

# Minutes

## Browns Plains Landfill Community Consultative Group Meeting held 4 February 2025

### ATTENDEES

R Oakley (Waste and Resource Recovery Branch)  
L Buffett (Waste and Resource Recovery Branch)  
A Alexander (Waste and Resource Recovery Branch)  
R Dewan (Waste and Resource Recovery Branch)  
W Cox (Community Representative)  
L Banks (Community Representative)  
J Ooms (Community Representative)  
A Priday (Community Representative)

### ITEM 1 – APOLOGIES

No apologies received.

### ITEM 2 – CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes from the previous meeting held 8 October 2024 were affirmed as a true and accurate record.

### ITEM 3 – BUSINESS ARISING

#### 3.1 Material Recovery Facility Project Update

R Oakley delivered an update regarding the forthcoming construction of the Greenovate Material Recovery Facility (MRF) located within Council's Browns Plains Waste & Recycling Facility.

Logan City Council, Ipswich City Council and Redland City Council formed a waste alliance to construct the MRF to manage recyclable materials collected from our region's residents. Browns Plains Waste & Recycle Facility was chosen because of its size, central location to all Councils, proximity to existing infrastructure, and appropriately zoned land ready to accommodate this type of facility.

The groundworks for the MRF commenced in November 2024. The target opening date is 2027.

L Banks inquired regarding noise levels. R Oakley informed that prior to the initiation of the project, an environmental noise survey was conducted and the audit report indicated that there would be no impact exceeding the existing noise levels. The recovery operations are conducted indoors and the construction of the MRF buildings will incorporate soundproofing materials.

L Banks enquired about the operational hours. R Oakley stated currently unable to answer this question, explaining that a response would be forthcoming when operational logistics and details have been determined.

J Ooms expressed concern related to traffic. R Oakley clarified that traffic management surveys have been undertaken to verify that the roads are suitable and can accommodate increase in traffic type and volume.

In summary, R Oakley acknowledged the concerns that have been expressed about potential noise and increasing traffic. It was clarified that detailed studies have been performed and further information that can be shared will be provided regarding the findings of these studies.

#### 3.2 Odour Complaints

R Dewan reported there was fourteen odour complaints received during the period of October – December 2024 (inclusive).

#### OCTOBER 2024

There was one odour complaint in October 2024 the details were as follows:

**19/10/2024 3:52pm – Bayliss Rd, Heritage Park**

Reporter informed officer of an odour experienced at their residence. As the landfilling operations on the weekend do not include the collection of wheelie bins from the community the risk of odour is generally reduced. Upon reviewing the weather data, the officer concluded that it supported an odour originating from the landfill operations. The reporter was also advised of the recent impact of weather events and the resultant increased risk of odours.

**NOVEMBER 2024**

There were eight odour complaints in November 2024 the details were as follows:

**5/11/2024 3:21pm - Hass Pl, Heritage Park**

Officer inspected the landfill operations area and activated the deodorising system. Following this, the officer then attended the reporter's residence to discuss the odour report. The reporter advised, whilst working from home, an odour had been detected. Being new to the area, the reporter was advised of the activities undertaken at the Browns Plains WRF along with the control measures in place to minimise impact on the surrounding community and environment. The reporter appreciated the increased likelihood of odour during unfavourable weather conditions.

**19/11/2024 2:56pm - Alrak Ave, Browns Plains**

The officer attended the reporter's residence on the following morning of the report and discussed the report. The weather data supported the odour report along with site conditions following rain events. The reporter acknowledged the increased possibility of odour with the operational impacts of the rain, intermittent hot days and unfavourable wind conditions.

**18/11/2024 8:23am – Bayliss Rd, Heritage Park**

Reporter informed officer of an odour experienced at their residence. The officer attended the area in the morning following report and could not detect an odour. Following the review of weather data at the time of the report, there was a possibility that the odour could have originated from the Browns Plains WRF.

**20/11/2024 9:56am - Saratoga St, Browns Plains**

The officer attended the reporter's residence on the day of the report but couldn't detect an odour at the time. The weather data supported the odour report along with site conditions following rain events. The officer explained the landfill operations and how the recent rain events impacted the site. The reporter acknowledged the increased possibility of odour with the operational impacts of the rain, intermittent hot days and unfavourable wind conditions.

**26/11/2024 2.28pm – Paul Dr, Regents Park**

Reporter contacted Local Member for support regarding odour being experienced at their residence. When this request was shared with the Waste and Resource Recovery (WRR) Branch, an officer contacted the reporter to discuss the events further. The reporter outlined concerns related to location of the landfill, health, the odour being widespread, as the reporter also identified it in Browns Plains the ineffectiveness of controls like the deodorising sprays and the remaining life of the landfilling unit. The officer outlined the recent unfavourable and persistent weather conditions that were difficult to compact during landfilling operations, for example, rain, intermittent hot days, unfavourable wind directions and speed, etc. The reporter was familiar with the controls at the site due to the previous visits/tours. The reporter was provided with contact details to reach the WRR Branch for any future odour reports.

#### **26/11/2024 4:11pm – Cr Frazer on behalf of Browns Plains State High school**

The report was acknowledged by an officer and site conditions were caused by the recent rainfall event and intermittent hot days were outlined. The officer outlined the controls the landfill operations team were implementing to combat the unfavourable conditions. The wind conditions supported the report and reports for any further issues were encouraged.

#### **27/11/2024 2:04pm – Unknown**

An officer called the reporter to discuss the report and outlined the typical landfilling operations and the activity that are more vulnerable to causing odour. The controls used at the Browns Plains Waste and Recycling Facility (WRF) were also explained and that the life of the Browns Plains WRF was dependent on the disposal volumes of waste. The weather data when reviewed also supported the odour report.

#### **30/11/2024 5:01pm – Hass Pl, Heritage Park**

An officer attended the reporter's residence after the report was received and a mild odour could be detected during wind gusts. The report was discussed with the reporter, and it was mentioned that the report was made when she attended the Browns Plains SHS. The officer explained how the recent weather events had negatively impacted the landfilling operations, increasing the likelihood of odour. The site constraints were acknowledged by the reporter.

### **DECEMBER 2024**

There were five odour complaints in December 2024 the details were as follows:

#### **03/12/2024 9:45am – Bayliss Rd, Heritage Park**

The officer attended the residence of the reporter during the morning of the day, the report was received. The officer could detect an occasional odour whilst walking around the street. The reporter was informed about the intense rainfall events the previous week and the resultant impact on the landfilling operations. The officer informed the reporter that the landfill operations team were working to reduce the landfilling footprint to minimise any impact.

#### **4/12/2024 9:41am – Hass Pl, Heritage Park**

The reporter contacted an officer and reported that an odour could be detected at their residence. As per the customer's request the odour suppressant system was activated. The reporter was aware of the unfavourable weather conditions and the operational impact resulting from it.

#### **10/12/2024 2:24pm – St James Ct, Heritage Park**

Attempts to contact the report were unsuccessful. The review of the weather data indicated there was a possibility of odour.

#### **23/12/2024 10:10am – Bayliss Rd, Heritage Park**

The reporter noted an odour at their residence. An officer attended the street of the reporter and could not detect an odour attributable to the landfilling operations. There was an organic mulch smell detected infrequently. The reporter noted the findings and suggested it could potentially be a neighbour fertilising their garden.

#### **28/12/2024 2.18pm – Bayliss Rd, Heritage Park**

The reporter notified an officer of an odour experienced at their property. The weather data supported the possibility of an odour. There was a reduced likelihood of this occurring on the weekend as the volume of

waste managed is reduced due to the domestic waste bins not being collected or disposed at the Browns Plains WRF on the day.

R Dewan stated October was the onset of warmer weather however, the site was fortunate to experience minimal rainfall, leading to just one odour complaint. November experienced prolonged and persistent rainfall, which made it challenging to control odour risks. The increased moisture in landfill waste during rainy weather contributed to the increased odorous emissions. In addition, waste that is accepted following rainfall tends to have a higher water content, which increases the risk of odour. To assist in reducing the odour, waste with high moisture content was covered with dry waste with the aim to keep the exposed landfill waste to a minimum. December brought rainfall however, fortunately not prolonged, this allows the landfill team to stay on top of landfill operations.

L Banks reported persistent unpleasant odour from BPWRF at the end of November, throughout December and continuing into the present. Furthermore, W Cox and A Priday have also expressed concerns regarding presence of a consistent strong and unpleasant smell.

R Oakley encouraged individuals to report any detected odours as soon as possible, at which point an officer, when available, will visit the property to carry out an investigation.

W Cox expressed concern reporting unpleasant odours after 5pm Friday's. W Cox was advised that while the message will be noted, no action will be taken until the Monday during business hours. R Oakley indicated that these reports should be directed to the on-call officer, who is available 24/7, including after business hours. While no operational team members are on site after 5.30 pm, the Waste On Call officer can record details and then action the next day, including weekends, when team members are on site. **ACTION:** L Buffett to ensure after hours calls are directed to on-call-officer.

L Banks and W Cox enquired whether odour control sprays are still being utilised within the facility to neutralise and eliminate unpleasant odours. W Cox mentioned that the chemical solution is no longer detectable. R Oakley confirmed that the odour spray system remains operational and will check to ensure it is functioning properly.

### 3.3 Environmental Performance

Environmental monitoring and sampling were conducted as per the requirements of the Landfill Environmental Monitoring Program (LEMP) that is a condition of the site Environmental Authority, sampling included:

- Q4 sampling round has been completed by the Environmental Monitoring Consultants and reports received. No reported concern.
- Q1 2025 environmental monitoring at all sites was conducted in January 2025.

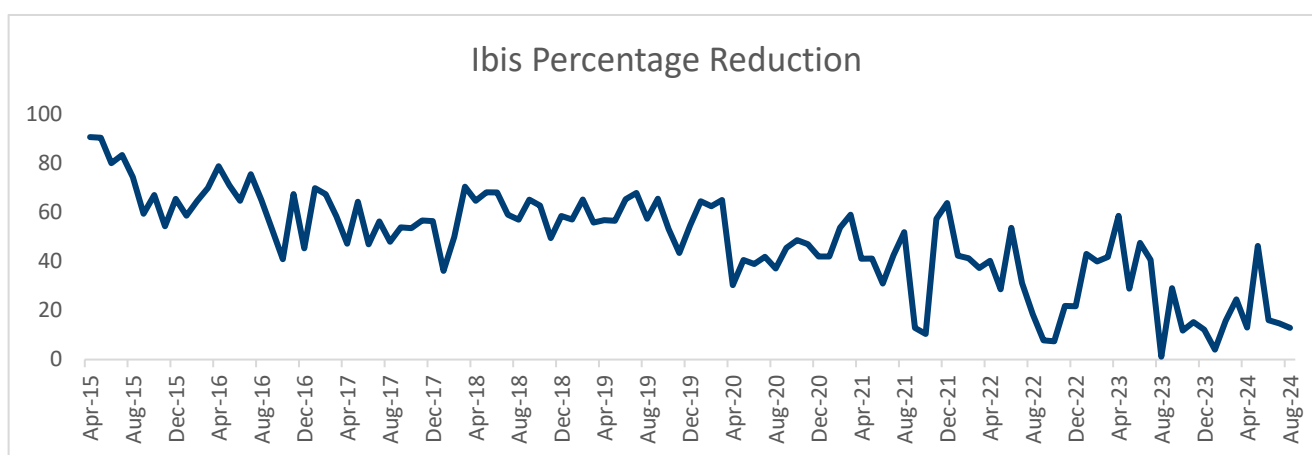
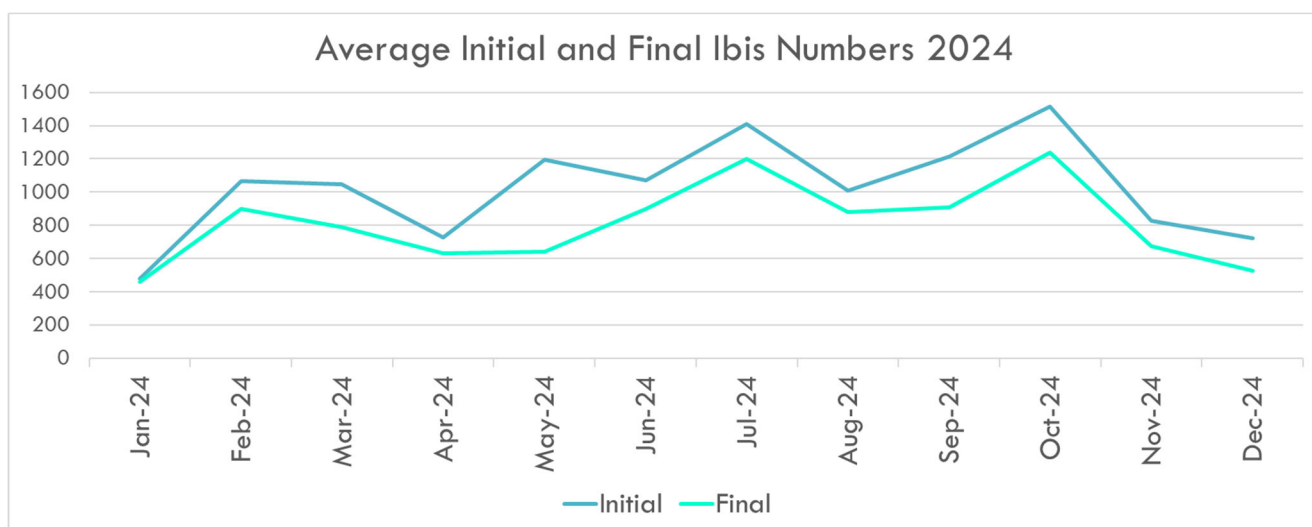
### 3.4 Department of Environment, Tourism and Science

No visits or inspections from the regulator (DETSI) were conducted at the Browns Plains in the last quarter. Council received correspondence from DETSI inviting a response to a community report that DETSI had received concerning odours alleged to have arisen from the landfill operations. An investigation into the report has been completed and the findings included in a response back to the regulator.

### 3.5 Ibis Update

There were no complaints received regarding ibis from October to December 2024 (inclusive).

- Average initial ibis counts prior to harassment activities December 2024 was 814
- Initial ibis numbers observed at Browns Plains Landfill in December were 12.7% lower than in November 2024
- Harassment events resulted in the dispersal of approximately 26.6% of ibis from site
- The average reduction across 9 days in December was 192 ibis per day.
- Zero roosting activity was observed onsite during December 2024



### 3.6 Fire Ant Update

A compliance officer from the National Fire Ant Eradication Program inspected the Browns Plains WRF in January 2025 to view site control measures and obtain information and details on the movement of materials in and out of site. Requested data and information has been provided and there were no actions arising from the inspection.

### 3.7 Invitations to Odour Complainants

Nil

## **Item 4 – GENERAL BUSINESS**

Nil

**Next Meeting** – To be scheduled April 2025.