

MID MURRAY COUNCIL

PO Box 28
Mannum SA 5238

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)
Caroline Thomas	Bachelor Environmental Health	5 yrs 5 months	June 2004

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)
Murray Phillips	Diploma of Public Health & Meat and other foods	8	29	May 2000
Peter Beaumont (Peter is Council's Assistant Building Surveyor)	Diploma of Public Health & Meat and other foods	2	32 years	2003
Kelvin Goldstone (Kelvin is the Manager of the Environmental Services section)	Diploma of Public Health & Meat and other foods	2	30 years	1995

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

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	0.2
Administration	0.2
Other (please specify) - STEDs maintenance Officer	1

1.2 Staff Training

Emergency Management Forum
 New Legionella Regulations training session
 Clandestine Drug Lab training session
 EPA/ LGA information session
 Liquor licensing training session
 Biolytix training session
 Regency TAFE plumbing course (2 days)
 Communal wastewater management systems forum
 Emergency management recovery session
 Attend all Murray Mallee Local Government Inspectorial Groups (MMLGIGs)

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	3	0	0
17	Control of offensive activities	2	0	0
18	Discharge of wastes in a public place	0	0	0
19	Private thoroughfare	0	0	0
20	Provision of adequate sanitation	0	0	0
21	Pollution of water	0	0	0
22	Closure of water supplies	0	0	0
Regulations 1995 - Waste Control				
Reg. 19	Maintenance orders	0	0	0
Reg. 24	Connect to STEDS	2	1	0

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).

The chief cause of insanitary conditions is hoarded materials which in turn can create a pest infestation. Council's Environmental Health Officer is currently working with the compliance section and through Council's HACCP program to assist an owner with a hoarding issue.

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

The properties that are most implicated with insanitary conditions are privately owned dwellings.

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

The main impediment in resolving insanitary conditions is the lack of support and availability of expert assistance in dealing with the mental health issues (mainly Obsessive compulsive disorders which cause the hoarding.) Most residents with hoarding issues feel that there is no issue and consequently we are unable to access any support services for the client. Unfortunately cases like this become reoccurring and can cause a lot of lost man power for Council.

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.

Council has received a couple of complaints about people burning off tyres during the financial year. Normally these have been directed to the EPA for action however the EPA are referring complainants back to Councils so the only legislation appropriate is the offensive activities section of the Public and Environmental Health Act 1987.

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

Effluent removal from the floodplain is still a major concern for the communities along the River Murray. Council maintains 30 communal wastewater management systems (CWMS) including 2 State Government houseboat pump out facilities.

Applications were also lodged by Council for LGA funding to install Communal Wastewater Management Systems for the 4 townships along the River Murray. They have now been added to the funding schedule.

3.2 Prioritisation process

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

Council was made aware of the need for CWMS in these shack sites by letters received from the residents and associations.

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

Council is keen to assist the community with projects such as the installation of CWMS' due to the environmental factors and the ability to be able to develop in the area so these were considered a high priority.

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).

N/A

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	9	11	2	4	15
Spa	0	0	0	0	0
Hydrotherapy	0	0	0	0	0
Waterslide	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Total	9	11	2	4	15

Any Additional Comments?

2 pools were closed for the season due to maintenance being undertaken on the pools.

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	4	0	0	0	0
Warm Water System	1	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Total	5	0	0	0	0

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	34	5	2
Aerobic System	41	15	0
Other Connection to CWMS/ Sewer	113	50	5
Total	188	70	7

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	24
Number of School Clinics	13
Number of Internal (Council Staff) Influenza Clinics	3
Number of External Influenza Workplace Clinics	0
Number of Other Workplace Clinics	1
<i>Total</i>	41

Council provided the following number of vaccinations for the reporting period:

Type of Vaccination	Total number of Vaccinations
Hiberix	4
Twinrix	1
Hep B	84
Infanrix/IPV	8
Comvax	7
Prevenar	31
Priorix	16
Meningococcal C	10
Varicella	37
Rotateq	29
Influenza	64
Infanrix Hexa	30
Boostrix	37
Gardasil	66

Total	424
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4.5 Notifiable Disease Follow Up

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

There were no notifiable disease follow ups required for this reporting period.

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	0	0	0	0	0
Hairdressing & Beauty Salons (including those that undertake skin penetration)	10	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Total					

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	3	Y
Rodents	0	
Head Lice	0	
Flies	0	
Pigeons	0	
Scabies	0	
Cockroaches	0	
Bees	1	
European Wasps	4	N
Other (please describe)	0	Y

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

Mosquitoes

Council has contracted the services of the Mosquito Research Laboratory, University of South Australia, to monitor mosquitoes and to develop integrated and co-operative program for the control of mosquitoes and mosquito-borne diseases within the Council area along the River Murray. The trapping sites are routinely monitored and sprayed, if needed, in the peak season however if we receive complaints we use a contractor to spray the affected area.

European Wasp Nests

Council destroys European Wasp nests as they are discovered. A contractor is called in to destroy the nest.

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

Council's General Inspectors and EHO's follow up complaints regarding domestic animals and kennels. There are no petting zoos within the Council area.

Kennels are licensed through the General Inspectors and also approved under the Development Act.

4.9 Outline any preparation work done for Pandemic Flu

Staff have been kept up to date with the current information on the flu. A communicable and infectious disease policy was updated to reflect the current situation and the wash, wipe and cover posters strategically placed in all Council offices.

4.10 Other

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?

NO

IF NO

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

YES

Council has a current Strategic Plan with goals and objectives relating to the natural and built environment however Council has not yet implemented a Public and Environmental Health Management Plan.

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.

The rates newsletter is an important source of promotion for the health section. Things such as the dates and locations for the immunisation clinics are included along with food safety tips, plumbing tips and legislation changes.

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)

N/A

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

Council has continued collecting stormwater samples from the Berryman Avenue stormwater drain in a joint project funded by the South Australian Murray Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board. The project has been ongoing for 5 years now. Council samples the stormwater entering the River Murray next to the main Mannum-Adelaide pumping station.

2 gross pollutant traps have been installed in Morgan and in the Mannum Township.

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

Council is currently trialling weekly bin collection in 1 shack area (bin banks are the normal source of waste disposal) and another shack site is currently being surveyed. Kerbside recycling collections are also being considered for certain townships within the Council area.

7.4 Monitoring of Contaminated Land

N/A

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

Asbestos

Cambrai waste depot is a licensed asbestos disposal area however due to the increasing prices for disposal Council has to deal with ever increasing roadside dumping of asbestos. Adelaide's A Current Affair recently aired a segment identifying this issue in the hope of finding the contractor who is illegally dumping the asbestos.

Sharps Disposal

Council continues to install and replace sharps disposal containers in public toilets and provides a free sharps disposal service to ratepayers with drop off points located at each office.

7.6 Monitoring of Air Quality

N/A

7.7 Noise Complaint Investigations

All noise complaints are referred to either the EPA or SAPOL.

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

Regular inspections of the playgrounds in the Council area are conducted by Council's OHS & W Officer and the Regional Risk Coordinator and are audited once a year to ensure they comply with current Australian Standards. The results from these inspections are taken to the OHS & W meetings and given to the Works Supervisors for action (if any required).

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

Council drafted up a disaster response plan and presented it for consultation amongst staff. Council officers attended an Emergency Management forum in Burnside and also a Local Government Recovery Session at Clare. These were both very insightful and comments from these sessions were given to management.

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

All development applications and land divisions are viewed by the EHO and the Building Officers at the initial assessment stage which is approximately 650 applications a year.

7.11 Other

DrumMuster program

Council once again participated in the drumMuster farm chemicals program for the collection and recycling of empty crop protection chemical containers. This program provides an opportunity for farmers and vigneron to safely dispose of these containers, and this year we collected 8,286 containers.

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 presented to Council 14th September 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.