

MINUTES

BROWNS PLAINS LANDFILL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING OF 14 March 2017

ATTENDEES: R Oakley (Health Environment & Waste Branch - HEW)
B Lee (HEW)
JA Lee (Community Representative)
J Ooms (Community Representative)
L Boyd (Community Representative)
M Jonsen (Community Representative)

The meeting commenced at 1:00pm.

1.0 APOLOGIES

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

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

JA Lee confirmed that the distributed minutes of the previous meeting (on 13 December 2016) were an accurate record.

3.0 BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 Landfill Odour

Prior to discussing odour control JA Lee sought confirmation of the Council phone number that should be called with odour complaints. B Lee confirmed that:

- The number is 3412 3412 - for calls both in and outside office hours.
- Outside office hours the details will be recorded but no immediate action will be taken for non-emergency matters.
- Within office hours the matter will be immediately referred to HEW.

There have been 25 confirmed (from a total of 26) complaints in the last 12 months year compared to 17 for the previous 12 month period.

There were nine odour complaints received during the three-month period of December 2016 to February 2017. This compared to one for the same three-month period the previous year. Details of the nine recent complaints were as follows:

December 2016:

- 01/12/16 - 2.55pm - Lamberth Road East - Waste Services staff member checked and confirmed that the deodorisers were already on. This was

relayed to the resident who was also asked to call back the next if odours persisted. The officer then went to the area of the residence in question and no odour was detected.

- 02/12/16 - 2.05pm - Lamberth Road East - Waste Services staff member determined that the deodorisers were not operating so they were put on immediately. The officer went to resident's area and no landfill odour was detected. There was a smell but it didn't seem like the landfill. The Waste Operations Program Leader was advised and agreed to get in contact with Council's Environmental Health program to find out whether there is possibly another odour source involved.
- 14/12/16 - 12.30pm - Lamberth Road East - Waste Services officer visited the tip face and the operator advised they had just had a special animal burial and also some smelly loads of rubbish. Weather conditions were hot and wind was blowing strongly in the direction of the complainant. The officer drove to the resident's premises (around 12.45pm) and spoke to the occupant. There was agreement that no smell could be sensed at that time. The officer returned to the office and arranged for the deodorisers to be activated as a precautionary measure.
- 3.26pm same day (14/12/16) – Lamberth Road East - Resident phoned again reporting the smell and asked for it to be recorded. Deodorisers had remained on since the earlier call.

January 2017:

- 04/01/17 - 1.15pm - Berkley Drive - Wind was noted as blowing toward resident's house. A HEW officer attended the resident's premises at 1.35pm and advised that the deodoriser was already operational. The resident advised that the odour had been regularly noted for four days. (Probably since rainfall the previous Sunday/Monday.) The HEW officer did not detect any odour while at the premises - but noted that the wind was gusting in different directions. Upon returning to the site the officer spoke to the tip face operator. He confirmed that recent wet weather may be contributing to odours.
- 11/01/17 - 4.15pm - Bayliss Road - A HEW officer attended the resident's premises at 4.25pm. The resident advised that the odour had been regularly noted for four days. The HEW officer did detect a strong odour while at the premises. Upon returning to the site the officer spoke to the Waste operations PL and he noted that the gas pipes in cell 2F were being replaced. He advised he would check the odour again just after 5pm. What was noted after 5pm??
- 17/01/17 - 4.45pm - Saint James Cct - The tip face operator was contacted by phone. He advised that no unusual or smelly loads had been received. He did explain that he was currently working on the cell wall moving previously covered material to assist in the drying process. He said he did not consider that the work was likely to be the cause any odour problems. The tip face operator was requested to stop that work, recover and start again the next day as a precaution. Deodoriser was already operational. A HEW officer then drove to St James Circuit via Bayliss road, Volstead Road. The weather conditions were very hot and humid with a very occasional breeze. No

odours were detected in Saint James Circuit prior to leaving the area approximately 4:55pm.

- 20/01/2017 - 12:40pm - Junee Court - A HEW office drove around the landfill site and strong odours were detected near the tip face and cell 2E lagoon. The same odours were detected at a lower strength about 70 meters downwind and at 100 meters downwind no odours were detected. The officer then drove round Bayliss Road and Junee Circuit area with no odours detected. At the complainant's home he confirmed no odours were present at that time. There followed a conversation about the future of the site and the resident was encouraged to continue to call with reports in future.
- 31/01/17 - 9.40am - Bayliss Road - A HEW officer spoke to the resident soon after receipt of the complaint and queried if the odour was still present. The resident said a weak smell persisted. The officer explained hot conditions and some commercial loads may cause odour and as a control when odours might reach residents. The resident said that after hours staff were not available to investigate odour issues. The officer said he would raise the issue with management. Following the conversation another officer attended the resident's premises and a minor smell (1/10) was picked up. Deodorisers were turned on as precautionary measure.

February 2017:

No complaints received.

In terms of general landfill operations, R Oakley advised that the tipping face has been located as far as possible from residents within the current cell. It is intended that operations won't get closer to residents until the cooler months. In addition, perimeter odour control systems are still operating as required.

JA Lee asked how long will operations be in the current landfill cell 2D. R Oakley replied that estimates are another 15 to 18 months, before moving to a new cell adjacent and to the immediate east of 2D.

M Jonsen asked why couldn't landfill operations could be ceased and the site converted to a transfer station with waste removed and disposed of elsewhere.

B Lee replied that this would make disposal significantly more expensive, and could also be regarded as a waste of a resource (the landfill).

M Jonsen asked if officers agreed that the landfill is in the middle of suburbia. B Lee agreed saying that was undeniable.

M Jonsen asked if the landfill was in suburbia, why is it continuing to be used? B Lee referred to his previous answer.

There followed a general discussion among the Community Representatives regarding:

- Experiences of landfill odour.
- Desire for more residents to join the Consultative Group.
- Attendance at the Consultative Group meetings by Councillors.

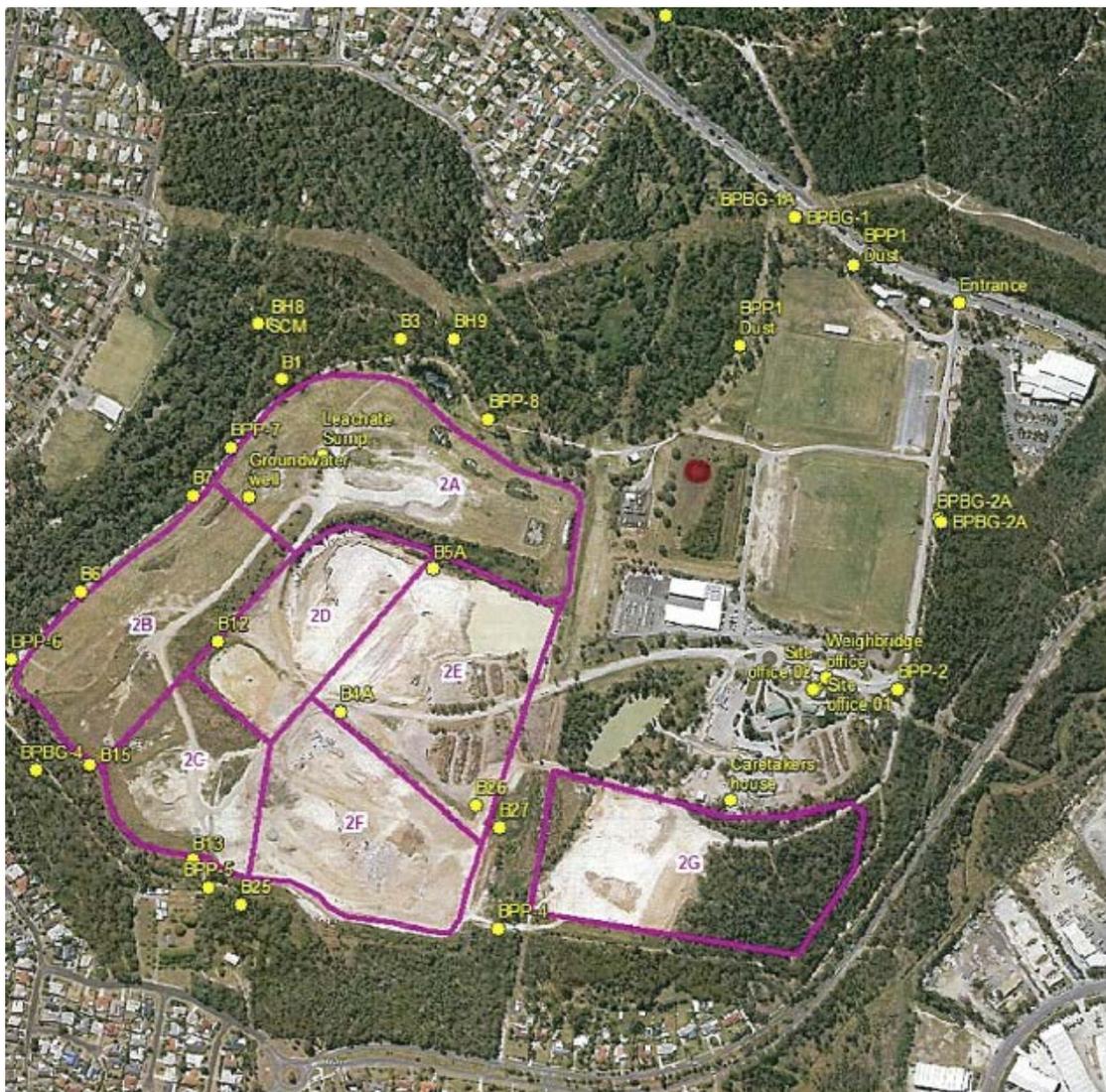
M Jonsen asked what is being built at the front of the site and questioned whether it would be affected by landfill odour. R Oakley replied that improved playing fields and

facilities were being built and landfill odours may be able to be detected in the area in future.

Action: *B Lee to seek information on what exactly is being constructed at the front of the landfill site.*

R Oakley then used an aerial photo so the progression of future landfill cell development on the site. Community Representatives all advised they did not want to see cell 2G developed.

R Oakley also advised that, due to subsidence from designed heights, there will need to be some "topping up" (with waste) of cells 2B and 2C. There is not yet a timetable for these works but they will no doubt be done at a time to minimise impacts to residents.



3.2 Environmental Performance

B Lee advised that the results of environmental monitoring of the landfill site that was conducted in November 2016 were received in January 2017. There were no exceedances of landfill licence limits.

JA Lee commented that no recent problems with dust had been experienced.

3.3 Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP)

There was no contact with DEHP officers relating to landfill operation during the period of December 2016 to February 2017.

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	
March 2016	1643
April 2016	1100
May 2016	1339
June 2016	1172
July 2016	1158
August 2016	855
September	767
October	791
November	788
December	572
2017	
January	692
February	866

There were no ibis complaints received regarding ibis during the December 2016 to February 2017 period.

The ibis control contractor's report for February is summarised below:

- Average initial counts were 866, prior to harassment activities; being 174 more than the previous month;
- Average final counts of Ibis were 283 after harassment activities, a slight increase from the January's average;
- There were 8 dispersal techniques that were implemented during the month of February. Use of the 'Quad & whip' (33%) and 'Car, horn & whip' (21%) dispersal techniques were the most widely used harassment activities;
- Use of the Phantom Drone, a new dispersal technique, will be trialled from late March 2017.

L Boyd commented that while ibis had disappeared from the trees on the corner of Browns Plains and Bayliss Roads, she had recently noticed that a small number had returned.

3.5 Fire Ant Update

There were no developments regarding fire ants during the period.

M Jonsen asked if there were fire ant nests on the site. R Oakley confirmed that a number had been discovered, but these had all been reported to Biosecurity Queensland and were appropriately treated. Ongoing management of the whole site is aerial treatment by helicopter.

3.6 Bayliss Road Entry to Landfill

R Oakley advised that the roadworks are substantially complete. There has been a delay, however, with the installation of the overhead gantry directional signage. Given the potential for traffic confusion, and the lack of an imperative to open earlier, it has been decided to delay opening the road until the signage will be installed. This is currently expected to be in early to mid-April 2017 (9 May now confirmed as the opening date). It's also planned to install some boom gates just before the property boundary security gate to keep customers out of the site after closing at 5.30pm. *(is the boom gate still happening?)*

3.7 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 9 complaints made during the December 2016 to February 2017 period:

- Invitations to join the Group were extended to one complainant
- Seven were from existing Group members

One was from a resident who had been previously invited.

4.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

4.1 Traffic Speed Questions

JA Lee asked:

- The speed limit on Bayliss Road inside (to the southwest of) the Heritage Park estate gates was recently lowered to 50km/hour. Was this change linked in any way to the new landfill entrance?
- What will the speed limit be on Bayliss Road from the estate gates northeast to Browns Plains Road?

Action: *B Lee to obtain answers to the speed limit questions.*

5.0 CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING

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