

MINUTES

BROWNS PLAINS LANDFILL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING OF

29 JUNE 2021

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

The meeting commenced at 1.00pm.

1.0 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cr Heremaia, Cr Raven and M Asnicar (HEW), B Chambers, L Boyd

A Straub, D McRae, L Boyd, A Priday, S Baker, G Burns, J A Lee, L Miller, D Moore, P Cohen, G Williams, A & 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 16 March 2021) were an accurate record.

3.0 BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 Landfill Odour

B Lee reported there have been 24 confirmed complaints in the last 12 months to May 2021 compared to 55 for the previous 12 month period.

There were five odour complaints received during the three-month period of March to May 2021. This compared to eight for the same three-month period the previous year. Details of the five recent complaints were as follows:

March 2021

There were no odour complaints.

April 2021

There were four odour complaints:

- 07/04/21 – 11.40am – Oakland St Browns Plains – An officer called at the complainant's property at 12.05pm and noted that, even though there was intermittent breeze from the direction of the tip face, no odour was detected. The

officer spoke to the resident at 12.30pm and advised of actions being taken to control odours arising because of recent wet weather.

- 09/04/21 – 5.30pm – Rincon St Heritage Park – No immediate investigation possible as the complaint was made after-hours.
- 12/04/21 – 8.55am – Rincon St Heritage Park – The address wasn't originally provided and so was not obtained till an officer called the complainant at 1.05pm. During the conversations the resident mentioned having been in the area for over a decade and, while there were odour issues at that time, conditions have been good for the last 12 to 18 months. The officer advised of actions being taken to control odours arising as a result of recent wet weather.
- 12/04/21 – 11.05am – Volstead Rd Heritage Park – as per above.

May 2021

There was one odour complaint:

- 19/05/21 – 10.30am – Ivor St Browns Plains – An officer investigated and found that based on weather data it was likely the odour nuisance was from the landfill as the wind direction was directly towards the school.

Generally, in relation to odour control the following steps continue to be taken on a routine basis to minimise the likelihood of odour nuisance:

- The active tip face footprint is actively being covered to minimise the area of waste exposed.
- Following recent rain events landfilling operations had to be relocated to Cell 2B where they will remain during Cell 2E phase 2 construction.
- Malodourous waste is handled appropriately through special burials.
- When cover material is removed to expose old waste for landfilling, it is covered with fresh waste as soon as possible.

W Cox advised odours hadn't been too bad lately with only two or three occasions of odour in recent times. She reported that she had smelled the deodoriser on many mornings.

J Ooms reported they had not experienced odour issues at their home. He had only noticed odours while out walking, particularly on low sections of St James Circuit.

3.2 Environmental Performance

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

3.3 Department of Environment and Science (DES)

R Oakley advised that there had been no contact with DES on environmental matters. There had, however, been multiple communications regarding a waste levy issue. Council wrote to DES in 2019 when the levy was introduced to obtain an exemption from paying the levy on fill, road profile and similar material that Council would have on the site for the construction of internal roads. An exemption was obtained for 13,500 tonnes of material. In May 2021 Waste staff accepted a quantity of road construction material that meant the

13,500 tonne limit was exceeded. Once the error was realised, it was reported to DES, who consider it a breach of the exemption and are in the process of deciding whether to apply a levy charge on the material in excess of the exemption. Council has also applied for an increase to its exemption to provide sufficient operational capacity.

3.4 Ibis Update

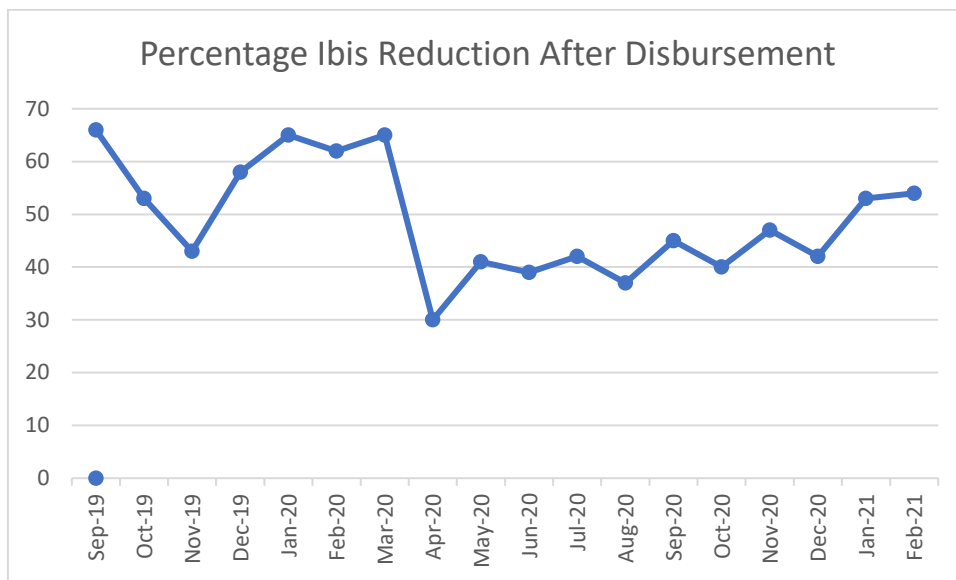
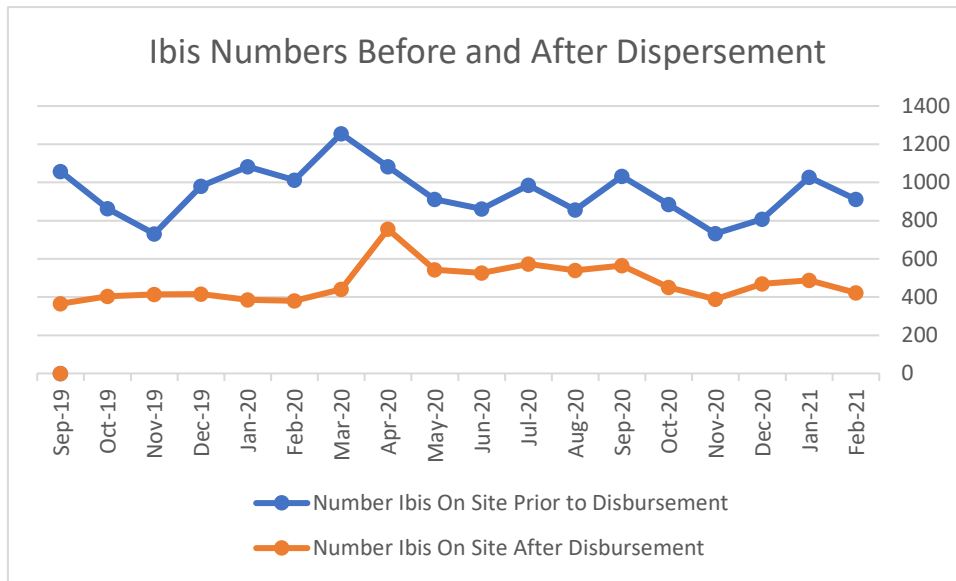
The May 2021 report from the wildlife management contractor stated that:

- Average initial ibis counts prior to harassment activities were 786.
- Average final counts of ibis were 463 after harassment activities.
- On average, ibis numbers were reduced by 41% per day during the harassment period. This compares to the average reductions of the previous three months which were 35%, 45%, and 54%.
- The main dispersal methods used were noodle, car, and whip.

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

	Number Ibis on Site Prior to Disbursement	Number Ibis on Site After Disbursement	Percentage Ibis Reduction After Disbursement
Nov-19	731	414	43
Dec-19	980	415	58
Jan-20	1083	385	65
Feb-20	1012	380	62
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
Dec-20	808	469	42
Jan-21	1028	487	53
Feb-21	911	422	54
Mar-21	716	392	45
Apr-21	628	407	35

May-21	786	463	41
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There were no complaints received regarding ibis during the March to May 2021 period.

W Cox reported seeing plenty of ibis in the air, but they haven't been causing nuisances.

3.5 Fire Ant Update

There were no fire ant issues at the site during March to May 2021.

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.

B Lee reported that of the five complaints made during the March to May 2021 period:

- One was from Group members
- One was from residents who had been previously invited.
- Two invitations were issued. (One of the complainants made two complaints)

3.7 Regular Friday Odour Reports

At the last meeting R Oakley was actioned to raise the issue and seek an explanation of regular Friday odour reports with operational staff. Oakley reported that he had done so, and he was told, and he has observed that there is no variation to operations on Fridays. He also enquired about whether there might be particularly malodorous loads coming in on Fridays and again couldn't establish this was the case.

W Cox advised they hadn't experienced many odour issues on Fridays since the last meeting (in late-March 2021).

4.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

4.1 Telecommunications Tower

The lease of a telecommunications tower on the landfill site but near Bayliss Road is being renewed. The tower is operated by Telstra. They have been approached by Optus who are seeking to put their own infrastructure on the tower. No agreement has yet been reached.

4.2 Construction of Cell 2E Phase 2

R Oakley reported that the contract to construct cell 2E phase 2 has been awarded. Those works, which primarily entail excavation and lining, are likely to commence in August 2021. It's possible there could be a little extra noise during excavation. There may be an opportunity to inspect the work during the next meeting of the Group in September 2021

5.0 CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING

The meeting closed at 1.30pm. Invitations and agendas for the next meeting in September 2021 will be issued in due course.

ATTACHMENT 1

