

Minutes

Browns Plains Landfill Community Consultative Group Meeting held 20 November 2025

ATTENDEES

M Asnicar (Waste and Resource Recovery Branch)
R Dewan (Waste and Resource Recovery Branch)
A Alexander (Waste and Resource Recovery Branch)
W Cox (Community Representative)
L Banks (Community Representative)
A Oghaz (Community Representative)

ITEM 1 – WELCOME & APOLOGIES

All attendees were welcomed to the meeting.
Apologies were received from R Oakley (Waste and Resource Recovery Branch).

ITEM 2 – CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes from the previous meeting held 29 July 2025 were affirmed as a true and accurate record.

ITEM 3 – BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 Material Recovery Facility (MRF) Project Update

M Asnicar provided a brief overview of the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) project. The construction of the MRF is progressing well and remains on schedule, situated behind the transfer station, with an anticipated additional six months of construction ahead.

It was reiterated that the MRF facility will process mixed recyclables materials from household recycling bins, but it will not handle putrescible waste.

More information and project updates can be found on Council's website [Greenovate Material Recovery Facility](#).

3.2 Odour Complaints

R Dewan reported there was 1 odour report received during the period of July 2025 to October 2025 (inclusive).

Summary of odour complaints July 2025 to October 2025 (inclusive):

July 2025

There were no odour reports in July 2025.

August 2025

There were no odour reports in August 2025.

September 2025

There were no odour reports in September 2025.

October 2025

There was one odour report in October 2025, the details are outlined below.

12 October 2025 – Paul Drive, Regents Park

Following the review of data from the on-site weather station, the possibility of odour nuisance being caused from the Browns Plains WRF was supported. The wind direction was consistently from the North-East from approximately 10am and the wind speed was relatively high.

Although the distance to the landfill area was about 1,700 metres and the exposed area facing in the Southern direction, the atmospheric conditions coupled with high air temperature with a maximum of 34°C increased the likelihood of odour.

General Discussion on Odour Observations

W Cox mentioned that she has noticed a slight odour since 1:45pm on the day of this meeting. Additionally, she stated that, in recent months, the detection of odours has significantly improved compared to the previous period.

A Oghaz mentioned on few occasions that she noticed an odour; however, it was only minor and therefore she did not report it to the Council. This was particularly noted on rainy days.

She also agreed with W Cox's comment, noting that she had not detected many odours relative to the previous period.

Landfill Site Management Strategy

R Dewan outlined the strategy for managing the tip face during Christmas, New Year, and summer. Landfilling works earlier in the year were staged to create a low topographical area within the landfill. The topography was kept as low as possible in this area for the upcoming holiday period to minimise the likelihood of odour reaching the site perimeter. This approach helps with wind management and makes it easier to cover and maintain the site by limiting exposed waste to a single face. If the weather stays favourable, the exposed area should be minimal. However, substantial rainfall is common during this time, making it difficult to source dry cover materials. Rain infiltration can also increase odour risk and complicate management efforts. While recovery from a single day of rain is usually quick, several consecutive rainy days present significant challenges.

3.3 Environmental Performance

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

- Q2 2025 full analysis results and monitoring reports were generally consistent with previous monitoring rounds.
- Q3 2025 environmental monitoring round at the Browns Plains site, and all other required sites, was conducted by the Environmental Monitoring Consultants. All environmental monitoring locations at the Browns Plains Waste and Recycling Facility were successfully sampled and preliminary results were consistent with previous monitoring rounds. Full analysis results and monitoring reports are expected to be received in November.
- Q4 2025 fieldwork for the environmental monitoring was completed late in October 2025. All locations were successfully sampled at the Browns Plains Waste and Recycling Facility. The monitoring reports will be available to Council once laboratory and data are completed.

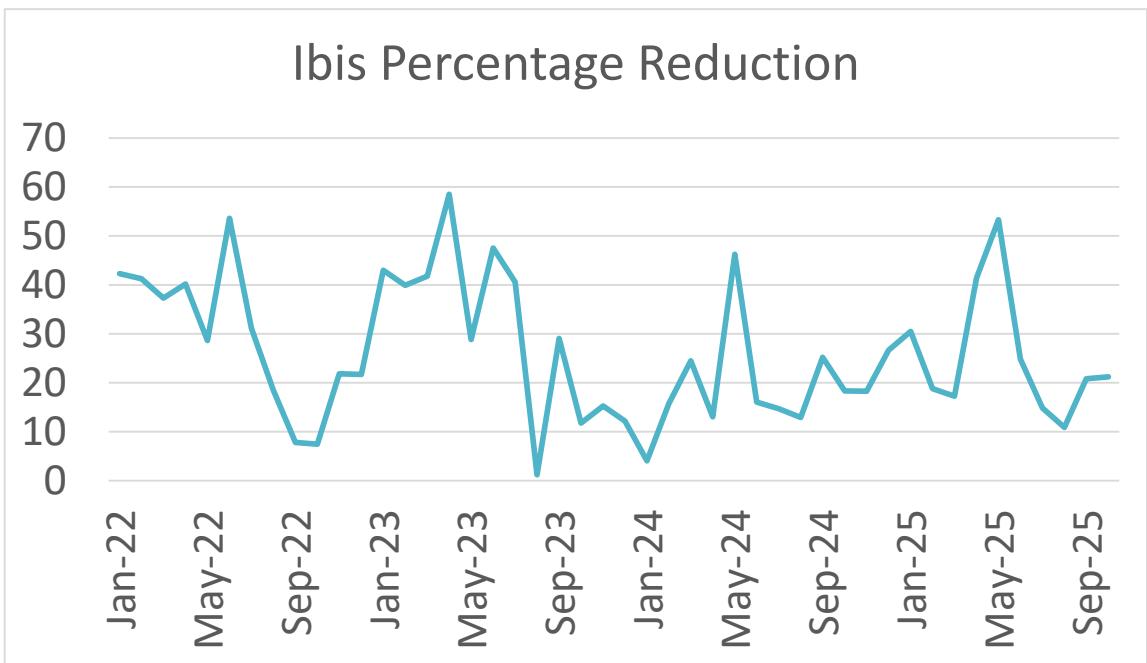
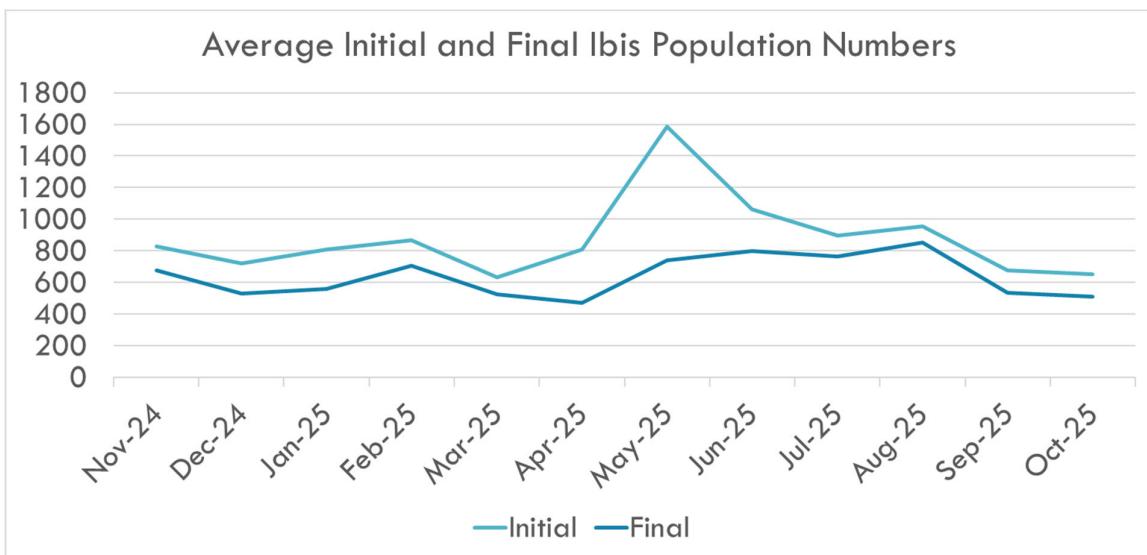
3.4 Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation

The regulator (DETSI) has been provided with the regular monthly data files relating to deposits of waste at the Browns Plains landfill to ensure compliance with payment of the Qld Waste Levy. Drone surveying was also undertaken at the end of June. This end of year survey provides a volumetric survey that is used to determine the changes that have occurred at the site in the past year, which must correlate with the weighbridge data and records of waste deposits and Resource Recovery Area movements. The data from the volumetric survey has been submitted to DETSI.

3.5 Ibis Update

There were no complaints received regarding ibis from July to October 2025 (inclusive).

- The average initial ibis counts prior to dispersal activities in October 2025 were 789 ibis.
- The average reduction across 14 days in October was 138 ibis per day.
- Initial ibis numbers observed at Browns Plains Landfill in October were 42% lower than in September 2025.
- Harassment events resulted in the dispersal of approximately 21% of ibis from site.
- Zero roosting activity was observed on-site during July, August, September and October 2025.
- Only approximately 19.2% of the ibis remaining onsite following dispersal activities were actively feeding on the tip face.



General Discussion on Ibis

L Bank noted a positive update, stating that she has not seen any Ibis in Charlton Park within Regents Park since it was mentioned at the previous meeting.

3.6 Fire Ant Update

The Branch has continued to inspect, report and treat any instances of suspected fire ants for action. In early September, suspected fire ant nests were identified in areas of the Logan Recycling Market (LRM) and the concrete stockpile area. These suspected sites were treated on the same day and when reviewed a week later, the treatment was found to be effective.

3.7 Invitations to Odour Complainants

Council continues to send invitations by post and email to residents who have reported odour issues, encouraging them to join the meeting.

ITEM 4 – GENERAL BUSINESS

- During the last meeting, W Cox expressed concern about a strong and sickening odour, described as 'gas like', and questioned whether this could be caused by gas escaping from the landfill extraction wells.
 - R Dewan outlined measures to prevent gas leaks from landfill wells, noting that the contractor conducts bi-weekly inspections to ensure efficient operation and no gas escapes. Wells are regularly tuned to maintain optimal gas concentration for bacterial activity. If a leak occurs, oxygen entry triggers an automatic system shutdown to ensure safety. These safeguards and checks help quickly identify and resolve issues, minimising odour or gas leakage risks.
- W Cox noted observing an LMS Energy vehicle present on the street
 - R Dewan informed the group that a tender process is currently underway because the existing Landfill Gas Agreement is approaching its end. Several landfill biogas companies have shown interest in the new contract. These companies have visited the site to inspect the current gas extraction setup and may also inspect the surrounding areas as part of their evaluation process.
- Additionally, R Dewan reported that a number of new gas vertical wells have been installed since the last meeting, along with new lateral extraction lines, to further enhance the capture capacity of landfill gas.
- W Cox highlighted that the persistent odour noted previously has not been detected since the last meeting.
- L Banks requested clarification regarding the duration of the Waste Collection Services Contract with Cleanaway, as well as expressed inconsistencies in bin emptying times during scheduled collection days.
 - In response, M Asnicar stated that the contract with Cleanaway has been established for a minimum term of eight years. Variations in the bin emptying schedule result from necessary route adjustments to accommodate the City's ongoing growth and the time of day that bins are emptied can change from week to week depending on operational issues and route adjustments.

Next Meeting – To be scheduled in February 2026

Meeting concluded at 4:10pm