

Minutes

Browns Plains Landfill Community Consultative Group Meeting of 21 December 2021

ATTENDEES

R Oakley (Health Environment & Waste Branch - HEW)

B Lee (HEW)

W Cox (Community Representative)

1.0 APOLOGIES

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

A Straub, D McRae, 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 28 September 2021) were an accurate record.

3.0 BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 Landfill Odour

B Lee reported there have been 21 confirmed complaints in the last 12 months year compared to 42 for the previous 12-month period.

There were six odour complaints received during the three-month period of September to November 2021. This compared to seven for the same three-month period the previous year.

September 2021

There were two odour complaints and details were as follows:

- 24/09/21 – 3.40pm – Columbard PI Heritage Park – The tip face had previously been inspected at 2.00pm. A strong and persistent wind was observed from the North / North Easterly direction directly towards to the resident's street. The tip face was approximately 600 metres from the complainant's house. The area (pathway along St James Circuit) was inspected at approximately 3.30pm but no odour could be detected. The wind was observed to be towards the direction of the complainant's property, and it was likely that an odour nuisance could have occurred. The odour control system was inoperable at the time. The complainant was called at 4.35pm and immediately disconnected the call after answering. Another call was placed at 4.35 pm and a voicemail message was left with call back details to discuss this event further.

- 24/09/21 – 3.19pm - St James Cct Heritage Park – See above.

October 2021

There were three odour complaints and details were as follows:

- 20/10/21 – 4.50pm – Saint James Cct Heritage Park – An officer spoke to the complainant who advised that the smell has been persisting over the past few days. The officer advised that the recent inclement weather has resulted in significant disruption to operations which has contributed to the increased risk of odour nuisance. The resident was also advised that a new landfill cell is currently under construction and once complete some waste will be diverted to complete filling of other cells which will aid in reducing the likelihood of further odour issues. They were also informed about the current landfill position and projected landfilling direction in the near future.
- 22/10/21 – 1.45pm – The complainant's address was not obtained as complaint was made via Facebook message to the Divisional Councillor – Subsequent attempts to obtain the resident's address were unsuccessful. The persistent inclement weather this month has made it difficult to cover and control the landfilling area. This coupled with high temperatures and unfavourable wind conditions has led to a higher risk of odour nuisance for surrounding residents. The brief recent breaks in the weather have provided an opportunity to cover a significant portion of the exposed waste. The deodoriser system is operational, but the entire length of the line is currently not operational. This is due to the construction works associated with the stormwater management infrastructure, the system was re-instated and operational next day.
- 28/10/21 – 4.25pm – Lamberth Road East Heritage Park – An officer left site to drive to the locality. No smells were detectable on the way to or at the locality where he remained for approximately 5 minutes. The officer then called the resident who reported the smell had been bad the previous day. The officer explained that he had come round as soon as possible after the report and was unable to detect anything at the time. He then returned to site. Tipping and machinery activities had ceased for the day. A local odour was apparent at the tipping area but not detectable at the perimeter fence. There was a mild but constant breeze, it was more noticeable at the landfill and was certainly blowing towards the reporter's direction.

November 2021

There was one odour complaint received regarding the landfill during November 2021.

Details of the November 2021 complaints were as follows:

- 26/11/21 – 10.20am – Lamberth Rd East Heritage Park – Once the complaint was received the tip face area was immediately investigated. It was noted that there was persistent and breeze towards the complainant's residence. The de-odourising demister systems was activated along the southern boundary of the facility.

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. Operational efforts are being made to relocate to Cell 2E which will significantly increase the buffer distance until it is filled to the interim height.
- Malodorous waste is handled appropriately through special burials, if possible.
- When cover material is removed to expose old waste for landfilling, it is covered with fresh waste as soon as possible.

W Cox advised she has had a few bad odour days at her residence since the last meeting. She mentioned that Thursday 16 December 2021 was bad. She also noticed odour on a few days around 6 to 9 December 2021.

B Lee asked about her previous reports of experiencing odour issues on weekends and she reported that she had been occasional occurrences, but it had improved compared to earlier in the year.

R Oakley advised that odours would have been contributed to by recent wet weather. When waste gets drenched and hot weather follows, the degradation process is more rapid.

R Oakley used the site map in Attachment 1 to these minutes to show W Cox where tipping is currently being performed (stage 2B).

W Cox advised that she sometimes detects waste odours appearing to come from the west of her residence. She also asked if the odour control system had been running recently, as she hadn't smelt it. R Oakley confirmed that it was still being operated regularly as usual. He also asked W Cox to please report odours when as soon as practicable to permit investigation.

3.2 Environmental Performance

B Lee advised that the results of monitoring conducted at the Browns Plains Landfill in July 2021 were received in November 2021. The results did not indicate exceedances of any landfill licence conditions.

3.3 Department of Environment and Science (DES)

R Oakley advised that the only contact with DES during the last three months related to waste levy issues and the disposal of asbestos. There was no contact on environmental issues.

3.4 Ibis Update

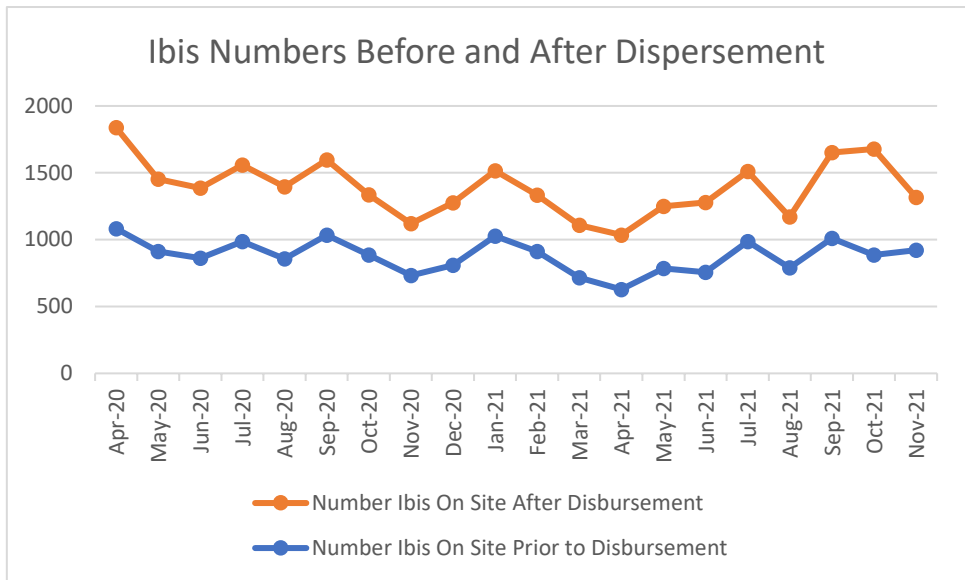
The November 2021 report from the wildlife management contractor stated that:

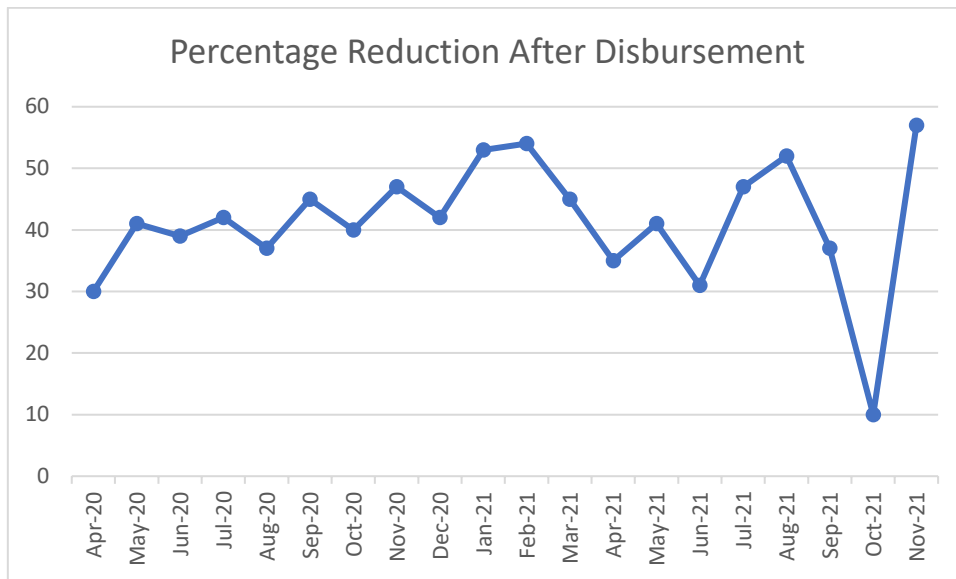
- Average initial ibis counts prior to harassment activities were 922.
- Average final counts of ibis were 394 after harassment activities.
- On average, ibis numbers were reduced by 57% per day during the harassment period. This compares unfavourably to the average reductions of the previous three months which were 10%, 37% and 52%.

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
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

	Number Ibis on Site Prior to Disbursement	Number Ibis on Site After Disbursement	Percentage Ibis Reduction After Disbursement
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
Jun-21	756	522	31
Jul-21	986	524	47
Aug-21	790	380	52
Sep-21	1011	640	37
Oct-21	885	793	10
Nov-21	922	394	57





There were no complaints received regarding ibis during the September to November 2021 period.

3.5 Fire Ant Update

There were no fire ant issues at the site during the September to November 2021 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.

During the September to November 2021 period there were six complaints and:

- Three were already members
- One had been previously invited
- One invitation was sent
- The other complaint was made via Facebook and no address was obtained.

4.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting concluded at 1.30pm.

ATTACHMENT 1

