

## MINUTES

### BROWNS PLAINS LANDFILL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING OF

**27 September 2011**

**ATTENDEES:** M Asnicar (Acting Manager Logan Waste Services - LWS)  
K Venkatraman (LWS)  
B Lee (LWS)  
L Boyd (Community Representative)  
S Weber (Community Representative)  
C McDonald (Community Representative)  
P McDonald (Community Representative)  
I Banks (Community Representative)  
L Banks (Community Representative)  
J A Lee (Community Representative)  
S Willmet (Community Representative)  
L Miller (Community Representative)

The meeting commenced at 2.35pm.

#### **1.0 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor C Dalley, Councillor L Bradley and John Armstrong (Community Representative).

N Martin (Community Representative) and D Moore (Community Representative) did not attend.

B Lee advised that he had received notification from John Armstrong that he was resigning from the Group. It was agreed that his service to the Group be acknowledged.

***Action:*** *B Lee to send a letter of thanks to John Armstrong for his service to the Group.*

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

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 21 June 2011 were an accurate record.

#### **3.0 BUSINESS ARISING**

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

##### **3.1.1 Odour Survey**

Prior to discussing the odour survey information, P McDonald relayed a complaint about a noise nuisance being caused by the reverse alarm on equipment used on the tip face. He advised that the noise is particularly disturbing between 2.00pm and 5.00pm every afternoon. LWS officers gave an undertaking to investigate.

***Action:*** *K Venkatraman to investigate whether the volume of the reverse alarms on tip face equipment can be reduced.*

### 3.1 Odour Survey

The meeting reviewed odour survey data for the three-month period of May to July 2011.

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

The duration of odour incidents recorded by survey participants was 0.40% of the month compared to 0% for the same period last year.

#### 3.1.2 Odour Complaints

B Lee advised that there were 7 complaints received during the three-month period of May to July 2011. This compares to four for the same period last year. Details were as follows:

- 3 May 2011 - 10.30am - Tarango Place - Deodorisers put on, staff checked for smell, no odour detected.
- 8 May 2011 - 9.55am - St James Court - Staff instructed to turn deodorisers on. Done immediately
- 17 May 2011 - 1.45 pm - St James Court - Deodorisers switched on
- 17 May 2011 - 5.15 - Tarrango Place - Complaint sent by email which was received the next morning (18/05/11)
- 26 May 2011 - 6.45pm - Bayliss Road - On Call office sent to investigate and activate deodoriser
- 27 May 2011 - 10.50am - Bayliss Road - Staff sent to above address to investigate odour, no odour detected.
- 30 May 2011 - 4.30pm - Tarrango Place - LWS officer called at complainant's house at 4.40pm and noted a mild intermittent odour. LWS On-call officer was contacted and he then activated the odour control system.

S Weber advised that she experienced a particularly bad odour at Junee Court at 4am on Friday 23 September 2011. She said she was aware that the odour control system has a limited operating time and asked if it could be made to run 24 hours a day.

***Action: K Venkatraman to investigate whether the odour control system can be modified to run 24 hours a day, or at least activate when the weather station detects wind coming from a particular sector.***

L Boyd advised that her family had been affected by landfill odour for several years but not much since tipping began in the current landfill cell.

A Community Representative advised that they had heard many different estimates of when the landfill would be closing and wanted to know why this was the case. B Lee advised that there were several reasons including:

- The exact volume of landfill cells is not known until they have been designed in detail. The exact volume of the current cell is known, but the volume of future cells can only be estimated, and may increase when designed.
- There have been improvements to waste compaction operations.

JA Lee asked what is the minimum distance that landfills can be to residential housing. B Lee replied that the regulatory body, the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) does not have a specific requirement in this regard.

P Banks advised that he was concerned about the number of water tanks in the area, and how the landfill odour after settling on roofs could possibly be contaminating the water. B Lee advised that while odour can cause people to become nauseous, it cannot transmit communicable diseases.

The new Community Representatives advised that they had only heard of the existence of the Group through word of mouth, and asked why Council did not do more to invite attendees. B Lee advised that the Council did advertise for Community Representatives from time to time, and would be happy to do so again. He added that the Landfill Community Consultative Group is not a public meeting.

***Action: B Lee to arrange for an advertisement in local newspapers inviting residents close to the landfill to join the Group.***

The Community Representatives advised that they wished to make a formal request of Council to either:

- Close the landfill due to odour concerns and move it to a less densely populated area in the former Beaudesert Shire Council; or
- Review the order in which landfill cells are being constructed, to reduce the odour impacts on residents.

***Action: B Lee to highlight the above request when the minutes of this meeting are reported to Council.***

### 3.1.3 No Answer at Weighbridge on a Weekend

At the last meeting of the Group an action was placed on LWS to look into a report of the weighbridge telephone not being answered between 3.45 and 4.05pm on Sunday 5 June 2011 when a resident was trying to make an odour complaint.

This matter was brought to the attention of the weighbridge supervisor who advised that:

- He has instructed all weighbridge staff on the importance of answering phones on weekends; and
- These staff can become very busy at times (with vehicles on both weighbridges) and callers should continue to try and make contact.

### 3.1.4 Landfill Entry

P Banks asked if there had been any developments in relation to the proposed new entry to the landfill off Bayliss Road. B Lee reported that he was not aware of any discussions on the issue for about the last year.

### 3.2 Environmental Performance

Apart from odour and ibis complaints (reported elsewhere in these minutes), there were no other significant environmental complaints or incidents recorded at the Browns Plains Landfill during the period of May to July 2011.

The results of environmental monitoring conducted at the Browns Plains Landfill in May 2011 were received in July. They indicated a dust exceedance at one of the eight monitoring stations. A reading of 150 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day was recorded, while the licence limit is 130 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day. Increased watering of the area in question by the water truck was implemented.

### 3.3 Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DERM)

There was no contact with DERM officers during the period of May to July 2011.

### 3.4 Ibis Update

There were no complaints received regarding ibis during the period of May to July 2011.

Numbers of ibis recorded at the site were as follows:

<b>2011</b>	<b>Tip Face</b>	<b>Tip Face Surrounds</b>	<b>Trees</b>	<b>Dam and Other Places</b>	<b>Total</b>
January - average of daily count recorded by contractor (Nature Call) after dispersal					<b>93</b>
February - average of daily count recorded by contractor (Nature Call) after dispersal					<b>88</b>
March - average of daily count recorded by contractor (Nature Call) after dispersal					<b>105</b>
April - average of daily count recorded by contractor (Nature Call) after dispersal	Figure not available				
May - average of daily count recorded by contractor (Nature Call) after dispersal					<b>125</b>
June - average of daily count recorded by contractor (Nature Call) after dispersal					<b>145</b>

C McDonald advised that there seemed to be less firing of the air cannon in recent weeks, but it still "gave a fright" when it did go off.

L Boyd reported that a park on the corner of Bayliss and Lamberth has recently literally been covered with ibis.

### 3.5 Fire Ant Update

B Lee advised that a new fire ant nest was discovered at the Logan Recycling Market on 15 April 2011. The matter was reported to Biosecurity Queensland who have investigated. As at the end of July no further advice had been received from BQ, and possible implications for

the ongoing off-site movement of greenwaste are unknown.

### **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 reported that there were seven complaints made during the May to July 2011 period. Invitations were only issued three of the complainants because four had already been issued with invitations.

### **3.7 Councillor Attendance**

At the last meeting the Group expressed disappointment at Councillors missing the last two meetings. B Lee reported that the matter was brought to the attention of Councillors when the minutes of the Group's meeting were referred to Council.

The Group noted that there was again no Councillor representation at the meeting and again requested that their disappointment be reported.

***Action:*** *LWS to again advise Councillors of the disappointment of the Group on non-attendance at meetings.*

## **4.0 GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **4.1 Parking at Logan Metro Indoor Sports Centre**

S Weber reported her observation that the parking facilities at the Logan Metro Indoor Sports Centre seemed inadequate. B Lee advised that the lack of parking also sometimes caused problems for the landfill operations during popular events.

## **5.0 LANDFILL TOUR**

At the previous meeting of the Group L Miller asked if it would be possible to organise a site tour for the next meeting of the Group. A tour was organised for after the meeting of 27 September 2011 and five of the Community Representatives took the opportunity to attend.

## **5.0 CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING**

The meeting closed at 2.45pm. The next meeting of the Group will be in December 2011. A date and time will be advised in due course.