

# MINUTES

## BROWNS PLAINS LANDFILL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING OF

**25 MARCH 2020**

**ATTENDEES:** B Lee (Health Environment & Waste Branch - HEW)  
R Oakley (HEW)  
J Ooms (Community Representative)

The meeting commenced at 6.00pm.

### **1.0 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from W Cox, B Chambers, L Boyd (Community Representative) and M Asnicar (Manager HEW).

A Priday, S Baker, J Loscialpo, G Burns, J A Lee, N Martin, L Miller, D Moore, P Cohen, G Williams, H Priday, L Ross, L and M Blunt, S Gaunt and Mr Jonsen, (all Community Representatives) did not attend.

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

It was agreed that the distributed minutes of the previous meeting (on 11 December 2019) were an accurate record.

### **3.0 BUSINESS ARISING**

#### **3.1 Landfill Odour**

B Lee reported there have been 52 confirmed complaints in the last 12 months to February 2020 compared to 108 for the previous 12 month period.

There were 25 odour complaints received during the three-month period of September to November 2019. This compared to 35 for the same three-month period the previous year. Details of the 25 recent complaints were as follows:

#### **December 2019**

There was one odour complaint:

- 2 December 2019 - A telephone complaint was made by the office of Bert van Manen MP, federal member for Forde. The complaint was made on behalf of residents in Saint James Circuit Heritage Park. The complaints were that the real estate agent through whom they purchased their property in 1992 advised that the landfill had a life expectancy of 10 years and that odour emitted from the landfill has become progressively worse over time. A comprehensive written response was provided on 5 December 2019.

#### **January 2020:**

There were six odour complaints:

- 2 January 2020 - 1:40pm - Bottlebrush Drive Regents Park - At 1.45 the officer to whom the call was reported spoke to tip face operator and advised of the complaint. The operator advised they had been doing cover operations on the very large quantity of waste which may be the cause of the odour. The officer attended the residence premises from 1.55 to 2.05pm. While there they noted that the odour wasn't constant, but several gusts of fairly noticeable odour were noted. Discussions with the resident also covered their proximity to the landfill, the difference between transfer stations and landfills (and why landfills can't be enclosed) and Council's preference for residents to phone through odour complaints rather than keep a log/diary.
- 2 January 2020 - 4:10pm - Lamberth Road East Heritage Park - An officer went to tip face and observed wind sock indicating a stiff breeze from the N/NE and in the general direction of the complainant. Landfill team were in the process of covering waste. A strong odour detected in close proximity to tipping area. Odour was detectable at a low level by X pad and close to perimeter fence. The odour control system was operational. The officer drove to the vicinity of address, up and down Lamberth Road East (LRE) and St James Circuit etc. Odour was just about detectable in St James Circuit but no odours were detected on LRE. The officer called and left a message on the resident's contact number 4:48pm and 4:58pm. The officer then visited the address and spoke with someone who informed that the complainant was not at home. The officer left a message that he would call again in the morning. No offensive odours were detected whilst at the address or in LRE. On Friday 3 January 2020 the officer contacted the resident who reported smells apparent after 3.00 pm up to 4.15 pm on and off, same smells as previously reported, coming at various times of day, including weekends. The resident advised they work at home but had gone out the previous afternoon. The officer reported findings from the previous day.
- 10 January 2020 - 3.00pm - Norah Street Crestmead - The resident moved to the property on the 7 December 2019 and has been noting a smell of waste/rubbish every afternoon from around 3.00pm and lasting for approximately 1 to 2 hours. An officer drove to the resident's area soon after the call and could not detect a smell. Given how regular the odour is (everyday at 3pm for 1-2 hours) and the distance of about 4.5 km from landfill tip face (with a significant number of houses between), it is considered very unlikely that the landfill is the odour source.
- 17 January 2020 - 2:15pm - Lamberth Road East Heritage Park - An officer attended the tip face and observed the windsock indicating a breeze from the N/E and in general direction of the resident. Odour only lightly detectable from location of windsock. Operations staff were directed to turn on the odour control system. The officer then attended the address of the resident and no odour was detected. The resident was advised that odour was not currently being detected at the location but that the odour control system had been activated.
- 22 January 2020 - 4:25pm - St James Cct Heritage Park - An officer went to the tip face and noted that there was an odour present at the tip face and winds could have carried it to the residence in question. The odour control system had already been activated. The officer then attended the walkway behind the resident's house and could intermittently smell some faint landfill odours.
- 23 January 2020 - 1:05pm - Lamberth Road East Heritage Park - An officer immediately attended the tip face and noticed that that there was a breeze intermittently blowing towards to the resident's street. There was an odour present at the tip face but it was not detectable further down wind. The odour control system had already been activated. The officer then proceeded to a pathway adjacent to the

resident's house and could not detect any odours attributable to the tip face while walking the in area.

### February 2020:

There were 18 odour complaints:

- 5 February 2020 - 12:30pm - Kensington Street Browns Plains - An officer attended the tip face and noted stiff breeze from the S/SE and in the general direction of the complainant. The Landfill Team were in the process of covering waste. Strong odour detected in close proximity to tipping area and at a lower level closer to perimeter fence. The odour control system was operating. At 1.20pm the officer spoke to the resident who was satisfied with the feedback provided on the controls being utilised.
- 11 February 2020 - 4:45pm - St James Circuit Heritage Park - An officer attended the tip face and noticed that that there was a light breeze intermittently blowing towards to the resident's street. There was an odour present at the tip face but it could not be detected further down-wind. The mobile odour control system was activated. The officer then attended the area of the resident's house. No odour attributable to the tip face could be detected.
- 11 February 2020 - 5:00pm - Vansittart Road Regents Park - An officer attended the tip face and noticed that that there was a light breeze intermittently blowing towards to the resident's street. There was an odour present at the tip face but it could not be detected further down-wind. The mobile odour control system was activated. The area of the complainant's residence was then visited and an intermittent odour was noted, but it could not conclusively be attributed to the landfill. A phone call was made to the resident who advised that the odour was bad at 3.00pm but currently wasn't an issue.
- 12 February 2020 - 1:36pm - Lamberth Road East Heritage Park - An officer attended the tip face and noted that that there was a light breeze intermittently blowing towards to the resident's street. There was an odour present at the tip face but could not be detected further down-wind. The odour control system was activated.
- 14 February 2020 - 3:00pm - Vansittart Road Regents Park - An officer attended the tip face and noted that that there was a breeze with intermittent gusts blowing towards to the resident's street. There was an odour present at the tip face but it could not be detected further down-wind. The odour control system was activated. The officer then attended the resident's house where no odour was detected. The resident advised the odour was bad at 2.30pm but currently wasn't an issue.
- 18 February 2020 - Bottlebrush Drive Regents Park - An officer called the complaint back and explained that due to the recent rain events there was some ponding water that had come in contact with the waste at the landfill. The complainant understood that Council was aware of this issue and were working to have the liquid pumped into the leachate management system at the site. It was also outlined to the complainant that this processes may take the remainder of the week. The odour control system had already been activated.
- 19 February 2020 - 2.24pm - Emu Court Regents Park - Contact was made by email. Response was as per the above complaint on 18/02/20.

- 19 February 2020 - 2.58pm - Junee Court Heritage Park - Response was as per the above complaint on 18/02/20.
- 19 February 2020 - 3.48pm - Lamberth Road East Heritage Park - Response was as per the above complaint on 18/02/20.
- 19 February 2020 - 4.26pm - St James Circuit Heritage Park - Response was as per the above complaint on 18/02/20.
- 21 February 2020 - 4.20pm - Bottlebrush Drive Regents Park - Response was as per the above complaint on 18/02/20.
- 21 February 2020 - 4.49pm - Vergulde Road Regents Park - Response was as per the above complaint on 18/02/20.
- 21 February 2020 - 5.02pm - Aquila Court Regents Park - Response was as per the above complaint on 18/02/20.
- 25 February 2020 - 5.02pm - Regency Drive Regents Park - Response was as per the above complaint on 18/02/20.
- 26 February 2020 - 1.46pm - Address not recorded - Response was as per the above complaint on 18/02/20.
- 26 February 2020 - 2.56pm - St James Cct Heritage Park - Response was as per the above complaint on 18/02/20.
- 26 February 2020 - 4.45pm - Lamberth Road East Heritage Park - Response was as per the above complaint on 18/02/20.
- 27 February 2020 - 1.30pm - Eastern Road Browns Plains - Response was as per the above complaint on 18/02/20.

R Oakley noted the spike in complaint numbers in February 2020 when 18 were received. He said that the landfill can easily cope with moderate rain but persistent heavy falls are difficult to manage. (Approximately 338 mm fell between 4 and 14 February 2020.) Covering waste in these conditions is extremely difficult as the earthen cover material becomes so wet it becomes mud and can't be easily pushed/moved and becomes hazardous for truck and other vehicle movements. The odour situation is worsened as the area of exposed waste is larger than usual. Operational staff did their best to cover the waste as quickly as possible, but for about 10 days after 18 February 2020 the evaporating moisture was driving the movement of odorous compounds into the atmosphere.

In addition, the amount of rain meant a large quantity of leachate had to be contained in a number of locations to prevent it from escaping the site. In warm conditions, in around 72 hours the quality of that water deteriorates and becomes odorous. Such liquid has to be fed into the sewer at a low and controlled rate to protect the treatment plant.

J Ooms advised he had not experienced any odour recently.

### **3.2 Environmental Performance**

The results of environmental monitoring conducted in November 2019 were received in January 2020. The only exceedances of licence condition limits related to dust at location BPP5 near the central southern property boundary.

### 3.3 Department of Environment and Science (DES)

There was no contact with DES in relation to regulatory environmental matters during the period of December 2019 to February 2020 other than:

- Routine contact in relation to landfill levy matters; and
- Submission of the annual return

R Oakley added that a scheduled quarterly round of environmental monitoring sampling was delayed due to the aforementioned wet weather. The scheduled sampling will be caught up next week and results submitted to DES – DES have been informed of the delay.

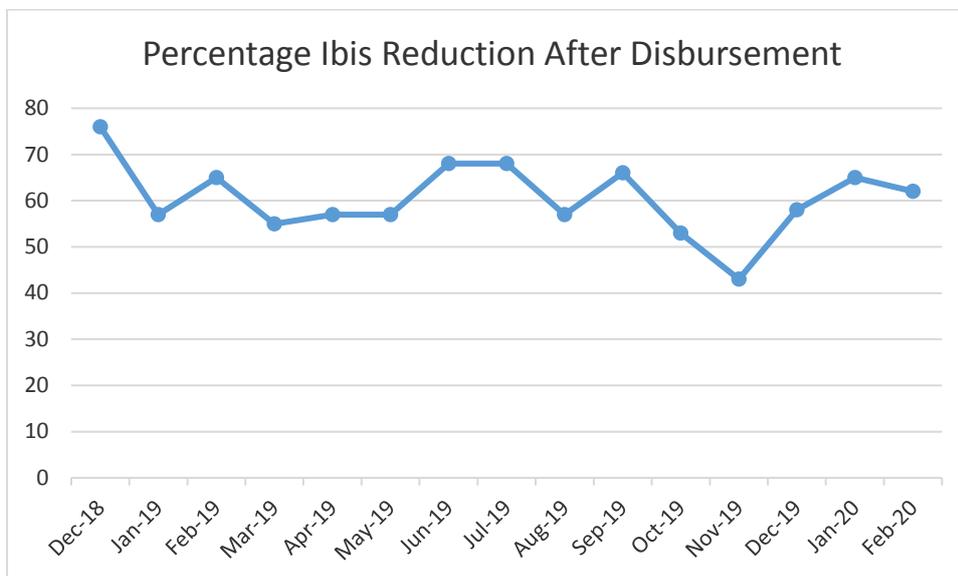
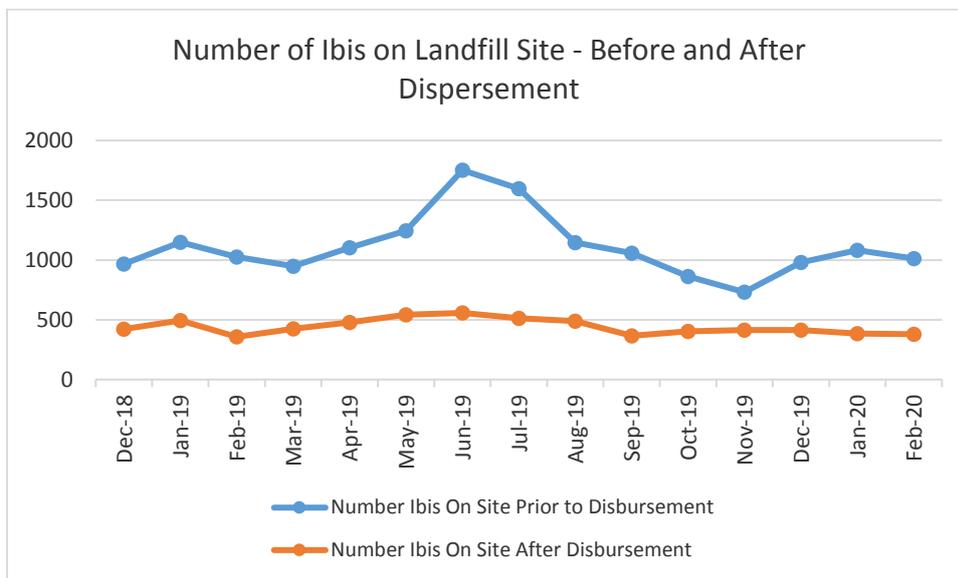
### 3.4 Ibis Update

The most recent (February 2020) report from the wildlife management contractor stated that:

- Average initial ibis counts in February were 1,012 prior to harassment activities.
- Average final counts of ibis were 380 after harassment activities.
- On average, ibis numbers were reduced by 62.4% per day during the harassment period (which is a slight decrease from average reduction of 65% in January 2020)
- The main dispersal methods used included quad bike, whip and noodle.

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

	<b>Number Ibis On Site Prior to Disbursement</b>	<b>Number Ibis On Site After Disbursement</b>	<b>Percentage Ibis Reduction After Disbursement</b>
Dec-18	968	423	56
Jan-19	1149	494	57
Feb-19	1025	357	65
Mar-19	947	424	55
Apr-19	1103	477	57
May-19	1245	541	57
Jun-19	1751	557	68
Jul-19	1598	514	68
Aug-19	1146	489	57
Sep-19	1058	365	66
Oct-19	863	404	53
Nov-19	731	414	43
Dec-19	980	415	58
Jan-20	1083	385	65
Feb-20	1012	380	62



There were no ibis complaints received regarding ibis during the December 2019 to February 2020 period.

J Ooms advised he had not experienced any problems with ibis.

### 3.5 Fire Ant Update

No new fire ant nests were discovered at the site over the December 2019 to February 2020 period.

### 3.6 Invitations to Odour Complainants

It is Council's practice to invite any resident who makes a complaint about landfill odour to join the Community Consultative Group, and re-issue such invitations where a previous invitation has not been issued in the preceding six months.

Of the 25 complaints made during the December 2019 to February 2020 period:

- 10 invitations were issued
- 1 was from a resident who had been previously invited.
- 13 were from existing Group members

- In 1 case the resident's address was not provided.

#### **4.0 GENERAL BUSINESS**

##### **4.1 New Landfill Cell**

R Oakley advised that excavation of new landfill cell (2E) began on 20 March 2020. It's expected that in three months' time, the work will be at an interesting stage. At that time he will endeavour to extend an invitation to regular Group attendees to inspect the works. The inspection would have to be done during the day, but could be done at a mutually convenient time.

#### **5.0 CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING**

The meeting closed at 6.25pm. Invitations and agendas for the next meeting in June 2020 will be issued in due course.

ATTACHMENT 1

