At the last meeting it was reported that ibis were creating a noise nuisance in the evenings in the trees at the rear of St James Cct. The matter was referred to Council's wildlife control contractor. They reported back that:

- *The area in question was monitored during the 'fly out' count on 26 June between 4 and 5pm. During this time only two ibis were observed in 7 St James Cct however they had left by 5pm. No ibis were seen to be roosting near the street overnight.*
- *St James Cct was checked for ibis on 30 June and no ibis were seen in yards of residences.*

3.8 Brisbane Broncos Sign

At the last meeting it was pointed out that there was still a large Brisbane Broncos sign up on the Browns Plains Road frontage of the site. A HEW officer inspected on 22 June 2017 and noted that the sign had been removed.

3.9 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 14 complaints made during the June to August 2017 period:

- 12 were from existing Group members
- Two were from residents who had been previously invited.

4.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

5.0 CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING

The meeting closed at 1.30pm. Invitations and agendas for the next meeting in December 2017 will be issued in due course.