

## MINUTES

### BROWNS PLAINS LANDFILL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING OF

23 September 2014

**ATTENDEES:** M Asnicar (Waste Services Branch - WSB)  
R Oakley (WSB)  
L Banks (Community Representative)  
L Boyd (Community Representative)  
F Laughton (Community Representative)  
J A Lee (Community Representative)  
J Ooms (Community Representative)  
L Miller (Community Representative)

The meeting commenced at 1pm.

#### **1.0 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Dalley, B Lee (WSB), J Brdjanovic (Community Representative) and L Ross (Community Representative).

E Koch (Community Representative), N Martin (Community Representative), D Moore (Community Representative), G Williams (Community Representative), K McDonald (Community Representative), P Cohen (Community Representative), M Lawton (Community Representative) and H Priday (Community Representative), S Weber (Community Representative), L Blunt (Community Representative) did not attend.

Community Representatives presented conveyed their extreme disappointment that no Councillors were present at the meeting.

#### **2.0 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 24 June 2014 were an accurate record.

#### **3.0 BUSINESS ARISING**

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

##### **3.1.1 Odour Complaints**

There were four complaints received during the three-month period of June to August 2014. This compared to 20 for the same period in 2013. Details were as follows:

June 2014

There was one odour complaint received regarding the landfill during June 2014. Details were as follows:

- 02/06/14 - 3:05pm - Volstead Road - Report of a putrid smell from the landfill. WSB officers proceeded to the source of the complaint where they detected a low-level waste odour which was not persistent and not particularly offensive. The deodorising system, which had not been operating due to light winds on the site, was deployed as a precautionary measure only. Wind was 0.9 km/hr south east.

## July 2014

There were three odour complaints received regarding the landfill during July 2014. Details were as follows:

- 25/07/14 - 3.30pm - Volstead Road - Resident complained about a landfill odour. An officer spoke to the resident who had asked for the demisters to be turned on. Grounds staff confirmed demister system was on. Waste services will continue to use control measures to keep the odour to a minimum. Wind was ENE at 1 km/hr.
- 31/07/14 - 3:05pm - Volstead Road - Resident complained about a landfill odour and had asked for the demisters to be switched on. Weighbridge advised receipt of no special burials at that time, which could have caused odour issues. An officer inspected the resident's area at 3.45pm that day. No landfill odour smell was detected at the resident's house at the time of visit. However, a slight breeze and a light intermittent smell was sensed at the corner of Volstead and Bayliss road. The odour was rated as a one (in accordance with EHP score sheet). Operations staff were then advised to turn on the demisters as a precautionary measure as there were couple of hours before the tip operations ceases for the day. Wind was northerly at 1 km/hr.
- 31/07/14 - 3:30pm - Junee Court - See above.

## August 2014

There were no odour complaints received regarding the landfill during August 2014.

### 3.1.2 Construction of Cell 2D

Construction of the new cell has progressed, with lining of the new cell well underway. A couple of significant rainfall events had led to a period when work could not progress. Council's reasonable expectation remains that while the entire cell will not be complete a sufficient area of the cell will be ready to accept household waste (potentially more high risk in terms of odours) by November 2014. Construction and demolition waste and Transfer Station waste (considered very low risk in terms of odours) will continue to be tipped in the current cell.

Odour management measures, including cover, landfill lids and a mobile demister system will still be used when waste is deposited in the new cell.

### 3.1.3 Landfill Design Height

At the last meeting of the group Community Representatives asked to be provided with final design illustrations of land form and landfill height relative to surrounding natural ground level at a future meeting.

Illustrations from a previous report to Council were used to show the land form and landfill height. An explanation was provided of the relative heights of existing and future cells with the aim of creating a level plateau that is level with the current highest point only ( ie cell 2C height). Guests were invited to come on a tour of the site and view the layout themselves to appreciate the heights and levels involved.

### 3.2 Environmental Performance

No results of environmental monitoring carried out since the last Group meeting have been received.

### 3.3 Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP)

Contact with DEHP between June and August 2014 was limited to notification of a fire at the site on Saturday 30 August 2014. Details were as follows:

- The fire was detected by on site security at around 11:45 pm on Saturday 30 August 2014. QFRS attended and Branch plant operators were called to site to tackle the blaze. Blaze was extinguished and the clean-up completed by 4.30 am Sunday August 2014.
- The most likely cause of the fire was thought to be a combustible item in a waste load possibly from a transfer station bin.
- The fire released limited smoke but posed no threat to the nearby buffer zone or residents. No smoke complaints were received.  
The fire was successfully put out by smothering with soil using the onsite dozer and compactor.

### 3.4 Ibis Update

#### 3.4.1 Ibis Numbers

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

2014	Daily Count
January	1559
February	1160
March	700
April	1300
May	1420
June	1569
July <i>First month operation of new contractor. New method of conducting counts: 64,025 sightings over 31 days = 2,065/day</i>	2065
August	879

#### 3.2.4 Ibis Control

At the last meeting of the Group an action was placed on M Asnicar to seek photos from L Millar, and also discuss the matters with Council's ibis management contractor.

There were also two noise complaints received regarding landfill during August. Both were reports of loud bangs which were heard early Monday mornings. The noise was caused by the ibis management contractor.

Investigations and consultation with the contractor were as follows:

- On the landfill, Council is committed to ensuring the reduction of Ibis feeding on the open tip face. By managing the Ibis at the artificial food source we are encouraging natural behaviours for the species and reducing contamination around the landfill site.
- In order to manage the ibis, multiple dispersal techniques need to be utilised. On some occasions, when Ibis numbers are high, pyrotechnics and gas cannons are used to make a loud noise, encouraging the Ibis to leave.
- In response to the complaints received, the contractor will ensure that any audible dispersal tool that is used is faced away from residences and only used when deemed necessary.

The most recent report from the ibis control contractor is summarised below:

- Ibis management activities applied over the whole landfill site, including the sports fields and surrounding trees.
- No nesting has been identified on site.
- Contractor use of quad bike and other dispersal equipment onsite have increased the ibis dispersal efficiency. .
- Noise making dispersal equipment is used carefully to impact the Ibis but not the local residents.
- Dense Ibis nesting has been identified within the nearby Berrinba Wetlands.

### **3.5 Fire Ant Update**

Nothing to report.

### **3.6 Bayliss Road Entry to Landfill**

#### 3.6.1 Road Construction

A draft design for the new entry to the landfill off Bayliss Road was received during August. It was circulated to all relevant Council stakeholders for comment, which was subsequently summarised and returned to the designers.

#### 3.6.2 Bayliss Road Load Limits

At the last meeting of the Group an action was placed on M Asnicar to find out from Council's Traffic Program what criteria are used to determine load limit restrictions on roads and report to a future meeting.

This advice was sought from Council's Road Infrastructure Planning Branch and was as follows:

*Load limit signs normally apply to bridges or other structures that cannot safely carry weights exceeding those indicated. There are also "no truck" signs for banning heavy vehicle movements along roads. These are used sparingly and generally not appropriate for major through roads such as Bayliss Road. Various types of trucks currently use Bayliss Road to access the immediate and surrounding areas, as they do Waller Road (to the west) and Waratah Drive (to the east), all of which pass through residential areas. There would need to be strong justification for*

*implementing and getting the Police to enforce any such ban of heavy vehicles. I do not believe it is something Council would readily endorse for an existing major collector road. However, this and other options would need to be considered if a significant increase in heavy vehicles on Bayliss Road was actually identified as a consequence of the new tip entrance.*

### **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.)

There were four complaints made during the June to August 2014 period and all were from residents who are already group members.

### **3.8 Traffic Management**

During discussion on traffic management and Bayliss Road MAsnicar indicated that he believed the works on the installation of the traffic lights at the current site entry/exit point on Browns Plains Roads may commence before Christmas.

## **4.0 General Business**

### **4.1 Landfill Tour**

As part of the meeting, M Asnicar and R Oakley took all community representatives for a tour of the landfill during which current operations were viewed and progress of the new cell was observed and discussed.