

MINUTES

BROWNS PLAINS LANDFILL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING OF

15 DECEMBER 2020

ATTENDEES: R Oakley (Health Environment & Waste Branch - HEW)
B Lee (HEW)
J Ooms (Community Representative)
W Cox (Community Representative)
A Straub

The meeting commenced at 6.00pm.

1.0 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cr Heremaia, Cr Raven and M Asnicar (HEW).

D McRae, L Boyd, B Chambers, A Priday, S Baker, G Burns, J A Lee, 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 30 September 2020) were an accurate record.

3.0 BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 Landfill Odour

B Lee reported there have been 42 confirmed complaints in the last 12 months to November 2020 compared to 62 for the previous 12 month period.

There were seven odour complaints received during the three-month period of September to November 2020. This compared to 12 for the same three-month period the previous year. Details of the seven recent complaints were as follows:

September 2020

There were two odour complaints:

- 04/09/20 - 4.27pm - St James Cct Heritage Park - Very soon after the call an officer proceeded to the tip face where the odour control system was noted to be operating. Odour was detectable 50 metres downwind of the face (towards the complainant's residence) and less so 100 metres downwind. The officer then proceeded to the complainant's residence where neither waste odour nor deodoriser was detected.

- 05/09/20 – 2.00pm – Volstead Road Heritage Park – The call was made on a Saturday. The Waste & Recycling Program (W&RP) On-Call Officer contacted the landfill via the weighbridge office and requested that the odour control system be activated.

October 2020:

There were four odour complaints:

- 07/10/20 - 4.40pm - St James Cct Heritage Park - The tip face was inspected, and it was noted that the wind was gusty and consistently from the northerly direction towards the complainant's residence. The complainant's residence was approximately 300 metres from the tip face. The odour control system was activated.
- 08/10/20 – 9.40am – St James Cct Heritage Park – At the tip face there was a persistent wind blowing from the northerly direction towards the resident. The odour control system had already activated due to the wind direction. The complainant's residence was approximately 600m from the tip face.
- 08/10/20 – 4.30pm - St James Cct Heritage Park - The tip face was inspected and there was a persistent wind blowing towards the residents. The odour control system had already been activated due to the wind direction. The complainant's residence was approximately 300m from the tip face.
- 09/10/20 – 10.24am – Bayliss Rd Heritage Park – An officer called the resident who advised the odour was noted at 7.00am that morning. The officer advised the resident of the below issues with the tip face dozer. He was also able to advise that the tip face would soon be moving to the new landfill cell, which would reduce the likelihood of odour.

It should be noted that the tip face dozer had mechanical issues from Saturday 3 October 2020 to Thursday 8 October 2020 inclusive which has also limited the ability of tip face staff to manage the landfilling area to their best ability.

November 2020:

There was one odour complaint:

- 26/11/20 - 4.15pm - St James Cct Heritage Park - An officer inspected the tip face (temporarily in cell 2D) at 4.30pm. A strong and persistent wind (10-20 km/hr) was observed from the northerly direction directly towards the resident's street. The tip face was approximately 250 metres from the resident's house. Due to the high risk of odour nuisance the mobile odour control system positioned directly in between the tip face and the residence was activated. The complainant did call back at 5.30pm and remarked that they could not smell the odour control agent and the odour was still very bad.

A Straub made reference to calling on a weekend a few weeks ago and was told that, as the issue was not an emergency, no other help or record of the call could be kept.

Action: *B Lee to re-check the after-hours operator script to make sure that calls about landfill odour made on weekends during operating hours are referred to the Waste On-Call Officer.*

A Straub also mentioned that odours sometimes seem worse on weekends and asked why that might be. R Oakley responded that there was no reason why it would be worse. He added that, when it's considered that no wheelie bin waste is delivered to the site on weekends, it's actually less likely for there to be odour issues.

In terms of site operations R Oakley mentioned that odorous wastes are currently being landfilled in cell 2E, which provides a considerable buffer distance to residents. Some waste is going to cell 2B (which is closer to residents), but this is all inert waste from the transfer station with low risk of odours.

3.2 Environmental Performance

B Lee advised that the results of monitoring conducted at the Browns Plains Landfill in July 2020 were received in September 2020. The results did not indicate exceedances of any landfill licence conditions.

J Ooms reported noting quite a bit of dust at his home three or four weeks ago. R Oakley asked that such incidents be reported as it's always possible to increase dust suppression (water truck) activities.

3.3 Department of Environment and Science (DES)

B Lee reported there was no contact relating to environmental matters during the three months to November 2020.

3.4 Ibis Update

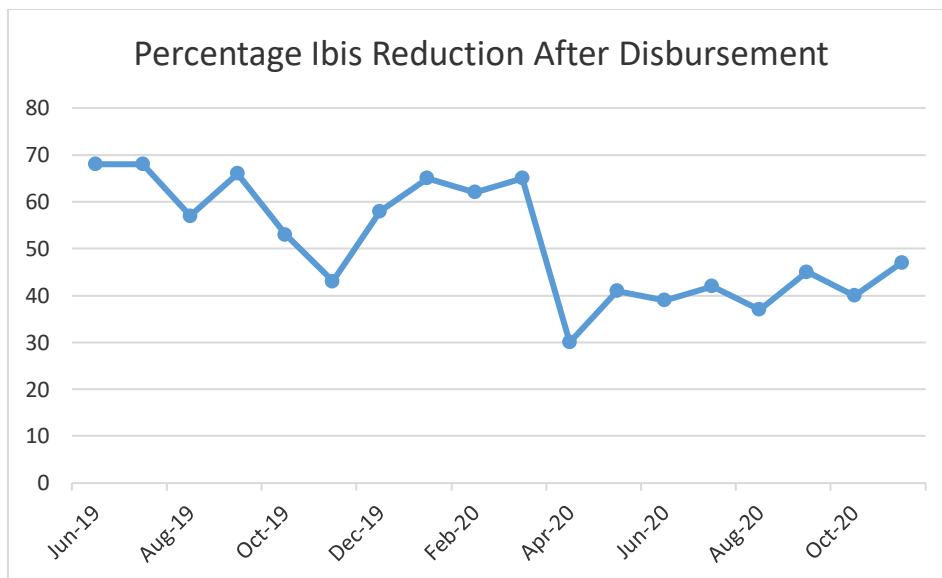
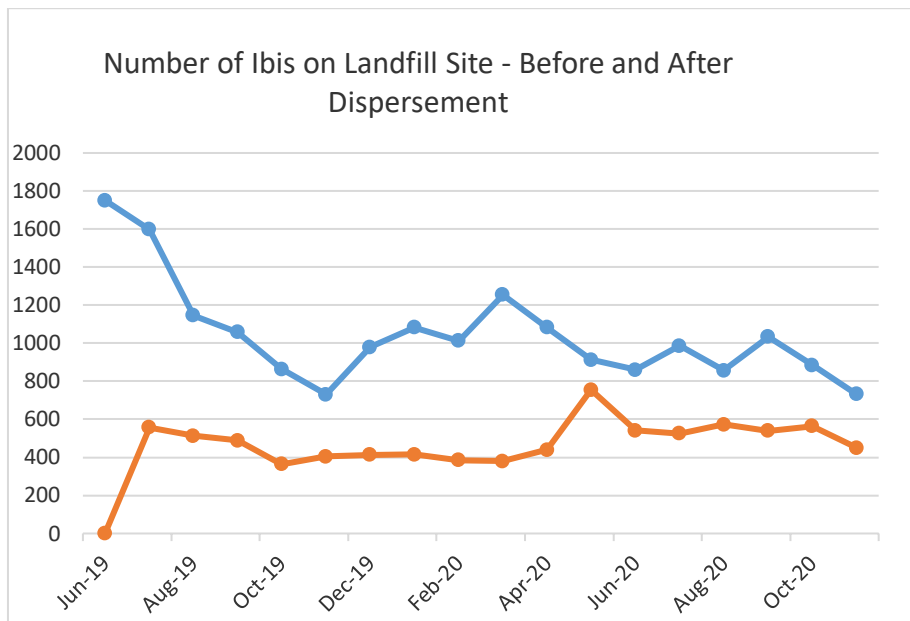
The November 2020 report from the wildlife management contractor stated that:

- Average initial ibis counts in November 2020 prior to harassment activities were 732 compared to 885 in October.
- Average final counts of ibis were 389 after harassment activities.
- On average, ibis numbers were reduced by 47% per day during the harassment period. This compares to the average reductions of the previous three months which were 40%, 45%, and 37%.
- The main dispersal method used was the whip.

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

	Number Ibis On Site Prior to Disbursement	Number Ibis On Site After Disbursement	Percentage Ibis Reduction After Disbursement
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

	Number Ibis On Site Prior to Disbursement	Number Ibis On Site After Disbursement	Percentage Ibis Reduction After Disbursement
Mar-20	1255	440	65
Apr-20	1083	755	30
May-20	912	542	41
Jun-20	861	526	39
Jul-20	986	573	42
Aug-20	856	539	37
Sep-20	1033	564	45
Oct-20	885	451	40
Nov-20	732	389	47



There were no ibis complaints received regarding ibis during the September to November 2020 period.

3.5 Fire Ant Update

No new fire ant nests were discovered at the site over the September to November 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 seven complaints made during the September to November 2020 period:

- Five were from Group members
- Two were from residents who had been previously invited.

4.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

4.1 Quality Certification

B Lee advised that the Waste & Recycling Program was the subject of an audit of its quality and environmental management systems from 24 to 26 August 2020. These systems relate to the waste collection contract and the operation of the Browns Plains and Carbrook Waste & Recycling Facilities. The audit was conducted by third party SAI Global Pty Ltd.

In summary, certification was maintained. No major non-conformances were detected, but three minor non-conformances were. These relate to:

1. Process for internal audit was not fully implemented – only operational audits had been undertaken.
2. The process for management review was not fully completed.
3. Process for emergency preparedness and response was it was determined that testing of environmental incidents was required.

A further audit which verified correction of the above was conducted on 20 November 2020.

4.2 Landfill Fire

R Oakley reported that there was a major fire at the landfill on the evening of Saturday 5 December 2020. He advised that:

- The fire was identified late afternoon by tip face staff.
- The fire quickly escalated due to the hot, dry and very windy conditions.
- The Queensland Fire Service (QFES) were called and attended.
- QFES left the site at around 6.45pm satisfied that Council staff were managing the incident well.
- The fire was very close to extinguished at 7.15pm but the team and machinery remained until much later to ensure the fire was fully extinguished – this needed spotlight on site to maintain safe working conditions.
- Private security was called in to monitor the situation throughout the rest of the night.

- The cause of the fire remains unknown it is possible it could have been a lithium battery from a phone, laptop or the like.

4.3 Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB)

R Oakley reported that on a Friday 20 November 2020 a helicopter landed at the landfill site. It transpired that Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) had detected that an EPIRB had been activated in the landfill after inappropriate disposal. AMSA officers located a total of five EPIRB's in the landfill, and the incident featured on that evening's news bulletins.

4.4 Greenwaste Bins

R Oakley advised that almost 6,000 Expressions of Interest have been received in relation to greenwaste bins to be rolled out in mid-2021.

5.0 CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING

The meeting closed at 1.40pm. Invitations and agendas for the next meeting in March 2021 will be issued in due course.

ATTACHMENT 1

