

Minutes

Browns Plains Landfill Community Consultative Group Meeting on 19 June 2024 at 9am

ATTENDEES

LCC Waste and Resource Recovery Branch – R Oakley (RO), L Buffett (LB), R Dewan (RD), A Alexander (AA)
Community Representatives – W Cox (WC), J Ooms (JO)

1.0 APOLOGIES

P Jackson (Division 5 Councillor)

2.0 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes from the previous meeting held on 14 March 2024 were confirmed as a true and correct record.

3.0 BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 Landfill Odour

LB reported there were 10 odour complaints received during the period of March to May 2024 (inclusive).

March 2024

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

18/03/2024 11:35:13 AM - Tarrango PI Heritage Park

Officer contacted reporter for details. Reporter raised that odours were worse in the morning. Officer explained unfavourable weather conditions and actions being taken to reduce exposed waste. Odour abatement system to be activated. Landfill was likely to be cause of this report.

April 2024

There were five odour complaints, and the details were as follows:

05/04/2024 08:29:43 AM - Leanne St Marsden

Upon receipt of the report, the officer attended tipping area and locality. No odours were detected at the time. Local resident (not the reporter) advised officer no odours noticed. Weather conditions and distance from tipping area suggest the landfill was unlikely to be the cause of this report.

08/04/2024 10:50:24 Am - Tarrango PI Heritage Park

Prevailing weather conditions and recent rain had hindered the safe covering of exposed waste and increased the likelihood of odours occurring. Landfill likely causes of escaping odours.

18/04/2024 04:56:26 Pm - Tarrango PI Heritage Park

Unfortunately, the time of the report prevented the activation of the odour abatement system. Weather conditions and prevailing wind conditions suggest landfill was a possible cause of the odour.

18/04/2024 03:02:17 Am – Anonymous

Anonymous complaint with limited detail. Weather conditions and prevailing wind conditions suggest landfill was a possible cause of the odour.

23/04/2024 11:19:20 Am - 15 Chelsea Ct Heritage Park

Officer contacted reporter and explained operations at the site had been hindered due to unfavourable weather conditions that prevented the safe application of cover material. Officer also explained the control measures that were used to reduce the risk of odours escaping. Landfill was the likely source of this report (similar to others around the same period).

May 2024

There were four odour complaints and details were as follows:

02/05/2024 11:56:16 AM - Berkley Dr Browns Plains

Officer visited the reporter at the address - no odour detected at time of visit. Reporter indicated that odours were detected occasionally and when wind conditions are not favourable. Officer explained odour risk reduction methods that were used at site, including the odour abatement system that was activated on the afternoon. Landfill possible cause of odour.

10/05/2024 11:40:22 Am - Ivor St Browns Plains

Officer spoke with reporter who advised odour had been detected throughout the week. Plant mechanical issues had reduced the efficiency and effectiveness of the waste covering process and therefor had increased the risk of odour escape. Improved weather had permitted operations to now catch up and reporter acknowledged an improvement. Contact numbers provided. Landfill likely source of odours on this occasion.

10/05/2024 01:45:32 Pm - Mayfair Dr Browns Plains

Officer contacted the reporter and left a message explaining that the prevailing weather and wind conditions are likely to have resulted in odours escaping the site in the direction of their address. Officer explained the control measures used to reduce the risk of escaping odours. Invite to be sent to future Community Group meeting.

31/05/2024 04:12:32 Pm - Tarrango Pl Heritage Park

Officer contacted the reporter who advised no odour was currently detectable (4:45 pm) but certainly detectable around time of report (1:15 pm). Officer explained that recent rain and having to open the tipping floor likely resulted in the escape of odours. The wind in the direction of the reported points toward the landfill being the source of this odour report.

WC raised concern of recurring unpleasant nauseating landfill odour (like gas), particular noticeable early morning between 5am-6am and in the evening from 6pm onwards. Stated not an everyday odour and advised not smelt in last couple weeks.

Following **WC** report, **RO** affirmed Browns Plains Waste & Recycling Facility is not operating at these hours and believe may be related to environmental and weather condition i.e. air pressure and temperature inversion.

ACTION: RO/RD to investigate and review air pressure data.

RD added maybe due to recent wet period causing moisture in landfill. The presence of moisture (unsaturated conditions) in a landfill increases gas production because it encourages bacterial decomposition. Moisture may also promote chemical reactions that produce gases.

WC advised during time of reported odours there had been recent rainfall.

RO encouraged **WC** to continue to report odour concerns and encourage neighbours to do the same if they experience issues.

3.2 Environmental Performance

Environmental monitoring reports and results for the monitoring undertaken in Quarter 1 (January to March 2024) were received in April 2024. These were conducted at the Browns Plains Landfill in accordance with the Landfill Environmental Monitoring Program. Lab results of environmental samples were not indicative of landfill leachate escaping or impacting the surrounding groundwater system.

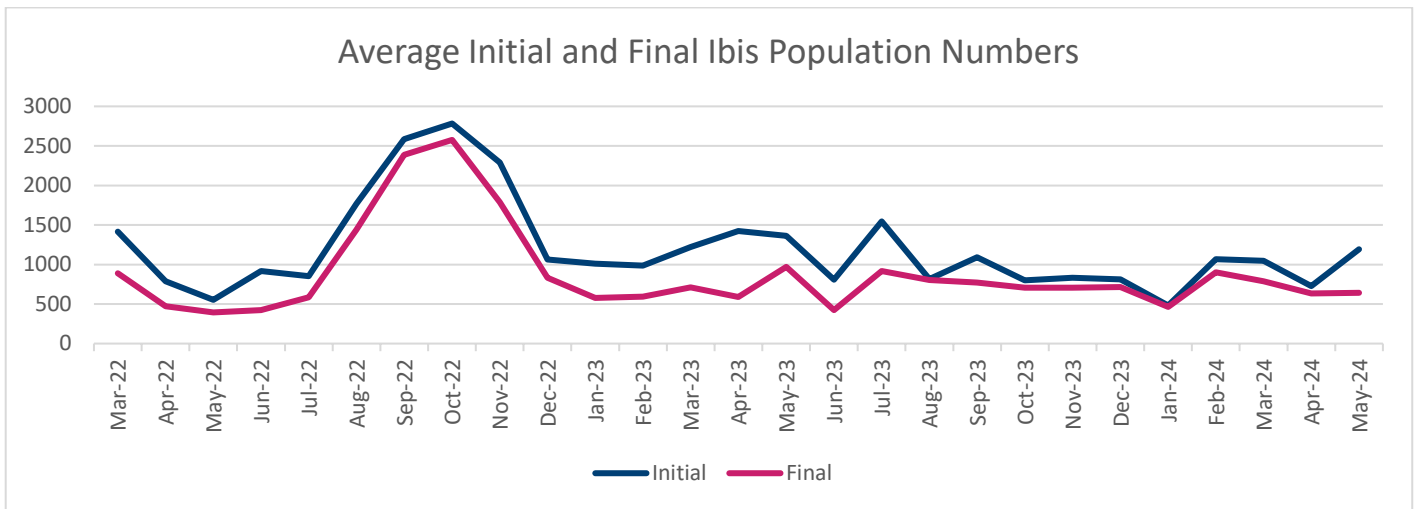
3.3 Department of Environment and Science (DES)

No formal inspection or compliance monitoring has been undertaken by the department in the reporting period.

3.4 Ibis Update

The May 2024 report from the wildlife management contractor stated that:

- Average initial ibis counts prior to harassment activities were 1193
- Average final counts of ibis were 641 after harassment activities.
- On average, ibis numbers were reduced by 53.7% per day during the harassment period.



There were no complaints received regarding ibis between March 2024 and May 2024 (inclusive).

General discussion followed, stated once Ibis colony along Bayliss Road no longer noticeable.

3.5 Fire Ant Update

One fire ant nest has been identified at the Browns Plains Landfill site, this nest has been treated. Biosecurity Officers within Council have also been undertaking proactive treatments at all the Council waste facilities.

RO shared that QLD State Government are placing greater responsibility for fire ant management back to local authorities.

RO also stated to reduce the possibility of fire ants becoming a problem and spreading, Council's waste facilities are no longer permitted to accept potted plants.

3.6 Invitations to odour complaints

Invitations were sent to new residents who complained about landfill odour during the period.

4.0 General Business

RO gave update on potential future Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Logan City for South-East Queensland (SEQ) Councils.

RD shared news on another successful mattress processing event, approx. 6,000 mattresses were processed spring wire recovered and waste mattress volume disposed to landfill significantly reduced.

Meeting closed –

@ 9:50am

Next Meeting –

To be scheduled in September/October 2024