

# Minutes

## Browns Plains Landfill Community Consultative Group Meeting held 29 April 2025

### ATTENDEES

R Oakley (Waste and Resource Recovery Branch)  
R Dewan (Waste and Resource Recovery Branch)  
M Ooi (Waste and Resource Recovery Branch)  
M Asnicar (Waste and Resource Recovery Branch)  
A Alexander (Waste and Resource Recovery Branch)  
W Cox (Community Representative)  
A Priday (Community Representative)  
G Warhurst (Community Representative)  
L Boyd (Community Representative)

### ITEM 1 – APOLOGIES

L Banks (Community Representative)  
J Ooms (Community Representative)

### ITEM 2 – CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes from the previous meeting held February 2025 were affirmed as a true and accurate record.

### ITEM 3 – BUSINESS ARISING

#### 3.1 Material Recovery Facility (MRF) Project Update

M. Asnicar provided an update regarding the MRF project and addressed queries raised during the last meeting held in February 2025, which pertained to noise, traffic and operational hours.

During the design phase of the Materials Recovery Facility, a range of technical studies were undertaken including noise and traffic assessment.

#### **Noise –**

A noise impact assessment for the new Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) was undertaken to ensure compliance with appropriate noise limits. The construction of the MRF facility must be conducted in a way that ensures compliance with noise limits. The assessment concluded that noise compliance is expected to be achieved.

- W. Cox inquired about the procedures in case of noise-related issues. M. Asnicar responded that if noise levels exceed the licence limits, there are additional measures available to address noise issues.

#### **Traffic –**

The traffic assessment identified a 2% increase in traffic in and out of the site based on the existing volume once the MRF is operational. Furthermore, it is likely there will be a reduction in commercial waste vehicles visiting the site throughout the week offsetting additional vehicle movements associated with the MRF.

#### **Hours of Operation –**

It is anticipated the MRF operating hours will align with normal business hours of the site – i.e. 7am – 5:30pm, but any evening operations must also be undertaken in a way that complies with noise limits.

M Asnicar advised that properties located within a 600-meter radius from the MRF project site should have received a community update flyer notifying them of works, distributed in late 2024.

- Community representatives raised their dissatisfaction and concerns about not receiving the flyer and believe it should have been sent to a wider radius.

W. Cox inquired about the sources of funding for the MRF project.

- M. Asnicar responded the facility is being jointly funded by the Australian Government, Queensland Government and the Logan, Ipswich and Redland City Councils under the SEQ City Deal initiative.

A. Priday asked what happens to the recyclable materials after collection and sorting at MRF.

- M. Asnicar responded that the sorted recyclable materials will be sold to off takers for reuse and remanufacturing. There may also be opportunities to supply recycled materials to local industries to enhance local economy.

L. Boyd asked what currently happens to recyclable materials collected from our region's residents.

- M. Asnicar responded that these recyclables are presently sent to a facility in Brisbane City managed by Visy. However, due to the fast growth in South East Queensland, this facility will not have the capacity to handle the increasing volume of recyclables being produced over time. This is one of the reasons why two new Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) are under construction – one in the Sunshine Coast and one here in Logan City.

G. Warhurst inquired about the storage of recyclables product collected if no buyers.

- M. Asnicar responded that a bale storage unit is part of the MRF but that the contractor cannot allow materials to pile up, they must be removed from site regularly.

G. Warhurst inquired whether the new growth was included in the City's waste volume assessment.

- M. Asnicar responded that the MRF was designed with extra processing capacity to accommodate growth over a 20-year period, taking into account that increased population would result in a higher volume of recyclable materials.

R. Oakley noted that the construction of the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) is currently in progress. The ground has been now levelled. The next phase involves construction of the facility from the ground up, which is anticipated to begin in the coming weeks subject to weather conditions. Additionally, the internal site road infrastructure will be modified to accommodate access to and from the facility, including alterations to the internal roads. This is currently in the planning phase and will not impact areas outside the facility. Work is anticipated to begin in a few months. Furthermore, modifications to the site weighbridge are scheduled to take place over the next 5-6 weeks.

### 3.2 Odour Complaints

R Dewan reported there was 15 odour complaints received to Waste Service during the period of January 2025 to March 2025 (inclusive). It was noted that there has been an unfortunate amount of rainfall over the past few months, and subsequent attempts at recovery were hindered by additional rainfall, resulting in moisture accumulation in waste. This, combined with prevailing heat and wind conditions, has led to numerous complaints regarding odours. A summary of these complaints is provided below.

G Warhurst raised a question regarding the actions taken to alleviate odours for the community after rainfall and whether there are opportunities for improvement.

Also stated that he had called to report a landfill odour complaint in March 2025 during after-hours, but the phone operator informed him that no staff were present at the waste facility, which meant that no immediate action could be taken, and his contact information was not collected. He expressed his disappointment regarding the absence of a solution and the failure to capture his contact details, raising concerns that others might be facing similar challenges reporting odour complaints.

- R. Oakley responded that we minimise odour risks through various methods, including waste covering and alternative waste management techniques for materials that are known to generate stronger odours. Unfortunately, wet weather conditions worsen the situation by adding additional moisture to the waste. To manage this, we cover the waste as thoroughly and promptly as possible during expected or actual rainfall to assist in containing odours. Additionally, we activate odour demister solutions that help mask any unpleasant odours. These odour reduction methods have their limitations. In response to concerns about calls made outside of standard business hours, the phone operator should at a minimum gather the details of the residents. Council will reach out to the call centre to ensure that operators are reminded to document this information and forward it to the Waste Services team for further action.

G. Warhurst recommended reaching out our Regulator for advice if any other avenues to reduce odours.

- R. Oakley responded that the landfill odours are not consistently present, suggest that our implemented methods are effective in mitigating odours; however, there are instances, particularly during wet weather, when these methods don't work as effectively, as evidenced by the complaints we have received. We are always open to further recommendations.

W. Cox inquired if there are any additional measures that can be taken regarding night-time odour concerns.

G. Warhurst proposed an alternative method for reporting an odour complaint, suggesting the addition of a link on the Council's website or other platforms instead of contacting Customer Service on 3412 3412.

G. Warhurst further suggested that the Council initiate a campaign focused on decreasing the volume of organic waste directed to the landfill by promoting the use of compost bins and worm farms among residents. Additionally, residents should be reminded of the Council's composting rebate.

- M. Asnicar highlighted past marketing strategies aimed at reducing food waste through various media platforms. The proposal for additional marketing efforts has been noted for further evaluation.

G. Warhurst stated his intention to create a dedicated URL page for odour complaints on the '4118 Neighbourhood' Facebook page and to share the collected information with the Council or during the upcoming meeting if beneficial.

- M. Asnicar responded we don't discourage people reporting their concerns, and that such information will be acknowledged.

Summary of odour complaints received during the period of January 2025 to March 2025 (inclusive):

#### January 2025

There were four odour complaint in January 2025 the details were as follows:

##### **20/01/2025 9.30pm – Bayliss Road, Heritage Park**

Reporter informed officer of an odour experienced at their residence the following morning. Upon reviewing the weather data and site operations, 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 inter and the resultant increased risk of odours.

##### **21/01/2025 3.15pm – Lamberth Road, East Heritage Park**

The weather data was reviewed, and the wind direction and speeds supported the odour arising from the landfill operations. The officer inspected the street and could notice a slight odour with wind gusts. Odour suppression sprays were activated for the evening.

##### **21/01/2025 1.00pm – Crenton Court, Regents Park**

The weather data was reviewed, and the wind direction and speeds supported the odour arising from the landfill operations. The officer inspected the street and could notice a slight odour with wind gusts. Odour suppression sprays were activated for the evening.

##### **24/01/2025 1.31pm – Bayliss Road, Heritage Park**


Reporter informed officer of an odour experienced at their residence. Council officer identified that cover material was being removed at the landfilling area to ensure there was sufficient room for landfilling. This activity does have a higher likelihood of causing odour and was scheduled for earlier in the day during more favourable conditions but had to be delayed due to mechanical issues to machinery. The officer confirmed with the reporter that the activity had been completed, and the landfilling area further covered to reduce the likelihood of odour during the long weekend. The officer walked inspected the reporter's street and could not detect an odour, but the reporter mentioned that the odour seemed to be trapped in their backyard

#### February 2025

There were three odour complaints in February 2025 the details were as follows:

##### **05/02/2025 11.00am – Paul Drive, Regents Park**

Officer inspected the landfill operations area to identify the potential cause of the odour report. It was noted that the landfilling footprint had to be expanded due to the reduced compaction as a result of mechanical issues for the



Compactor. The reporter's street was inspected in the early afternoon and no odour could be detected. A review of weather data captured at the Browns Plains WRF supported the possibility of odour nuisance between 11.00am to 1.00pm. A voicemail was left for the reporter detailing the finding of the investigation.

**14/02/2025 2.20pm – Bayliss Road, Heritage Park**

The officer was advised by the reporter that an odour could be detected from the landfilling operations. The officer enquired with the landfill operations team and was advised that cover was being applied to the exposed waste to reduce the footprint ahead of the weekend to minimise the likelihood of odour. This was acknowledged by the reporter.

**15/02/2025 6.39pm – Bayliss Road, Heritage Park**

Reporter advised the officer that an odour was experienced at their residence. The wind conditions supported the possibility of odour from the landfilling operations towards the resident.

**18/02/2025 12.58pm – Bayliss Road, Heritage Park**

Reporter contacted officer to advise that an odour could be detected at their residence. The officer inspected the street at 1.31pm and could not identify an odour. The reporter confirmed that it was not being experienced at the time of the inspection. The wind direction and speed supported the possibility of odour from the landfilling operations to the reporter's residence.

March 2025

There were eight odour complaints in March 2025 the details were as follows:

**12/03/2025 9.00pm – Myola Street, Browns Plains**

The officer reviewed the weather station data and identified that there was little to no wind and some slight wind gusts from the Browns Plains WRF towards the reporter's residence. The likelihood of odour was significantly increased due to the impacts of Ex. Cyclone Alfred. This was due to the large rainfall volumes, increased waste deposition and the intermittent hot days.

**13/03/2025 8.50am – Tarango Place, Heritage Park**

The reporter notified Council of the odour experienced and advised that it subsided soon after. An officer reviewed the weather conditions observed at the Browns Plains WRF and it supported the possibility of odour at the time of the report.

**15/03/2025 10.10am – Tarango Place, Heritage Park**

An officer spoke with the reporter and confirmed that the weather conditions support odour from the Browns Plains WRF to the reporter's residence. The officer explained that the likelihood of odour had significantly increased following Ex. Tropical Cyclone Alfred that delivered a significant amount of rain that has disrupted landfilling operations. The waste volume increase because of the event has also led to a proportional increase in exposed waste. The landfilling operations have been further compromised by machinery breakdowns. The reporter was advised that machinery was expected to become available shortly and some more favourable weather will aid in minimising the likelihood of odours. The officer also confirmed that the reporter's online odour reports were successfully submitted and confirmed that process to report odour using the after-hours service. The reporter was also advised that if they drove to the facility and advised of odour nuisance, the team would act on the information and investigate further.

**16/03/2025 11.30am – Tarango Place, Heritage Park**

An officer spoke with the reporter and confirmed that the weather conditions support odour from the Browns Plains WRF to the reporter's residence. The officer explained that the likelihood of odour had significantly increased following Ex. Tropical Cyclone Alfred that delivered a significant amount of rain that has disrupted landfilling operations. The waste volume increase because of the event has also led to a proportional increase in exposed waste. The

landfilling operations have been further compromised by machinery breakdowns. The reporter was advised that machinery was expected to become available shortly and some more favourable weather will aid in minimising the likelihood of odours. The officer also confirmed that the reporter's online odour reports were successfully submitted and confirmed that process to report odour using the after-hours service. The reporter was also advised that if they drove to the facility and advised of odour nuisance, the team would act on the information and investigate further.

#### **18/03/2025 8.00pm – Mayfair Drive, Browns Plains**

The Reporter's notification was received on 19/03/2025 and the Council officer visited the site in similar wind conditions, but an odour could not be detected. The officer called and spoke with the reporter who confirmed that the odour was experienced on the previous night, and it was presently not an issue but is intermittent with wind conditions. The officer acknowledged that recent weather events and wind conditions had increased the likelihood of odour events. The officer explained the impacts from Ex. Cyclone Alfred for the landfilling operations, coupled with the machinery issues that were experienced. The officer mentioned that the de-odourising sprays have been activated as an interim measure and weather forecast was expected to improve. The reporter mentioned that they wanted to report the issue and would appreciate if something can be done about it.

#### **24/03/2025 4.59pm – Doncaster Street, Heritage Park**

An officer inspected the reporter's street and some surrounding streets and could not detect an odour. When the officer spoke with the reporter, they mentioned that this has been a consistent issue since Ex. Cyclone Alfred struck. The wind observations from the weather station data at the Browns Plains WRF did not support all of the reported days for odour experienced at the reporter's residence arising from the Browns Plains WRF. The officer did acknowledge that the impacts from Ex. Cyclone Alfred have increased the likelihood of odour from the Browns Plains WRF. The reporter appreciated the issues that weather/rain events can cause, especially with intermittent hot days. Green waste was raised as another possible source at the Browns Plains WRF, the inspection, disposal, processing and removal process was outlined for the reporter and the practices to minimise the likelihood of inappropriate disposals into the stockpile. The officer mentioned the anticipated weather event on the upcoming weekend and the forecast was expected to improve thereafter. The reporter was glad the issues was being investigated.

#### **26/03/2025 10.02am – Furzer Street, Browns Plains**

Council officer spoke with the reporter who had recently moved into the neighbourhood about landfilling operations and the activity that increase the likelihood of odour along with controls implemented at the site. The reporter was advised that the landfilling operations are presently towards the centre of the site to provide the greatest possible buffer to neighbours. The officer acknowledged that the recent rain with Ex. Cyclone Alfred, unfavourable wind conditions and intermittent hot days have increased the likelihood of odour. The reporter enquired if the landfill was going to be moved, the officer explained that Council will continue landfilling operations till airspace for the landfilling unit is exhausted. Council has approached industry previously about alternative waste management options and may do so again. The reporter was appreciative of the call and efforts towards reducing odour.

#### **30/03/2025 8.20pm – Tarrango Place, Heritage Park**

The wind directions observations recorded by the weather station at the site do not support the odour originating from the Brown Plains WRF towards to the reporter's residence.

### 3.3 Environmental Performance

No visits from regulator since February 2025.

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:

- Q1 2025 environmental monitoring at the sites was conducted by the Environmental Monitoring Consultants and Council is awaiting reports.

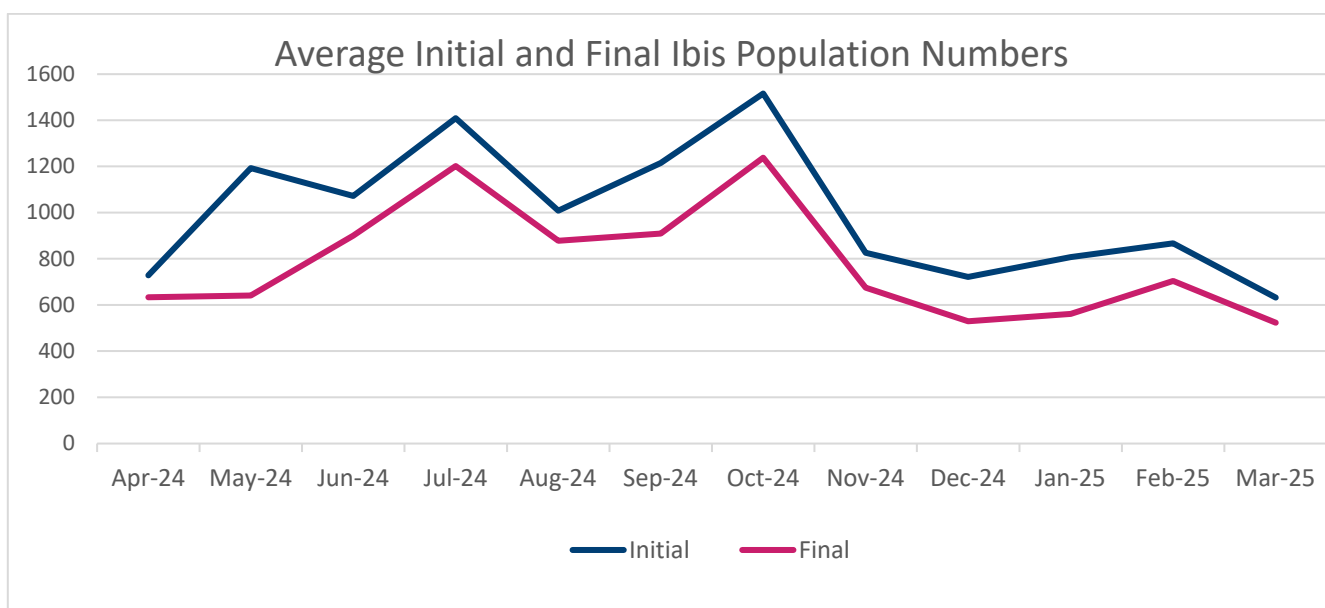
### 3.4 Department of Environment, Tourism and Science

The regulator (DETSI) was provided frequent updates during before, during and after Ex. Tropical Cyclone impacted the Browns Plains Waste and Recycling Facility. Provisional applications were made to DETSI for allowances to accept waste from the storm event clean-up efforts, if the waste quantity exceeded the site's threshold. This resulted in the regulator attending site but the application was subsequently withdrawn when the expected quantities did not materialise.

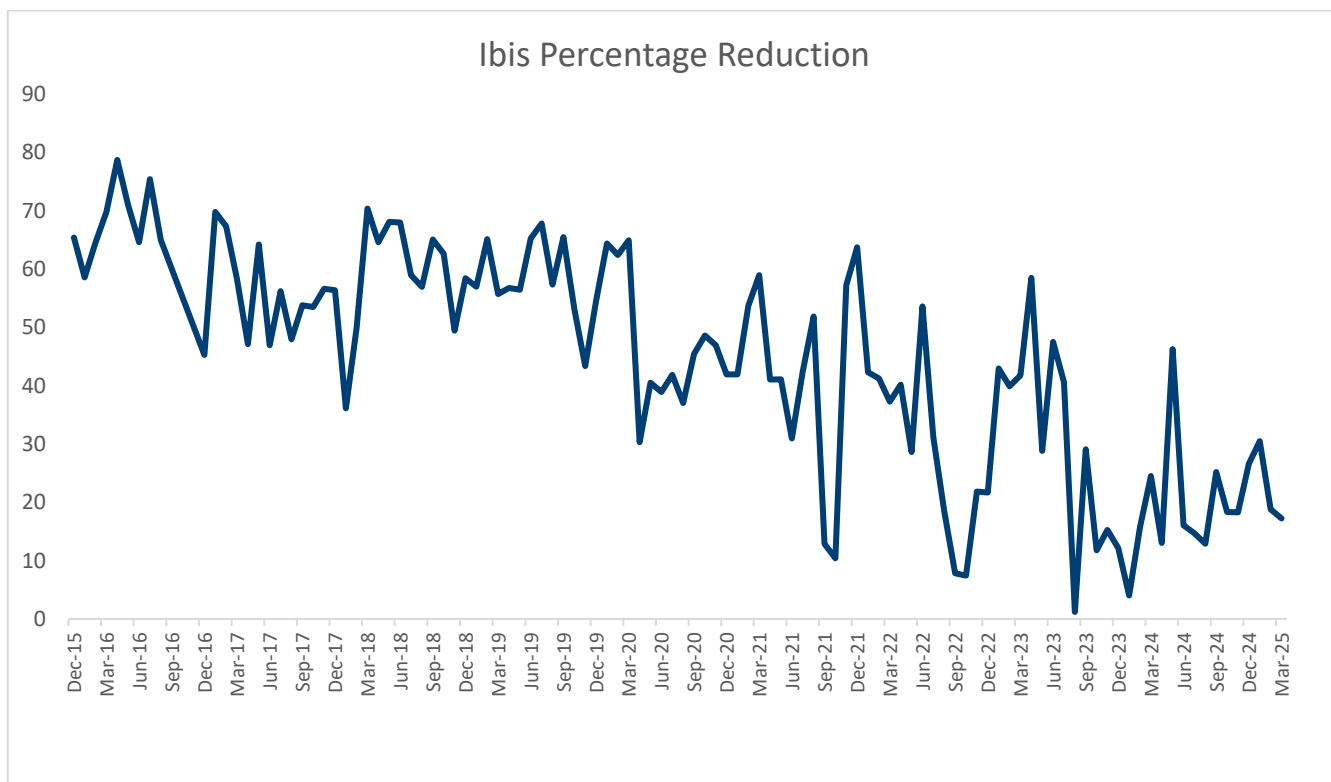
### 3.5 Ibis Update

There were no complaints received regarding ibis from January to March 2025 (inclusive).

- Average initial ibis counts prior to harassment activities March 2025 were 413
- Initial ibis numbers observed at Browns Plains Landfill in March were 27.0% lower than in February 2025.
- Harassment events resulted in the dispersal of approximately 17.2% of ibis from site.
- The average reduction across 12 days in March was 109 ibis per day.
- Zero roosting activity was observed onsite during March 2025







### 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. We continue to report any or suspected fire ant nests.

### 3.7 Invitations to Odour Complainants

Nil.

W. Cox raised concerns that the individuals who reported the new odour did not receive invitations to the meeting for our attention. Acknowledged residents should receive an invitation.

## **Item 4 – GENERAL BUSINESS**

- Concerns regarding inconsistencies in waste disposal charges at various locations and times have been expressed.
- G. Warhurst inquired whether we are willing to accept loads of bentonite materials for use in landfill coverage, similar to our use of clay. R. Dewan replied that we do not possess the necessary licensing for accepting liquid waste from vacuum excavations but may be a consideration for future for dry material.
- W. Cox shared a Facebook comment concerning a landfill odour on behalf of another resident for acknowledgement.

**Next Meeting** – To be scheduled July/August 2025.

Meeting concluded at 11:35pm.