

## MINUTES

### BROWNS PLAINS LANDFILL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING OF

25 SEPTEMBER 2012

**ATTENDEES:** M Asnicar (Manager Waste Services Branch - WSB)  
K Venkatraman (WSB)  
B Lee (WSB)  
L Banks (Community Representative)  
J A Lee (Community Representative)  
L Boyd (Community Representative)

The meeting commenced at 2.30pm.

#### **1.0 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor L Bradley.

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

B Lee reported that no apology was received from Cr C Dalley as he had mistakenly neglected to invite her to the meeting.

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

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 26 June 2012 were an accurate record.

#### **3.0 BUSINESS ARISING**

Prior to the commencement of the meeting M Asnicar advised that he had just attended a another meeting where the landfill entrance had been discussed in terms of the need to separate landfill traffic from Indoor Sports Centre and playing field traffic. He said the possibility of a landfill entrance being established off Bayliss Road was discussed along with traffic lights being installed on Browns Plains Road at the current landfill entrance. He mentioned that nothing had been decided, and that it was too early to forecast a specific timeframe in which these works would be conducted.

L Banks also asked about an item in a recent issue of the Council's "Our Logan" magazine which made reference to an "upgrade of the landfill entrance". M Asnicar explained that this was not a reference to the area near Browns Plains Road, but rather a reference to a pending installation of a new weighbridge that will allow two lanes of entry to the transfer station operational area. The purpose of the works will be to reduce queuing for the transfer station.

### **3.1 Landfill Odour**

#### **3.1.1 Odour Survey**

The meeting reviewed odour survey data for the three-month period of May to July 2012.

The average number of odour incidents recorded by survey participants was 0 incidents/participant/month compared to 0.75 during the same period last year.

The duration of odour incidents recorded by survey participants was 0% of the month compared to 0.4% for the same period last year.

#### **3.1.2 Odour Complaints**

There were 13 complaints received during the four-month period of May to July 2012. This compared to 7 for the same period last year. Details were as follows:

- 02/05/2012 - 4.00pm - St James Circuit - The demisters were operational at the time of the complaint. Landfill staff advised that there was some water ponding at the tip face as a result of recent rainfall. Another potential contributor to odour could have been ongoing soil stripping activity (to reclaim cover material), at the tip face. The ponded water was in the process of being drained. In a follow-up call at 4:40pm on the same day, resident advised that landfill odour has improved.
- 03/05/2012 - 2.00pm - Saint James Circuit - Demisters were off at the time of the complaint for maintenance purposes. The system was turned back on at 2.30pm.
- 04/05/2012 - 9:08pm - Volstead Road - Resident rang to say the smell has been very bad coming from the tip. She said on 24 & 25/4 the smell was especially bad during the day and at night. Records revealed that the landfill was covered with daily cover and lids on these days (24/4 & 25/4). Further, the issue was discussed at a WSB meeting where it was resolved that the deodorising system is to be switched on as required and for limited periods after hours (until the water tank is empty) at the discretion of the Program Leader Waste Operations.
- 05/05/2012 - 5.06pm - Volstead St - An odour investigation was completed and no odour was detected in the resident's area.
- 05/05/2012 - 5.00pm - Tarrango Place - Caller advised the Council's after hours operator that there is a stench coming from the landfill.
- 06/05/2012 - 3.26pm - Volstead Road - The resident advised that she had called two days in a row and wanted a call back as no one rang her on 05/05/12. The resident stated that it was her 5th call this week with no call back. The resident stated that the landfill smelled very bad and the sprayers were not on and that the sprayers don't make a difference as even when they are on the smell is still present. The resident states she is writing to the Mayor in regards to this issue. An after hours complaint was received from call centre on 08/05/12. The resident was called on 09/05/12 and was advised that the demister system is operational. The resident pressed to speak with a higher authority. The call was passed to the Program Leader who explained that all the practical odour control measures have been applied. The complaint was escalated to WSB Manager who personally inspected the landfill face and also visited the resident on 10/05/12. Other WSB staff visited Bayliss Road on a number of occasions (morning and afternoon) during

the week (but not during the night) and no odour was detected. It was identified that the landfill operation causes odour mainly during the day when the tip face is working and waste is being dumped. End of day soil cover and landfill lids over the tip face should minimise odour after the landfill is closed for the day. In the meeting with the Manager the resident, whilst not satisfied with the odour she was experiencing, was prepared to accept that WSB is doing everything possible to manage the landfill to reduce odour. It was agreed that if the issue continued over the weekend, WSB would arrange a staff member to monitor at night to investigate further. It is to be noted that there is a possibility that the odour may be from another source (a poultry farm). But with the very still nights, it may be that odour from the landfill which would normally dissipate easily with light winds, is somehow concentrating in nearby areas causing the odour.

- 09/05/2012 - 2.15pm - Junee Ct - Resident wanted to advise that there were no odour issues at the time of the call - but wanted to complain about bad odours most nights after 9.00pm. She also mentioned recently noticing the odour at the Yugumbir State School on Vansittart Road. She also requested that WSB check that waste is being covering the as much as possible, and that consideration be given to moving the active tipping face from wherever it currently is in 2F to somewhere further away in 2F. For further response, see the complaint dated 06/05/12 above.
- 12/05/2011 - 4:30pm - Bayliss Road - Staff conducted a visit (within 45 minutes) of the residential area. A strong odour was detected. Investigations at the tip face revealed that no putrescibles or special burials were received around the time of the complaint. The demister was turned on for the remaining operational hours of the site (to 5.30pm) but had to be turned off after hours due to a malfunction in the automation of the system. Staff called back to Bayliss Road the next morning and no odour was detected.
- 22/05/2012 - 4.10pm - Tarrango Place - The automatic switching on the odour control system was still in the process of being repaired so it could not be activated after hours.
- 18/06/2012 - 8.25am - Volstead St - Resident advised bad odour from the landfill last night (17/06/2012) at 7pm. She advised there was no wind, no demisters and assumed there was no covers as the smell was really bad. Landfill staff advised that the daily covers were not applied and the demister system could not be turned on after hours (7pm) due to safety issues
- 19/06/2012 - 4.57pm - Junee Ct - The resident complained about the landfill odour and requested for the demister system to be turned on. Weighbridge informed the landfill staff of the situation. The demister could not be turned on as the technical staff operating the system (automated/ routine) finished work at 4pm. However, day cover (soil/lids) was applied at the tip face, as per routine..
- 21/06/2012 - 4.25pm - Tarrango Place - The resident complained about the landfill odour. He further stated that he's called 3412 3412 between 4 and 5pm several times in the last week and today was the first time he was put through to someone who could help. He did speak to a weighbridge officer on Tuesday and was told that the odour control system can't be turned on after 4pm. The on-call officer was contacted but he couldn't respond as he was in the weighbridge. Odour system could not be turned on due to unavailability of staff after 4pm. These matters were addressed at a Waste Services staff meeting on 27/06/12 when:

- The Customer Service Branch's procedures in referring odour complaints were reviewed.
  - Rosters were changed to ensure there would be a groundsperson available between 4 and 5pm.
  - Arrangements were made for a number of administration staff to be trained in the use of the demister in the event that the groundsperson was unavailable. This training was done on 04/07/12.
- 10/07/2012 - 3.56pm - Volstead St - Ground staff advised soil stripping could have caused odour issues and that wind seemed to be blowing in the direction of the residential area. The odour demisters were operational at the time. The resident was advised of the results of the investigation.

L Banks advised that recent northerly winds have made the odours at her home very bad.

J A Lee advised she has been noting odours at around 6.00pm but at this time of year that wasn't too bad as not much time is spent outside after that hour. She has concerns about early evening odours through the forthcoming summer.

J A Lee asked how long will Council be working in the current (stage 2F) landfill cell. K Venkatraman advised that it's currently expected to be approximately another 14 months. M Asnicar added that excavation in the next landfill cell (stage 2D - towards the centre of the site) will be commencing in the next few months.

L Banks asked about the height of future landfilling. M Asnicar showed on an aerial photo where the current high point of stage 2C was, and advised that was as high as any filling on the site would be. He added that the batters created by this filling would be landscaped when completed.

### 3.2 Environmental Performance

B Lee advised of the following exceedances of dust levels at three of the eight monitoring sites through the landfill received during May 2012:

Sample No.	Monitoring interval	Total Insoluble Solids mg/m <sup>2</sup> .day	Licence Limit
BPP2	31 days	210	130mg/m <sup>2</sup> .day
BPP4		230	
BPP5		190	

The following control measures are in place:

- A water truck is based on site and is utilised for the purpose of applying recycled water for dust suppression. These activities are carried out on site roadways and in particular the operational areas that have a high risk of generating excess particulate matter.
- Site roads and tracks are maintained in a condition that minimises dust.

L Banks advised she had noted excessive dust around her home. K Venkatraman advised that the above exceedances were mainly recorded near the weighbridge where there was a lot of truck traffic. M Asnicar added that traffic had increased during that time due to the importation of clay material for the landfill from the Magnesium Drive industrial estate.

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

B Lee advised that there was no contact with DEHP in relation to the Browns Plains Landfill from May to July 2012 apart from the report of the dust exceedance.

### 3.4 Ibis Update

There was one complaint received regarding ibis during the period of May to August 2012. Details were as follows:

At 12.15 pm on 15/08/2012 a complaint was received from a resident of Volstead Road that the Ibis birds have moved from the dump to her property and they are nesting in the trees are swarming in the yard. She says they are defecating on her house and it is peeling the paint off. The matter was referred to the ibis control contractor who advised on 17/08/12:

*Field staff have actively dispersed birds from the tip face as well as from trees surrounding the landfill site. Due to dispersal ibis have moved to surrounding areas which has resulted in one complaint from a neighbour on Volstead Road. We will adjust our dispersal methods to reduce the likelihood of ibis transiting to neighbours properties on Volstead Road.*

L Banks confirmed that she had made the complaint and asked what control measures the contractor was currently using. K Venkatraman advised that they seemed to be mainly using the air gun and whip.

L Banks advised that the ibis had been causing problems at her home after congregating in a vacant house nearby. She hoped that the vacant house becoming occupied on 24 September 2012 may ease this situation.

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

<b>2012</b>	<b>Average of daily count recorded by contractor (Nature Call to May 2012 - and Ecosure thereafter) before dispersal  (Tip Face, Tip Face Surrounds, Trees, Dam and Other Places)</b>
February	315
March	81
April	179
May	304
June	443
July	1,592
August	1,178

The jump in numbers in July 2012 was attributed by a regional ibis control body to an intensive dispersal program undertaken at the Rochedale Landfill.

### **3.5 Fire Ant Update**

The last new fire ant nest discovered on the site (at the Logan Recycling Market) was on 15 April 2011. The matter was reported to Biosecurity Queensland (BQ). As at the end of August 2012 the WSB continues to manage greenwaste in accordance with its amended "Approved Risk Management Plan". That is, windrowing of greenwaste after receipt, ant luring of windrows, submission of ant samples to BQ, grinding of greenwaste after samples are confirmed as not containing fire ants and removal of mulch off-site within 48 hours of production.

B Lee also advised that the WSB was meeting with BQ and its greenwaste contractor on 26/09/12 to discuss any potential easing of greenwaste handling requirements.

### **3.6 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.

B Lee advised that there were 13 complaints made during the May to July 2012 period and all were from residents who had been previously invited or were already group members.

L Banks advised that she had also made efforts to have more of her neighbours join the Group.

### **3.7 Phone Contact**

At the June 2012 meeting of the Group E Koch mentioned that he had recently called to report an odour at 4.40pm on a week day and the call had gone to Customer Service at Beenleigh and they couldn't find anyone to put the call through to.

M Asnicar said that those calls should come to the WSB administration office which was open until 5.00pm. He gave an assurance to check on the procedures of the Customer Service Branch to make sure they were correct.

B Lee advised that actions were subsequently taken to ensure that:

- All calls received by Council's Customer Service Branch were directed to the WSB Operations office.
- If the WSB Operations office is not staffed, their phones are put through to WSB Administration.
- Rosters were changed to ensure there would be a groundsperson available between 4 and 5pm.
- WSB Administration staff were trained to operate the odour control system. This training was conducted on 04/07/12

### **3.8 Odour Control System Experiment**

There was general discussion at the June 2012 meeting of the Group on a recent increase in odours at night. M Asnicar asked residents to monitor odours between 7 and 9pm each evening between and including Saturday 30 June and Wednesday 4 July 2012, and the

correlation between the odour control system operating and odour presence can be tested during this time.

L Banks consulted her personal record and advised that she noted:

- The odour control system was operating on 30/06/12
- Odour was bad but the system was not operating on 10, 11, 12 and 13/07/12.

M Asnicar also advised that the odour control system had been relocated to higher ground. This will mean a better gravity flow of odour control agent into the dispersal system.

## **4.0 GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **4.1 Carbon Price Impact**

L Banks noted she had read something in the media about Council being disadvantaged by a Federal Government decision and asked for clarification. M Asnicar advised that Council's landfill gas power plant operator was expecting to receive carbon credits but the recent and unexpected Federal Government decision changed eligibility and means the operator may not receive the credits. The decision puts the financial viability of the power plant in jeopardy. It may not be viable for the operator to continue to operate the plant. This would mean Council would have to pay for the operation of the plant and gas reticulation system, or, allow more landfill gas to escape and pay more in carbon tax. Council has made representations to the Federal Government who have indicated that they are reviewing the decision.

### **4.2 Councillor Attendance**

The Group again expressed disappointment at Councillors attendance at meetings. B Lee advised that the minutes would reflect this and be brought to the attention of Councillors.

### **4.3 Growth Management**

L Boyd made reference to the expected population growth in Yarrabilba and asked what steps had been taken to manage the associated growth in waste generation. M Asnicar advised that WSB's 20-year capital expenditure program made provisions for upgrades of existing transfer stations in the growth areas. He also mentioned that, at this time, waste collected from wheelie bins in the former Beaudesert Shire area is expected to be disposed of at the Scenic Rim Regional Council's Bromelton Landfill.

### **4.4 Machinery Beeper Noise**

L Banks advised that there was a loud machinery beeper going for long periods on the weekend of 22 and 23/09/12. K Venkatraman advised that WSB was continuing to use its usual plant which had been fitted with the quieter "croaker" reversing alarms. He was unable to identify a possible source of the noise. M Asnicar requested that WSB continue to be informed of any future instances.

## **5.0 CLOSED AND NEXT MEETING**

The meeting concluded at 3.15pm. The next meeting will be held in December 2012. The date will be conveyed in due course.