

MINUTES

BROWNS PLAINS LANDFILL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING OF

14 DECEMBER 2010

ATTENDEES: Councillor C Dalley
P Menon (Logan Waste Services - LWS)
B Lee (LWS)
L Boyd (Community Representative)
S Willmott (Community Representative)

The meeting commenced at 2.35pm.

1.0 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor L Bradley, A Reiser (LWS), J Armstrong (Community Representative) and N Martin (Community Representative).

D Moore (Community Representative) and M Sams (Community Representative) did not attend.

2.0 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

S Willmott confirmed that the minutes of the meeting of 14 September 2010 were an accurate record.

3.0 BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 Landfill Odour

3.1.1 Odour Survey

The meeting reviewed odour survey data for the three-month period of August to October 2010.

The average number of odour incidents recorded by survey participants was 0.47 incidents/participant/month compared to 0.07 during the same period last year.

The duration of odour incidents recorded by survey participants was 0.18% of the month compared to 0.05% for the same period last year.

3.1.2 Odour Complaints

There were no complaints received during the three-month period of August to October 2010. This compares to three for the same period last year.

B Lee advised that although details were not available for the meeting, it could be reported that eight odour complaints were received in November 2010.

L Boyd advised she had experienced more odours lately, and mainly at night.

P Menon reported that:

- Weather conditions may have contributed to an increase in landfill odours, it is understood that on-site mulching has also contributed to the odours in the vicinity of the site. Greenwaste is usually removed from the site for processing elsewhere. However, LWS have had to change operational procedures because fire ant nests have been detected at the Browns Plains site. Biosecurity Queensland subsequently ordered LWS not to remove greenwaste from the site without undertaking a number of steps including on-site mulching and temporary storage of the mulch that is generated.
- At this time it is anticipated that all necessary infrastructure and procedures to process the mulch in line with these requirements should be completed by mid January 2011 and that we will be able to process greenwaste and remove the resulting mulch from the site by early February 2011.
- A flyer to this effect will be distributed to residents in the near future.

Cr Dalley advised she had personally received five calls in relation to landfill odour.

L Boyd also passed on a request from some of her neighbours who wanted to know if LWS could use an odour control mist with something other than the "bubblegum" smell. P Menon advised LWS would consider the request.

3.2 Environmental Performance

Apart from odour complaints, there were no other significant environmental complaints or incidents recorded at the Browns Plains Landfill during the period of August to October 2010.

3.3 Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DERM)

B Lee reported that the only contact with DERM officers during the period of August to October 2010 was a visit to the Browns Plains Landfill by high-level officers involved in implementing the proposed "Waste Levy". They were interested in observing weighbridge operation. P Menon added that they also observed some operational aspects of the site, as they considered that LWS used "best practice".

3.4 Ibis Update

B Lee reported that there were no complaints received regarding ibis during the period of August to October 2010. Numbers of ibis recorded at the site were as follows:

2010	Tip Face	Tip Face Surrounds	Trees	Dam and Other Places	Total
May	900	320	200		1420
	760	200	180		1140
	750	320	100		1170
	480	250	300		1030
	590	400	120		1110
June	1280	580	160		2020
	770	430	800		2000
	850	200	900		1950
	830	610	700		2140
July	300	0	500		800
	0	0	600		600
	0		850		850
	120	30	530		680

2010	Tip Face	Tip Face Surrounds	Trees	Dam and Other Places	Total
August	Not available - records were in a vehicle that was stolen				
September	Average of daily count recorded by contractor (Nature Call)				276
October - average of daily count recorded by contractor (Nature Call)	145	80	101		326

S Willmett asked why there had been such a reduction in recent bird numbers. P Menon advised that the ibis control program, which commenced on the site in early-July 2010 appears to have been very effective in reducing ibis numbers. He added that the program incorporates use of dogs, noise from whips and air cannons as well as nest removal.

S Willmett asked if consideration had been given to using one of the "inflatable wavy arm men" often used as roadside advertising. P Menon advised that this had been considered, but more important is the need to constantly change the control measures, as the ibis quickly become used to any one measure.

S Willmett asked if it was true that ibis were a protected species. Cr Dalley confirmed that they were, and that a few years ago Council made a concerted but unsuccessful effort to obtain approval to cull the birds.

3.5 Fire Ant Update

This matter was only discussed briefly at the meeting. The information provided below was not discussed, but is included in these minutes as a record for Community Representatives:

LWS officers commenced discussions with Biosecurity Queensland (BQ) officers in relation to greenwaste movements from the Browns Plains Landfill as a result of the site being in an area that was declared part of the Fire Ant Restricted Area in April 2010. As a result of these discussions, BQ officers attended the site on 9 July 2010 and during their inspection they discovered two fire ant nests in close proximity to each other. This resulted in a limited prohibition of greenwastes leaving the site. Despite nests being treated as they were found, further nests were discovered on 29 July (by LWS officers), 1 and 15 September 2010.

On 7 October 2010 BQ advised that, due to the ongoing infestations, and failure of treatment to control them, LWS were prohibited from sending any high-risk material (greenwaste) off-site. This was, in part, due to the fact that the new greenwaste contractor is based in an area outside of the restricted areas.

Meetings were then held with BQ on 27 October and 11 November 2010. The purpose of the meetings was to come up with options that may allow material to be moved off-site from Browns Plains. It was considered that a possible process could entail:

- *Unprocessed greenwaste to be stockpiled in windrows on hardstand pads.*
- *After seven days lures would be placed at intervals around the perimeter of the windrow.*
- *Lures would then to be checked after an hour, and if there was a negative response to the lures, the material could then be ground on-site.*
- *The ground material would then be removed to a composting facility within 48 hours.*

- *If fire ants are detected at the lures - the material would have to remain on-site until treatment got rid of the infestation - or - the material could be ground and left on-site.*

BQ also advised that:

- *They will consider the discussions and email LWS a proposal for consideration.*
- *Once agreement is reached, they will do a further and final risk-assessment of the proposal.*
- *Whatever agreement is reached - it will remain subject to review in the event of further infestations or other developments.*

Due to storage limitations, LWS commenced mulching greenwaste on 15 November 2010. This material will not be moved off-site, but will be spread on embankments and other areas of the site.

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.

There were no complaints made during the August to October 2010 period, so no invitations to join the Group were extended.

4.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

4.1 Tip Fees

L Boyd advised she had recently visited the site and noted that disposal charges had increased. P Menon confirmed that they were increased in August 2010 in accordance with Council's 2010/11 budget.

4.2 Staff Compliment

L Boyd also commented that during her recent visit to the site she noted how polite and pleasant staff were. P Menon thanked her for the feedback and gave an assurance it would be passed on to staff.

5.0 CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING

The meeting closed at 3.10pm. The next meeting of the Group is due in March 2011. A date and time will be advised in due course.