

MINUTES

BROWNS PLAINS LANDFILL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING OF

27 March 2012

ATTENDEES: C Dalley (LCC Councillor)
M Asnicar (Manager Logan Waste Services)
K Venkatraman (Waste Services Branch)
B Lee (Waste Services Branch)
L Banks (Community Representative)
J A Lee (Community Representative)
E Koch
L Miller (Community Representative)

The meeting commenced at 2.30pm.

1.0 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor L Bradley, L Boyd (Community Representative) and S Willmet

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

2.0 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 13 December 2011 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 November 2011 to January 2012.

The average number of odour incidents recorded by survey participants was 2.88 incidents/participant/month compared to 2.48 during the same period last year.

The duration of odour incidents recorded by survey participants was 2.68% of the month compared to 1.85% for the same period last year.

It should be noted that resident odour survey forms for the month of January 2012 were misplaced.

3.1.2 Odour Complaints

There were 23 complaints received during the three-month period of November 2011 to January 2012. This compared to 13 for the same period last year. Details were as follows:

- 03/11/11 at 4.00pm - Junee Court - Odour control system activated. A follow-up phone call was made and a recorded message was left. The tip face was supposed to be covered and relocated to an area further from the boundary during the previous week, but wet weather has meant it can't be moved till early next week.
- 03/11/11 at 4.00pm - Tarrango Place - Odour control system activated. A follow-up phone call was made at 5.30pm and advice was received that there were no odours at that time. The tip face was supposed to be covered and relocated to an area further from the boundary during the previous week, but wet weather has meant it can't be moved till early next week.
- 05/11/11 at 12 noon - Saint James Circuit - Odour control system activated.
- 07/11/11 - early morning - Junee Court - Odour control system activated. Tip face staff were dealing with a load of smouldering waste that was delivered from the Logan Village Transfer Station at the time.
- 07/11/11 - 11am - Junee Court - The odour control system had been activated three hours before this complaint was received. Odour control agent being used was increased from 7 bottles per load to 10 bottles per load (40% more than manufacturer's recommendation).
- 07/11/11 - Tarrango Place - No details available as electronic document was corrupted.
- 08/11/11 at 4.00pm - Tarrango Place - Odour control system was in operation at the time of the complaint. Strong winds may have been interfering with the operation of the system.
- 09/11/11 at 1.45pm - Junee Court - Odour control system had been operating for 4 hours prior to the complaint. Strong winds may have been interfering with the operation of the system. A message explaining the situation was left for the resident.
- 11/11/11 at 1.45pm - (via Cr Dalley) - address not provided - Odour control system was running and had been in use all day. Consideration being given to shifting tip face further away from residents.
- 12/11/11 - Tarrango Place - Odour control system had been running during the period the odour had been noted. Consideration being given to shifting tip face further away from residents.
- 15/11/11 at 2.40pm - Tarrango Place - Resident was calling to report odour noted the previous Saturday (12/11/11). Resident was advised of

consideration being given to shifting tip face further away from residents and of work on increasing the operational hours of the odour control system.

- 21/11/11 at 4.50pm - Volstead Road - The odour system had been in operation from 8am till 4pm that day when it had to be refuelled. It was reactivated shortly after.
- 22/11/11 at 8.10am - Tarrango Place - Resident was calling to report odour noted the over the previous weekend and Monday. Resident advised he called at the weighbridge at 4.15pm on 21/11/11 to report the odour and request that the control system be turned on. He said he was given the impression that it wasn't on and it was only turned on after his request. He said the odour improved noticeably soon after his visit. Grounds staff subsequently confirmed that the system had been in operation from 8am till 4pm that day when it had to be refuelled. It was reactivated shortly after.
- 30/11/11 at 3.00pm - Colombard Place - The odour system had been in operation at the time of the complaint. No odours were detected during a site visit to Colombard Place soon after 3.00pm.
- 27/12/11 at 12:30pm - Bayliss Road - The odour control system had been activated prior to this complaint being received. A follow-up phone call on the 28/12/11 was made and Resident was advised that tip face under operation was at the far end from the mentioned residential address and that a chicken and mushroom farm located in the vicinity that may have been the cause of the odour.
- 19/12/2011 - 10:15am and 02:21pm - Tarrango Place - On receipt of the complaint officers called at Tarrango Place. No foul odour detected. Grounds staff confirmed the demister system is in operations for approximately 8 hrs every day including weekends. The resident requested information about the demister liquid and was provided with the relevant Material Safety Data Sheet.
- 04/01/12 at 3.20pm - Tarrango Place - Environmental Officer checked with the Grounds staff and confirmed that the odour control system had been on since the morning and was operational at the time of the complaint.
- 09/01/12 at 3.20pm - Taronga Court - Environmental Officer checked and determined that the odour control system was operational and no activities (eg: special burial) had been conducted apart from usual landfill operations. A follow-up call to the resident resulted in a message being left.
- 10/01/12 at 10.50am - Junee Court - The resident advised of landfill odour that occurred on Sunday 08/01/12. Resident enquired if the odour control system is operational 24 hours a day. The resident was advised that the system is currently operational 8 hours a day.
- 11/01/12 at 10.30am - Bayliss Road - The resident advised of a bad odour on the morning of Sunday 08/01/12 that grew worse at around 10.30am to 12 noon. Investigations revealed that the spray length of the odour control system had been reduced to only cover the landfill operational area. It appears that fluctuating winds may have caused the odour to escape the length of the system. The original system length was reinstated.

- 12/01/12 at 3.20pm - Volstead Road - The resident advised that the combined smell of the landfill and odour control liquid is unbearable and suggested that the landfill be relocated. The resident was advised that the current operational hours of the odour control system were eight hours a day and these are in the process of being increased in accordance with an assurance given to the Community Consultative Group. In accordance with her request, the resident has been added to the Group's mailing list.
- 31/01/12 at 4.46pm - Tarrango Place - Ground staff confirmed that the odour control system was on at the time of the complaint. Recent heavy rainfall and a compactor break down made it difficult to cover the exposed landfill area causing odour issues despite the ongoing use of the control system. Measures to cover the tip face with dry soil are ongoing and expected to be completed within a few days.
- 31/01/12 at 4.10pm - Bayliss Road - Recent heavy rainfall and a compactor break down made it difficult to cover the exposed landfill area causing odour issues despite the ongoing use of the control system. Measures to cover the tip face with dry soil are ongoing and expected to be completed within a few days. A message to this effect was left with the resident on 01/02/12.

L Banks advised that she has recorded 58 occasions of odour and/or noise from vehicle reverse alarms since 02/01/12.

B Lee advised that advice had been received from Council's Plant Fleet Services (PFS) Branch to the effect that they were not able to reduce the volume of the alarms. Advice had also been received from L Boyd (Community Representative) however, about a product called "White Sound Alarms" which are advertised as being safe without causing noise nuisances. This product has been referred to PFS for consideration and advice is awaited.

Action: ***Waste Services Branch to report back to Consultative Group on potential use of the "White Sound Alarm".***

E Koch said that the relevant Australian Standard nominates a minimum noise level that reverse alarms must achieve at a specified distance from the vehicle. M Asnicar confirmed that no noise level measurement of the current alarms had been done.

Action: ***Waste Services Branch to investigate noise levels of landfill plant reverse alarms.***

L Banks advised she had been speaking to an officer at the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) who had told her there should be no odour or noise beyond the boundary of the landfill and that she would be inspecting the site on 28/03/12. M Asnicar confirmed that a DERM officer had made arrangements to inspect the site on 28/03/12.

L Banks also stated her view that Council should never have approved a housing development so close to the landfill. Cr Dalley said she fully agreed and, as she was not serving on Council at the time, could not provide an explanation.

There followed some discussion on where waste is being currently tipped in Stage 2F. M Asnicar indicated the area on an aerial photo.

J A Lee asked where special burials were done. K Venkatraman advised that they were done in the active tipping face, wherever that was at the time.

E Koch advised that on a recent Saturday he was speaking to a neighbour who was dry retching as a result of the foul odour from the landfill. He also referred to receiving different stories in relation to the operation of the odour control system. Sometimes he is told it is on permanently, and other times he is told it will be switched on as a result of his call.

M Asnicar replied that the differing advice could be for many reasons including simple miscommunication between staff. In addition, there is no guarantee that the system will stop the odour. It is just one tool used among a range of best practices intended to keep odours to a minimum.

J A Lee advised that odour was worst when it lasted for a week at a time. She asked how often special burials were received at the site.

B Lee advised that there would be a maximum of two a week, and often less.

J A Lee asked if the special burials could be directed elsewhere.

M Asnicar replied that the special burials aren't the main source of odour and redirecting them wouldn't completely resolve the odour situation.

E Koch advised that sometimes on weekends he notes an odour within 10 minutes of the landfill machines starting, makes a call and then notes that the odour is gone 10 minutes later.

M Asnicar replied that the odour control system will never be the sole solution to the problem. In examples like that cited by E Koch other factors, predominantly weather and wind, would be at play.

L Banks asked how long the current tipping stage 2F was expected to receive waste.

M Asnicar advised that it would probably be another 12 to 18 months. He also mentioned that, as a direct result of the representations of the Consultative Group, Council had recently decided to change the sequence that the landfill would be developed. The next stage to be developed after 2F was to be 2G, which is also on the southern boundary of the site. The recent Council decision meant that 2F would be followed by 2D and 2E, which are both towards the centre of the site and much further away from housing. The filling of stage 2G after 2E is about eight years away, and it is hoped that by that time it will receive predominantly inert wastes. Attached is a plan indicating the locations of the landfill stages.

J A Lee asked about the manner in which each cell is filled. M Asnicar demonstrated on the aerial photo how the active tip face moved back and forth, then across the cell, all the while increasing in height.

J A Lee mentioned a particular bad week for odour in January 2012. M Asnicar advised that was probably when the waste compactor broke down and took two weeks to bring back on line. K Venkatraman advised that staff did the best they could with dozers which, admittedly, did not suppress odour as well. E Koch expressed scepticism that a replacement compactor could not be sourced. M Asnicar assured him that all efforts to find a replacement were made.

L Banks asked why the DERM inspection was put back a week from 20/03/12, and whether it had anything to do with the date of the Consultative Group meeting. K

Venkatraman advised that the date of the inspection was moved because he was on leave when it was originally scheduled.

J A Lee made the point that, while Community Representatives were appreciative of efforts being made, they could not express satisfaction with the situation as they wanted Councillors to know how upset they are and how urgently they are seeking improvement.

L Banks asked why waste tipping could not be moved to the next stage (2D) now. M Asnicar advised that there were significant works to be done to prepare a landfill cell. These included geotechnical investigations, excavation, draining and lining the cell.

J A Lee asked how preparations for stage 2D were progressing and M Asnicar advised that excavations had commenced.

E Koch asked if he could be provided with the makes and models of the plant used on the tip face.

Action: Waste Services Branch to advise with the makes and models of the plant used on the tip face.

E Koch reminded the Group that he had requested to be provided with the Material Data Safety Sheet (MSDS) for the chemical used in the odour control system. B Lee provided him with the MSDS document.

J A Lee advised that, after mentioning all the negatives, she would concede that conditions over the Christmas New Year period were good.

E Koch said that he still had doubts that all complaints were being recorded. M Asnicar said that was why residents were now being asked to call the main Council phone number (3412 3412) with after-hours odour complaints. The after-hours operator is required to keep a log of all calls received.

E Koch asked why waste couldn't be incinerated. M Asnicar said that there were many reasons, but mainly because of the cost (which is much more expensive than landfill) and the difficulties in siting such a facility.

J A Lee asked where the greenwaste storage areas were and these were demonstrated by K Venkatraman. J A Lee asked why the greenwaste storage areas could not be moved to the boundary near the houses. K Venkatraman advised that the greenwaste was also usually mulched, and this also produced odours.

3.2 Environmental Performance

B Lee advised that the results of environmental monitoring conducted at the Browns Plains Landfill in December 2011 were received in January 2012 and the following exceedance of licence conditions was recorded:

- The results indicated exceedances of the dust limit of 130 mg/m²/day at one of the eight dust monitoring locations. The reading in question was 160 mg/m²/day. Measures taken to improve dust suppression have included regular use of watering trucks and mulching of batters and revegetation of exposed earth areas.

3.3 Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DERM)

Contact was received from the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) on 3 November to advise that they had received complaints about landfill odour and noise from landfill plant. They indicated that they may make an inspection of the site but no further contact was made until January 2012 when they advised they would be conducting an inspection in March 2012. Arrangements were eventually made for the inspection to be done on 28/03/12.

3.4 Ibis Update

There were no complaints received regarding ibis during the period of November 2011 to January 2012

Numbers of ibis recorded at the site were as follows:

2011/12	Tip Face	Tip Face Surrounds	Trees	Dam and Other Places	Total
August - average of daily count recorded by contractor (Nature Call) after dispersal					208
September - average of daily count recorded by contractor (Nature Call) after dispersal					253
October - average of daily count recorded by contractor (Nature Call) after dispersal					322
November - average of daily count recorded by contractor (Nature Call) after dispersal					308
December - average of daily count recorded by contractor (Nature Call) after dispersal					440
January - average of daily count recorded by contractor (Nature Call) after dispersal					304

The ibis control program commenced on the site in early-July 2010.

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 October 2011 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.

There were 23 complaints made during the November 2011 to January 2012 period and:

- Six resulted in invitations being issued.
- Of the remaining 17, all were from residents who had been previously invited or were already group member.

3.7 Councillor Attendance

At the last meeting the Group again expressed disappointment at Councillors attendance at meetings. B Lee advised that the matter was again brought to the attention of Councillors.

4.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

5.0 CLOSED AND NEXT MEETING

The meeting concluded at 3.30pm. The next meeting will be held in late-June 2012. The date will be conveyed in due course.

