

BERRI BARMERA COUNCIL

19 Wilson Street, BERRI SA 5343

2008 / 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

To the SA Public & Environmental Health Council pursuant to Section 44 (1) of the

PUBLIC & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ACT 1987

1 PUBLIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH WORKFORCE

1.1 Environmental Health Staff Numbers

Please provide a snapshot of council's environmental health workforce on **30 June 2009** by completing the tables below.

This information is requested to inform State and National environmental health workforce initiatives.

Permanent **full time** employed environmental health officers (approx 38 hours/week)
(30 June 2009)

Full name	Qualifications	EHO experience (years/months)	Commenced working for council (date)
Rebecca Atze	BAppSc (Env Health)	8 years	April 2005

Permanent **part time** employed environmental health officers **(30 June 2009)**

Full name	Qualifications	Average hours worked per week	EHO experience (years/months)	Commenced working for council (date)

Temporary contract employed environmental health officers (30 June 2009)				
Full name	Qualifications	Average contracted hours worked per week	EHO experience (years/months)	Contract start/finish dates
Susan Bourne	Bachelor of Environmental Health		4 years	15-19 June 2009

Contracted non-employee environmental health officers (30 June 2009)				
Full name	Qualifications	Average contracted hours worked per week	EHO experience (years/months)	Contract start/finish dates

Environmental health officer positions vacant (30 June 2009)				
Position type (fulltime/ part time/ contract)	Position hours/week	When the position was first advertised (date)?	Number of suitably qualified applicants (at 30/6/09)	Comments regarding this position.

Number (FTE) of Ancillary Staff that assist council to fulfil its responsibilities under the <i>Public & Environmental Health Act, 1987</i> (30 June 2009)	
Immunisation Nurses	Less than 0.1
Administration	0.1
Other (please specify)	

1.2 Staff Training

Detail training and development implemented during the financial year to maintain/develop EHO or ancillary staff skills and knowledge.

- Clandestine Drug Laboratories, A new Challenge for EHO's - EHA
- Environmental Health Officers' Seminar - Regulatory Activities in Councils: Dealing with the Ombudsman - LGA
- HPV Register training – DH Immunisation Section
- Biolytix Filter Bf6 Waste Water Control Information Session – DH Wastewater Section
- Child Safe Environments – TAFE
- Mandatory Reporting - Child Safe Environments – TAFE
- Emergency Management Local Recovery Seminar – State Recovery Office

PUBLIC & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ACT & REGULATIONS

Complete details of measures taken under Part III of the P&EH Act (protection of public health relating to sanitation, drainage and protection of water supplies) & P&EH Regulations (waste control).

Section No.	Type	No. of complaints received	No. of notices served	No. of court / appeals / expiations
Public & Environmental Health Act, Part III				
15 & 16	Prevention / offences re insanitary conditions on premises	10	2	
17	Control of offensive activities			
18	Discharge of wastes in a public place			
19	Private thoroughfare			
20	Provision of adequate sanitation			
21	Pollution of water			
22	Closure of water supplies			
Regulations 1995 - Waste Control				
Reg. 19	Maintenance orders			
Reg. 24	Connect to STEDS		6	

2.1 Monitoring and management of Insanitary Conditions

2.1.1 Please briefly describe the chief causes of insanitary conditions reported (eg hoarded materials, pest infestation).

Animal keeping, accumulated rubbish, pest infestation and defective waste control systems

2.1.2 Please briefly describe the properties most implicated in the insanitary conditions reported (eg rental properties, privately owned).

Seven properties were privately owned and three were rental properties.

2.1.3 Please briefly describe the primary impediments to resolving the insanitary conditions reported.

No impediments

2.2 Monitoring and management of Offensive Activities

2.2.1 Please briefly describe the offensive activities requiring the action described in the table above under the Public and Environmental Health Act 1987.

No report

3 PRIORITY OF PUBLIC & ENVIROMENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

3.1 List the more significant environmental health issues currently facing the local community and what is being done to address them

The drought has had a significant impact on the horticultural blocks due to the supply of water being restricted and in some cases switched off. This has created a significant fire hazard. Council's bushfire prevention committee will continue to monitor these land holdings issue the required clean up notices as required.

The impacts of the Governments exit packages for irrigators and the sale of water allocations are impacting on the horticultural zoned areas of the district. As the horticultural land use ceases the land is more likely to be used for rural living purposes. As more dwellings are excised from horticultural land, and new dwellings erected there is potential for land use conflict. There is concern that as ownership changes there is the potential for less awareness of the impacts of any surrounding horticultural activities – spraying, late night harvesting, pruning, bird scarers and the like. These concerns will be addressed as part of future Development Plan Amendments and reviews.

3.2 Prioritisation process

3.2.1 How was council made aware of these priority issues (eg investigation, research, complaint)?

Issues are often raised and identified by complaint, follow up investigations, risk analysis and community consultation.

3.2.2 How were these issues prioritised (number of people affected, risk, politics) ?

Priority is given to those issues identified as giving rise to significant risks to health.

3.3 Detail any programs specifically aimed at dealing with public health issues related to vulnerable groups in your community (eg aboriginal, migrants, and the aged).

No report

4 DISEASE CONTROL

4.1 Monitoring of Pools & Spas (public aquatic facilities) to minimise the incidence of water-borne illness (please complete the table below and provide details of any special activities, eg, training etc.)

Type of Pool	Number in area	Number of routine inspections	Number of complaints	Number of Inspections related to complaints/investigations	Total number of inspections
Swimming	11		1		
Spa	1				
Hydrotherapy	1 (closed)				
Waterslide					
Other					
Total					nil

Any Additional Comments?

The complaint regarding the swimming pool was followed up by Council's Risk Manager prior to informing the EHO of the complaint. It related to a Council owned facility.

The hydrotherapy pool has been closed since March 2008 and has undergone major restorative work to rectify issues identified during previous inspections.

4.2 Monitoring & investigation to minimise the incidence of Legionnaires Disease (please complete the table below and provide details of any special activities, eg, training, investigations etc)

Type of System	Number registered in area	Number of routine inspections	Number of complaints	Number of Inspections related to complaints/investigations	Total number of inspections
Cooling Water System	15				
Warm Water System	3				
Other					
Total	18				nil

Any Additional Comments?

During October and November 2008 the three Riverland councils placed adverts in the local newspapers informing owners of HRMWS of their requirements under the Public & Environmental Health (Legionella) Regulations.

Information packs and registration forms were sent to all premises known to have HRMWS and a number of premises suspected of having HRMWS.

4.3 Monitoring and control of Waste Control Systems (eg. septic tanks, STEDS, CEDS)

Type of System	Number of applications	Number of routine inspections	Number of complaints
Septic Tank (STEDS)	53	35	2
Aerobic System	9	7	
Soakage	13	7	
Total	75	49	2

Any Additional Comments ?

Council engages a contractor to undertake a desludging program of the septic tanks connected to the Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS). On a rotational basis each septic tank is pumped about every four years. In reporting on the operations the contractor includes details such as the location and condition of the septic tanks. Property owners are advised of any defects and action required to bring the tank in line with the relevant standards. 685 Tanks were desludged and approximately 280 letters were sent to property owners advising them to expose their tanks for desludging or to advise of maintenance required on the tank. A number of follow up inspections were undertaken as a result.

During 2008-09 Council completed the installation of a new effluent pump station and rising main in Berri which will provide the future disposal needs from allotments created in the residentially zoned areas in the north and west of Berri.

Council has a 25 year agreement with United Utilities to build, own, operate and transfer Councils wastewater treatment facilities which includes three effluent ponds and three large pump stations. This scheme treats all the waste water generated by the common wastewater system and additional waste waters produced by private industrial developments in the area.

The western part of the town of Berri has approximately 70 hectares of land zoned for residential purposes that is currently in horticultural production. The Berri west infrastructure study produced a plan for the expansion of the wastewater treatment facilities to this area and the required upgrade of adjoining facilities in the locality. A central pump station is to be provided to service the Berri west area. This will be incorporated into the larger waste water reuse scheme and be under the management of United Utilities for the 25 year period.

Contractors on Councils behalf undertake maintenance of the system, which includes approximately 30 pump stations of various sizes and the associated pipe network.

4.4 Immunisation programs

Please provide details on the number of clinics conducted during the reporting period

<i>Clinic Type</i>	<i>Number of Clinics</i>
Number of Council Operated Public Clinics	
Number of School Clinics	11
Number of Internal (Council Staff) Influenza Clinics	

Number of External Influenza Workplace Clinics	
Number of Other Workplace Clinics	
<i>Total</i>	11

4.5 Notifiable Disease Follow Up

Provide details of actions resulting from notifiable disease notifications received from CDCB (insert a table if preferred)

Type of Business	Food Implicated	Outcome	Lead Agency (LG or DH)
Licensed Premises	Buffet	Alleged food poisoning - viral gastro – not food borne	LG with DH advice/assistance
Aged Care Facility	Not specified	Suspected food poisoning - viral gastro – not food borne	LG with DH advice/assistance

4.6 Monitoring of Hairdressing, Beauty & Skin Penetration businesses

Type of Facility	Number in area	Number of routine inspections	Number of complaints	Inspections related to complaints/investigations	Total number of inspections
Tattoo Parlours & Body Piercing	1				
Hairdressing & Beauty Salons (including those that undertake skin penetration)	16				
Other					
Total	17				nil

Any Additional Comments ?

4.7 Monitoring and control of Vectors and Other Pests (include level of activity, control measures, number/regularity of complaints, education programs etc)

Vector or Pest	Number of Complaints	Control Program (Y/N) (Please provide further details below)
Mosquitoes	2	Y
Rodents		
Head Lice		
Flies		
Pigeons		Y
Scabies		
Cockroaches		
Bees		
European Wasps		
Other (unidentified insect)	1	N

Description of control program (identifying vector/pest and activity undertaken)

MOSQUITO CONTROL

Larval and adult catch sites are monitored during the mosquito breeding season by Uni SA's Mosquito Research Laboratory. The laboratory visited 11 times during the previous season to monitor breeding sites and adult mosquito numbers and to undertake spot control as necessary.

Two complaints were received by Council during this reporting period and one follow up inspection was undertaken. "Fight the Bite" pamphlets were distributed within the community.

Prior to the start of the mosquito breeding season the three Riverland Councils advertised for expressions of interest for a suitably experienced person to undertake mosquito control activities when required. During this mosquito season the appointed contractor was not required to undertake any control activities within the Berri Barmera area.

PIGEON CONTROL

In response to general community concerns the Council undertook a program of pigeon control. Ongoing action is required to ensure that pigeon numbers continue to be controlled.

4.8 Monitoring & control of Animal Keeping Facilities (eg. domestic animals, petting zoos, kennels)

Three complaints were received regarding domestic animals and associated insanitary conditions. These issues are dealt with on a reactive basis. Routine monitoring is not undertaken.

4.9 Outline any preparation work done for Pandemic Flu

The Riverland Regional Health Service has contacted Council in an attempt to initiate a regional group to prepare for pandemic flu. The 2 main proposed objectives for a regional group are management of influenza across the Riverland Area and the provision of immunisation services.

4.10 Other LAKE BONNEY

A fish kill occurred in Lake Bonney in November 2008. Council's spent approximately two weeks cleaning up the Lake Bonney foreshore. Approximately 30 ton of fish were removed.



Fresh water was siphoned into Lake Bonney in January 2009. European carp gathered at the fresh water inlet. This event attracted a large number of people to the area to catch and kill the carp. Dead carp were dumped along the shore. Bins were provided as a result. Council removed approximately 30 ton of carp during this event.



5 PUBLIC & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT PLAN

5.1 Does Council have a current Public & Environmental Health Management Plan or Strategic/ Corporate Plan that forward plans the environmental health activities of Council?

YES

IF NO

Does Council expect to produce one within the next 2 years?

IF YES

Date commenced

Have details of the plan been provided in previous reports ?

YES

(If Yes, go to next item)

Provide a summary of how the Plan responds to the needs of the local community, how it is progressing and how regularly it is reviewed.

6. HEALTH EDUCATION / PROMOTION & COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Include Council initiatives, activities and programs designed to promote public health issues to the community including those delivered in partnership with others. (eg. training sessions, workshops, radio interviews, presentations / education sessions to schools/community groups, educational materials produced, newsletter articles, studies or trials). Provide details of consultation and community involvement, the variety of communication tools used (eg. local newspaper/radio, Council pamphlets, shopping centre displays) and how projects are evaluated.

RIVERLAND ARBOVIRUS PREVENTION WORKING GROUP

Since March 2006, Council's EHO has been actively involved in the Riverland Arbovirus Prevention Working Group (RAPWG). As the majority of the Groups objectives had been met prior to June 2008, the group now meets on an as needs basis. The group last meet in November 2008 to decide how to best utilise the suite of health promotion resources previously developed by RAPWG for this mosquito season.

The group decided that Community Service Announcements were to be played on the local ABC radio station; adverts would be placed in the three Riverland papers and in the Riverland Visitors Guide.

RAPWG decided that the fruit fly stop at Yamba would be a good place to distribute Fight the Bite pamphlets. PIRSA supported the idea and 4,000 pamphlets were delivered for distribution at Yamba and Pinnaroo.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

Provide details of activities designed to reduce and prevent exposure of individuals to health hazards. May include number/types of complaints received, issues dealt with, concerns, inventories held etc.

7.1 Monitoring to ensure Potable Water (eg. rainwater tanks, bores)

No report

7.2 Monitoring to ensure Water Quality / Protection of Waterways and Catchments

No report

7.3 Waste Management Practices (domestic waste, landfills, green waste, recycling, solid waste, hazardous waste) (eg. types and regularity of services)

LANDFILLS

A Regional Waste Management Committee has been formed as a result of the EPA requiring that all landfills be fully compliant with requirements by July 2010. This effectively means that all landfills within the Riverland Region will need to be fully engineered. A joint tender is currently under consideration but all proposals are much more expensive than anticipated. Therefore further investigations will be required before any decisions are made.

CCA TREATED POSTS SURVEY

The Riverland Regional Waste Management Committee distributed a questionnaire to Riverland residents regarding waste CCA treated pine posts. It was recommended that the information from the survey be forwarded to the company(s) licensed to receive CCA treated pine posts

BERRI BARMERA COUNCIL QUESTIONNAIRE - CCA TREATED POSTS

Number of responses received:87

Number of NIL responses received: 101

Question 1: Approximately how many waste treated pine posts are currently stored on your property or the adjoining road reserve?

Question 2: What is the approximate number of posts in the following lengths that you have stored?

- a) Up to 2 feet (0.6 meters)
- b) From 2 feet (0.6 meters) to 4 feet (1.2 meters)
- c) Over 4 feet (1.2 meters)

Question 3: How many posts do you have in the following average diameters?

- a) 2 inch to 3 inch (50mm to 75mm)
- b) 3 inch to 4 inch (75mm to 100mm)

Question 4: What is the average number of posts you would replace each year?

Council	Q1	Q2			Q3		Q4
		A	B	C	A	B	
Berri Barmera	32,219	8,049	10,705	26,866	9,556	30,087	6,021

7.4 Monitoring of Contaminated Land

No report

7.5 Monitoring and Control of Hazardous Substances (eg. asbestos, medical waste)

No report

7.6 Monitoring of Air Quality

No report

7.7 Noise Complaint Investigations

No report

7.8 Monitoring and Control of Recreation Facilities (eg. risk assessment of playgrounds, inspections of camping areas etc.)

No report

7.9 Emergency Planning Activities (eg. disaster recovery / business continuity plans)

No report

7.10 Rural and Urban Planning Activities (eg. number of development applications assessed by EHOs)

Records of assessments for this reporting period were not kept. Many planning applications are assessed by EHO's with the main focus on waste control provisions.

7.11 Other

8. OTHER

Please provide details of any other public & environmental health issues encountered by Council. (eg, complex investigations, participation in major events and festivals, strategic planning and implementation programs etc)

Date this report was / is to be presented to Council

22/09/2009

This report is to be submitted by 30th September 2009 in soft copy emailed to:

andrew.vickers@health.sa.gov.au

Please note that hard copies are no longer required to be sent to the Public and Environmental Health Council.