

**Light Regional Council  
PO Box 72 Kapunda SA 5373**

**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 <b>full time</b> employed environmental health officers (approx 38 hours/week) <b>(30 June 2009)</b>			
Full name	Qualifications	EHO experience	Commenced working for Council
David Hooper	Ba ENVH Flinders University	4 Years 6 Months	3 January 2005

Permanent <b>part time</b> employed environmental health officers <b>(30 June 2009)</b>				
Full name	Qualifications	Average hours worked per week	EHO experience (years/months)	Commenced working for Council (date)

Temporary <b>contract employed</b> environmental health officers (30 June 2009)				
Full name	Qualifications	Average contracted hours worked per week	EHO experience (years/months)	Contract start/finish dates

<b>Contracted non-employee</b> 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 <b>positions vacant</b> (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 &amp; Environmental Health Act, 1987</i> (30 June 2009)	
Immunisation Nurses	One
Administration	One
Other (please specify)	N/A

## 1.2 Staff Training

Council continues to provide training for the professional development of its Environmental Health Officer and encourages regular participation in special interest groups including wastewater control and food safety, fire safety, disease control and prevention and as required courses conducted by the Local Government Association and other professional training institutions.

## 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
<b>Public &amp; Environmental Health Act, Part III</b>				
15 & 16	Prevention / offences re insanitary conditions on premises	Four (4)	One (1)	Nil
17	Control of offensive activities	Five (6)	Nil	Nil
18	Discharge of wastes in a public place	One (1)	Nil	Nil
19	Private thoroughfare	Nil	Nil	Nil
20	Provision of adequate sanitation	Nil	Nil	Nil
21	Pollution of water	Nil	Nil	Nil
22	Closure of water supplies	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>Regulations 1995 - Waste Control</b>				
Reg. 19	Maintenance orders	One (1)	Three (3)	One (1)
Reg. 24	Connect to STEDS	Nil	Nil	Nil

### 2.1 Monitoring and management of Insanitary Conditions

#### 2.1.1 Please briefly describe the chief causes of insanitary conditions reported.

The chief causes of insanitary conditions reported were the hoarding of materials and vermin (rats) reported on properties.

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

Two properties were rentals and one was privately owned.

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

With the exception of one very old uninhabitable dwelling reported to Council all other situations were resolved through negotiation and in a couple of cases the threat that Council may serve a Notice under the Act. In saying that, it is relatively common to have the tenant and/or owner pose unusual character traits which through time and the people skills of the investigating officer the matter is resolved. In one case Council aided the tenant by proving additional rubbish collection services. Council has one continuing insanitary condition that is the result of hoarding by the owner. The Notice served for the uninhabitable dwelling was served after all other negotiations and warnings was ignored by the owner.

## **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.**

All offensive conditions were resolved through negotiation with those persons concerned and warnings that Council may serve notice under the Act. Two conditions involved odour from the keeping of poultry and a deceased goat in the back yard of a residential property. One odour complaint was received regarding a waste control system while two other complaints were from rural properties that did not have access to Council rubbish collection services and had failed to take an alternative course of action to arrange for the collection of general waste.

## **3 PRIORITY OF PUBLIC & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ISSUES**

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

Vector borne disease such as Ross River Virus and Dengue fever.

### **3.2 Prioritisation process**

#### **3.2.1 How was Council made aware of these priority issues.**

Council has detected that there are a number of vector borne diseases such as Ross River Virus and Dengue Fever reported in the surrounding area in the last couple years.

Council determined that it was sensible to undertake a proactive surveillance programme of the significant waterway bordering the Light Regional Council and The Barossa Council. Council undertook to offer a research project to a final year environmental health student at Flinders University. The research was undertaken from April through September 2007 and the final report provided to Council in February 2009. The report determined that although a mosquito population exists in the North Para and Gawler Rivers the risk to residents was considered low with no arboviral diseases isolated from the sample of adult mosquitoes captured. Council will continue to monitor the mosquito population in the Council area.

#### **3.2.2 How were these issues prioritised.**

These issues were prioritised by assessing the potential risk for a large number of people to be affected by a vector borne disease.

### **3.3 Detail any programmes specifically aimed at dealing with public health issues related to vulnerable groups in your community**

During this reporting period Council has not identified any significant issues to instigate any programmes in addition to those run by State and Federal agencies.

## 4 DISEASE CONTROL

### 4.1 Monitoring of Pools & Spas (public aquatic facilities) to minimise the incidence of water-borne illness

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	Three (3)	Three (3)	Nil	Nil	Four (4)
Spa	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Hydrotherapy	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Waterslide	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Health Spa	One (1)	One (1)			Nil
<b>Total</b>	<b>Three (3)</b>	<b>Three (3)</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>Four (4)</b>

#### Additional Comments

Council has ensured that all pool operators are aware of their responsibilities under the Regulations by keeping in regular contact with operators to make certain they are aware of the most up to date information regarding any potential public health risks.

### 4.2 Monitoring & investigation to minimise the incidence of Legionnaires Disease

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	Five (5)	Five (5)	Nil	Nil	Five (5)
Warm Water System	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>Total</b>	<b>Five (5)</b>	<b>Five (5)</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>Five (5)</b>

#### Additional Comments

Council has acted to ensure that all owners/operators of those facilities that utilise cooling towers were provided with the necessary information to make certain that they complied with the compulsory registration under the Public and Environmental Health (Legionella) Regulations 2008. Presently all facilities are registered with Council in accordance with the Regulations and updated microbiological and maintenance reports have been received by Council.

## Monitoring and control of Waste Control Systems

Type of System	Number of applications	Number of routine inspections	Number of complaints
Septic Tank	42	175	Nil
Aerobic System	14	15	Nil
On-site	11	2	Nil
Sewer/CWMS	60	38	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>10</b>

Five (5) inspections were undertaken during the new sewer installation at Freeling Estate and three (3) inspections of the Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS) main at the new Greenock subdivision. In addition to the mandated inspections required for wastewater control systems applications i.e. underfloor, system installation and the final inspection, a further 85 inspections were undertaken as part of the assessment for all new applications received by Council.

To ensure that Council CWMS lines are in good working order and do not pose a public health risk to residents in townships Council undertook to have those sections of CWMS lines identified as a high risk cleaned and inspected for potential hazards such as tree roots and cracks. In total 2.5 km of CWMS were cleaned and inspected with no significant issues observed.

### 4.3 Immunisation programs

<i>Clinic Type</i>	<i>Number of Clinics</i>
Number of Council Operated Public Clinics	N/A
Number of School Clinics	10
Number of Internal (Council Staff) Influenza Clinics	1
Number of External Influenza Workplace Clinics	N/A
Number of Other Workplace Clinics	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>

These immunisation clinics were arranged in conjunction with the schools to ensure the optimum delivery schedule and minimal impact on normal school operations. The co-operation and professional assistance provided by the schools is a key asset ensuring the success of the immunisation programme.

Council does not provide public or workplace clinics, however to ensure residents and workplaces have the best possible access and advice to immunisation Council strives to ensure that accurate information regarding immunisation is provided. Light Regional Council works in conjunction with the Town of Gawler's immunisation nurse to ensure those residents that request immunisation services are able to access public immunisation clinics held in Gawler. In addition, Influenza vaccinations for Council staff are offered those vaccinations required for their position in line with Council's Occupational Health and Safety Policy.

#### 4.5 Notifiable Disease Follow Up

Council received three requests from the Department of Health to provide advice and specific disease information in relation to persons identified as acquiring a notifiable disease.

#### 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	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Hairdressing & Beauty Salons (including those that undertake skin penetration)	Five (5)	Five (5)	Nil	Nil	Five (5)
Other					
<b>Total</b>	<b>Five (5)</b>				<b>Five (5)</b>

All hairdressing and beauty salons are inspected each year; these premises continue to maintain a high standard of cleanliness and infection prevention control measures. Two new businesses commenced last financial year, one has since ceased trading of its own accord. Council sought to ensure that the staff were aware of their responsibilities under the Public and Environmental Health Act and provided a copy of the South Australian Health Commission Guidelines to all businesses.

#### 4.7 Monitoring and control of Vectors and Other Pests

Vector or Pest	Number of Complaints	Control Program (Y/N) (Please provide further details below)
Mosquitoes	0	N
Rodents	3	N
Head Lice	0	N
Flies	0	N
Pigeons	0	N
Scabies	0	N
Cockroaches	0	N
Bees	3	Y
European Wasps	7	Y
Ants	3	Y

#### Description of control program

Council continues to provide a free European Wasp nest destruction programme for ratepayers upon the positive identification of a European wasp nest. Bee nests are only destroyed if they are located on public land and if it is determined that a health risk exists to nearby residents. Further, Council acts to destroy bull and inch ant nets on Council parks and walkways where it is determined that a health or amenity risk is posed to ratepayers. A number of telephone calls were received from the community concerning suitable means of controlling mice and rats during the cropping season and appropriate advice was given regarding effective control measures.

#### **4.8 Monitoring & control of Animal Keeping Facilities**

Council's Environmental Health Officer, in conjunction with the General Inspector, have planned to undertake inspections of all registered kennels in the area within the next reporting period.

#### **4.9 Outline any preparation work done for Pandemic Flu**

Council's Risk Management Officer and Environmental Health Officer completed the Pandemic Flu and Infectious Disease Procedure as part of Council's Business Continuity Plan. This document provides a practical response in the event of an infectious disease outbreak and contains a simple procedure in ISO format identifying correct staff behaviour and health advice to employees during an outbreak. Infectious Control Personnel Protection Equipment (PPE) Kit contents are also included in this procedure.

Prior to the current Swine Flu pandemic Council ran an in house training exercise in line with the Policy that proved to be highly successful as it provided Council employees with valuable experience during the training procedure and tested the practical aspects of the Policy.

#### **4.10 General inspectorial**

Council's Environmental Health Officer undertakes general inspectorial duties in the absence of the General Inspector, or as required. In the reporting period the Environmental Health Officer responded to a large number of requests for information and complaints that resulted in 40 site visits. A large proportion of the complaints stemmed from the reporting of stray dogs, dog attacks and livestock wandering on public roads. General advice and information is also provided to the community on fire safety and burn off procedures.

### **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?**

Council has adopted a 10 year Strategic Plan but there has been no reference placed in the Plan for the forward planning of environmental health related activities within Council. Council's Strategic Plan is a working document and subject to intermittent changes that will reflect the changing requirements of Environmental Health.

## **6. HEALTH EDUCATION / PROMOTION & COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**

---

The Home Assist Scheme continues to be conducted in partnership with the Home and Community Care Programme for The Barossa Council and Light Regional Councils, providing aged and mobility impaired persons with an assistance co-ordinator and tradesperson to assist them in carrying out their daily duties.

In addition to the Home Assist Scheme, the Community Transport Scheme partnership between The Barossa Council and Light Regional Council continues to provide a community vehicle service that is available for persons to utilise for medical related appointments.

Council sought to promote the importance of food safety fundamentals by placing public notices in the local printed media and through banners located in the Council's main and branch offices. The Environmental Health Officer undertook the promotion of the importance of food safety by undertaking education sessions with students at the Kapunda High School.

In addition, pamphlets promoting health issues such as head lice, waste water treatment and disposal and how to deal with European Wasps are located in both offices of Council and public libraries.

## **7. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT & SUSTAINABILITY**

---

### **7.1 Monitoring to ensure Potable Water**

No complaints were received during the reporting period and Council does not undertake to test the water quality of resident's rainwater tanks or bores. Should testing be requested information is provided identifying commercial companies that provide water quality testing.

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

Council has undertaken a physical inspection of some areas of the Light River during the reporting period and it was noted during the course of the inspections that due to the low rainfall conditions that large tracts of the river had ceased to flow. No adverse conditions were noted that required further investigation by Council officers.

### **7.3 Waste Management Practices**

Council's Environmental Project Officer continues to administer waste management during the reporting period; no changes to waste management practices were undertaken.

### **7.4 Monitoring of Contaminated Land**

No complaints were received during the reporting period necessitating the requirement to monitor contaminated land.

## **7.5 Monitoring and Control of Hazardous Substances**

Council continues to receive reports regarding the illegal dumping of asbestos products by the side of roadways. Council has undertaken a public awareness programme through the local printed press. This form of environmental contamination poses a significant public health risk and has consumed valuable Council resources and monies during the reporting period. Council spent \$23,000 to remove and dispose of asbestos products from roadsides. Council's General Inspector provides advice to the community regarding the appropriate and lawful means to remove and dispose of asbestos products.

## **7.6 Monitoring of Air Quality**

No complaints were received regarding air quality and Council has not identified a requirement for the monitoring of air quality within the Council area.

## **7.7 Noise Complaint Investigations**

No significant noise complaint investigations were undertaken by the Environmental Health Officer during the reporting period. Council continues to receive complaints regarding barking dogs and the appropriate advice and investigation, if required, is undertaken by Council's General inspector.

## **7.8 Monitoring and Control of Recreation Facilities**

To ensure that there are no risks or other potential hazards to the community annual risk assessments of public facilities is undertaken by Council's Risk Management Officer. Council has installed new public sanitation facilities in the recreation reserve at Roseworthy and has upgraded playground facilities and new landscaping at Mattiske Park, Freeling

## **7.9 Emergency Planning Activities**

The Chairperson for the following plans is Council's Risk Management Officer, Ted Wojtkowski.

### **7.9.1 Emergency Response Management Plan**

This Plan has been prepared by Light Regional Council and defines the role of Council in:-

- Support for those organisations which have responsibility for the management of incidents or events which have been declared disasters pursuant to the State Disaster Plan; and
- Response to incidents within the Council area and which require an internal response were identified as follows:-
  - Gawler River Flooding;
  - Bushfires;
  - Oil Spills – to Road & Waterways;
  - Road Subsidence/ Landslide;
  - Local Flooding;
  - Earthquake; and
  - Toxic Emission/Spill.

The Plan identifies personnel authorised to activate the disaster response from Council, details resources available and specifies procedures for operational response.

### **7.9.2 Community Emergency Mitigation Plan**

The Plan deals with the identification, analysis and treatment of risk from major identified hazards to the community. Via a sub-committee the Plan enhances community safety by involving the community in identifying and mitigating emergency risks.

The Light Regional Council Infrastructure & Works Department takes a leading role in monitoring potential happenings on a daily basis with all the above risk factors as standard Agenda items tabled for consultation at every Staff Meeting.

### **7.9.3 Community Emergency Management Plan**

The aim of this Plan is to constantly address the increasing public safety risks within the Light Regional Council area by developing improved community emergency management programs based on international best practice.

The Plan describes the arrangements at community level to effectively and efficiently prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from community emergencies. The Committee seeks to progressively develop its community emergency preparedness program to protect public safety and create a resilient community plus contribute to the protection of public health, the environment, property and economic stability by employing a mitigation management strategy.

### **7.9.4 Business Continuity Plans:**

A Business Continuity Management Team (BCMT) has been formed and the objectives are as follows:-

- To ensure the maximum possible service levels are maintained;
- To ensure recovery from interruptions as quickly as possible; and
- To minimise the likelihood and impact (risk) of interruptions.

Council 'Functions & Processes' have been identified, risk assessed and Strategy Worksheets developed to manage contingency planning in the event of a systems failure. This project is on-going requiring a dedicated effort from all department Managers in time and resources.

### **7.10 Rural and Urban Planning Activities**

Council's Environmental Health Officer works in conjunction with the planning department on rural and urban planning activities. During the reporting period 57 development referrals were received by the Environmental Health Officer, the corresponding number of site visits undertaken and comments provided to the planning department.