

Rural City of Murray Bridge
PO Box 421 Murray Bridge SA 5253

p.eckert@murraybridge.sa.gov.au j.byrnes@murraybridge.sa.gov.au

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 <i>full time</i> employed environmental health officers (approx 38 hours/week) (30 June 2009)			
Full name	Qualifications	EHO experience (years/months)	Commenced working for council (date)
Philip Eckert	Dip. Env. Health	23 years	January 2009
Jeremy Byrnes	B.App.Sc.Env.Health	3 years 9 mths	Oct 2005

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	1 - Part time
Administration	1 Part time
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.

- Microbial Control of Building Cooling Water Systems – Managing Legionella and your risk
- Norman Waterhouse – Order Making Seminar for Local Government Officers
- Environmental Health Australia EHA – SA State Conference 2009
- Wastewater Management Training – ETA Installation Day – Willunga
- Human Swine Flu Workshop for Local Government – Chief Medical Officer - SA Health
- Emergency Management Seminar – Recovery – State Recovery Coordinator & LGA
- Development of Local Government Environmental Health Indicators – EHA Meeting

Council has also made a commitment to facilitate a one week work experience placement of a student from the B.Applied Science (Env Health) course at Flinders University in September 2009.

2. 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	12	2	
17	Control of offensive activities	13		
18	Discharge of wastes in a public place	2		
19	Private thoroughfare			
20	Provision of adequate sanitation			
21	Pollution of water	2		
22	Closure of water supplies			
Regulations 1995 - Waste Control				
Reg. 19	Maintenance orders		5	1
Reg. 24	Connect to STEDS			

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).

Hoarding continues to be a cause of insanitary conditions however, the risks to health from hoarding can be difficult to determine. Hoarding of goods, particularly in front yards or unfenced properties is often considered unsightly and there are provisions in the Local Government Act to deal with this however, establishment of clear evidence of risk to health from hoarding can be problematic. Residents who hoard significant quantities of goods are more likely to be putting their own health, and those they live with at risk, rather than creating significant risk to neighbours and the wider community. The stress caused to neighbours and the community due to the visual impact on the amenity of the residential environment is always given consideration in working towards a resolution. The Rural City of Murray Bridge has been building relationships with the Community Health and Rural & Remote Mental Health team in an effort to better understand and resolve issues associated with hoarding.

Insanitary conditions associated with failure of on-site waste water treatment systems have also been reported with the majority of required repairs or upgrades achieved through negotiation.

Effluent disposal and odour from intensive animal keeping and abattoir activities in the Rural City of Murray Bridge continues to present challenges for business, Council and the Environment Protection Authority. While significant progress has been made with implementation of technology and infrastructure to reduce water consumption, treat and reuse effluent and reduce generation of odour, challenges remain to further reduce the impact on the environment and potential risks to health. Significant investment has been committed to further reducing environmental and public health risks associated with these industries and the Rural City of Murray Bridge maintains a strong working relationship with the EPA to monitor progress.

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

As previously reported in 2007-8, insanitary conditions are fairly equally split between rental properties and privately owned properties.

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

Unless there is a serious and or immediate risk to health requiring an immediate formal response, resolution of insanitary conditions are mostly sought through negotiation.

Where negotiation fails to achieve a satisfactory outcome, the Public and Environmental Health Act is relied upon to seek compliance through notices, orders and or expiation penalties. The low penalty provisions currently in the Act (e.g. \$300 for an insanitary condition) are considered to provide little in the way of deterrence when seeking compliance through formal notices and orders. It is anticipated that the draft P&EH Bill, due to be released later in 2009 may address penalty issues and provide legislative tools to assist where negotiation fails to achieve compliance and protection of public health.

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.

Offensive activities listed above include;

- Disposal of dead stock
- Removal of accumulated rubbish
- Moth fly (sewer fly) breeding associated with abattoir effluent disposal
- Odours associated with poor management of animal manures
- Odours from abattoir rendering
- Hoarding and other activities resulting in odours and insanitary conditions
- Failure of on-site domestic wastewater treatment systems

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

The range of public and environmental health issues receiving attention in local Government in Australia has broadened significantly over the past 10 years. The expanded focus is reflected in many Local Government Environmental Health Management Plans that seek to protect and improve the overall health and wellbeing of the community and consider the inter-relationships between health and the social, economic, built and natural environments.

The expanding role of environmental health officers incorporates the traditional public health role of addressing sanitation and control of infectious disease, as well as additional considerations and responsibilities stemming from the recognition of these inter-relationships and the value of a preventive, health promotion approach to public health.

Given the expanding role of public and environmental health, it is difficult to single out specific issues however in rough order of significance, the following matters are considered important and feature in planning for future work or have required action during the reporting period;

- Water resources – planning for future needs & exploring reuse opportunities,
- Social and public health implications of targeted population growth, incorporating improved public health, safety and amenity in urban development,
- Promotion of healthier lifestyle choices,
- Management and prevention of notifiable diseases in conjunction with SA Health, including mosquito borne disease surveillance associated with river environs and measures to prevent swine flu and other infections,
- Approval and inspection of domestic on-site wastewater treatment systems and promotion of approved novel wastewater treatment solutions that improve effluent quality and increase the safe reuse of domestic effluent,
- Assessment and management of health issues and activities associated with intensive agricultural industries.

Addressing these issues requires ongoing effort in building relationships with the Community and responsible agencies. Identification of specific working partnerships to promote public and environmental health is a recognised priority in the draft Environmental Health Management Plan for the Rural City of Murray Bridge.

Background

3.2 Prioritisation process

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

Water resource issues are of paramount importance for Communities throughout the Riverland and exploration of strategies and systems to reduce water consumption and increase the reuse of treated effluent is a high priority.

The State Government's "30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide 2009" incorporates an estimate of a net increase in population in the Adelaide Hills and Murray Bridge of 29,000 people. The current population of the Rural City of Murray Bridge is approximately 17,000. The plan has a strong focus on promotion of public health and healthy lifestyles and local Councils will have a key role in its implementation.

The Rural City of Murray Bridge maintains strong links with SA Health and the Communicable Disease Control Branch. Surveillance of mosquito breeding activity and species associated with transmission of disease is essential for protection of communities along the river. The Council has had a contract with Uni SA for routine surveillance, reporting and some control activities of mosquito breeding since 2001. The program is supported by SA Health. The particularly dry summer of 2008/9 reduced the number of breeding sties along the river and the risk of mosquito vector borne disease.

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

An evidence based approach as outlined in the recent SA Health discussion paper "*Developing Local Government Environmental Health Indicators for South Australia*" is considered to be an appropriate way of prioritising allocation of resources. While specific indicators for South Australia are yet to be developed it is hoped that the release of the new Public and Environmental Health Bill late in 2009 and SA Department of Health work on developing 'Indicators' will assist Councils in prioritising allocation of resources to areas of need.

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).**

Immunisations are conducted at the Local Government Centre for migrant adults and families on the first Wednesday of each month and also at the Nungas Community Health Centre annually or when required.

Home and Community Care services are provided by the Rural City of Murray Bridge for the elderly, frail, and people with moderate to severe disabilities. The service includes transportation for both urban and rural residents and is supported by volunteer drivers.

The Murray Mallee Ageing Taskforce is a network of organisations providing support for older people throughout the Murray Mallee area. Council supports a project officer to facilitate the network, coordinate services and undertake strategic planning for future services for the elderly and disadvantaged.

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	3	3			
Spa	1	1			
Hydrotherapy	1	1			
Waterslide					
Other					
Total	5	5			

All pools and spas were inspected during the reporting period and complied with Regulations under the P&EH Act.

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	21				
Warm Water System	12				
Other					
Total	33				

All registered cooling towers are located within five food processing and manufacturing facilities and are all currently either internally audited and or audited by third party auditors. All registered cooling towers and warm water systems are scheduled to be inspected and water samples taken early in the 2009/10 financial year.

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	32	59	
Aerobic System	37	55	
Upgrade (majority to aerobic)	17	18	
STEDS/SEWER	4	8	
Sand filter / Biolytix	5	12	
Total	95	152	

On-site wastewater systems

- There has been an increase during the reporting period of upgrades from septic/soakage systems to aerobic treatment systems with above ground irrigation.
- Internal administrative systems for processing applications have been reviewed to improve and streamline the planning/building and wastewater system approvals.
- The range of approved domestic wastewater treatment systems has increased significantly in recent years. Communication with local plumbers and builders to keep the industry informed of the options for treatment and water reuse will be given priority in 2009/10. <http://www.health.sa.gov.au/PEHS/branches/wastewater/wastewater-products.htm>

CWMS (STEDS) –

Council has responsibility for operation and maintenance of two CWMS (STEDS) schemes.

- A small sewage treatment plant at Woodlane, Mypolonga services a development of 40 allotments and 18 existing house/shack allotments. The treated effluent is chlorinated and applied to a woodlot of mixed native species via drip irrigation.
- The second system is located at Riverglen, approximately 7 km south of Murray Bridge and services 31 residential allotments and 104 vacuum connections at houseboat moorings. Residential septic tanks and the vacuum system connect to a common septic tank and subsurface disposal area. Upgrading of the subsurface distribution system was completed during the reporting period.

4.4 Immunisation programs

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

Clinic Type	Number of Clinics
Number of Council Operated Public Clinics	11
Number of School Clinics	6
Number of Internal (Council Staff) Influenza Clinics	4
Number of External Influenza Workplace Clinics	3
Number of Other Workplace Clinics	7
<i>Total</i>	<i>31</i>

4.5 Notifiable Disease Follow Up

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

Rates of notifiable diseases in the Rural City of Murray Bridge are comparable with rates (per 100,000) for South Australia. Council Environmental Health Officers follow up on notifications received from the CDCB and provide advice to cases where necessary, of any specific precautions required to prevent further infection.

(Diseases that are notifiable under the Public & Environmental Health Act

<http://www.dh.sa.gov.au/pehs/PDF-files/0811-notifiable-disease-list.pdf>)

Statistics for local government area of MURRAY BRIDGE for Period 01 Jul 2008 to 30 Jun 2009 (Notification Date) - All Diseases



Government of South Australia
Department of Health
Communicable Disease Control Branch

Disease	LGA Statistics		State		Sex		Age (years)		
	Total Cases	Rate*	Total Cases	Rate*	Males	Females	Min	Max	Median
Arbovirus	12	65.3	241	16.0	4	8	15	64	37
Campylobacter	16	87.1	1,692	112.5	8	8	0	82	40
Cryptosporidiosis	5	27.2	89	5.9	2	3	1	87	5
Influenza	6	32.7	1,355	90.1	3	3	1	69	18
Norovirus	1	5.4	21	1.4	1	0		77	
Pertussis	116	631.7	2,560	170.2	44	72	0	87	40
Pneumococcal	1	5.4	126	8.4	0	1		17	
Q Fever	2	10.9	7	0.5	1	1	43	56	50
Rotavirus	1	5.4	325	21.6	1	0		3	
Salmonella	9	49.0	650	43.2	4	5	0	84	38
STEC / HUS / TTP	1	5.4	55	3.7	0	1		18	
Varicella virus	12	65.3	1,615	107.4	6	6	9	71	33

* Rates are calculated per 100,000 people and based on an LGA population of 18,364 and State Population of 1,504,040; derived from ABS 2005 preliminary census data.

Disease information - <http://www.dh.sa.gov.au/pehs/youve-got-what.htm>

Rates of Pertussis (whooping cough) continue to be reasonably high in South Australia and in the Rural City of Murray Bridge there have been 116 cases reported. In recent years many cases of pertussis have been recognised in adults and adolescents due to waning immunity. These individuals are a significant source of infection to infants. <http://www.dh.sa.gov.au/pehs/Youve-got-what/ygw-whooping-cough.pdf>

An outbreak of Norovirus in an aged care facility in Murray Bridge affected 27 people. Three cases were confirmed with the virus and symptoms of other cases were consistent with the case definition for Norovirus. Noroviruses are very contagious and can spread easily from person to person. Both stool and vomit are infectious. There have been 20 other confirmed outbreaks of Norovirus in aged care facilities in South Australia reported by CDCB during the reporting period. Environmental Health Officers liaised with management of the facility in Murray Bridge to provide advice on infection control. <http://www.dh.sa.gov.au/pehs/Youve-got-what/ygw-norovirus.pdf>

Reports of the two notifiable diseases commonly associated with food poisoning, Campylobacteriosis and Salmonellosis have been low for the reporting period at 16 cases and 9 cases respectively. Given the recent SA Health report that over 90% of raw chicken sold at retail in SA is contaminated with Campylobacter and approximately 38% is contaminated with Salmonella, the low rates of reported infection are encouraging and may reflect improved food handling practices in the home and food service industry. <http://www.dh.sa.gov.au/pehs/Food/Food-Act-Report-07-08.pdf>

Two cases of Human Swine Influenza H1N1 were reported in the Rural City of Murray Bridge in June 2009. Further details below at Item 4.9 – Pandemic Flu. <http://www.flu.sa.gov.au/>

Below is a link to past 5 year totals and 'year-to-date' figures for 2009 to 27 June 2009 for South Australia <http://www.dh.sa.gov.au/pehs/notifiable-diseases-summary/weekly%20report%203%20090627.pdf>

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	1			
Hairdressing & Beauty Salons (including those that undertake skin penetration)	11	9			
Other					
Total	12	10			10

Any Additional Comments ?

Advice regarding identification and treatment of head lice has been provided to hairdressers and schools in 2009.

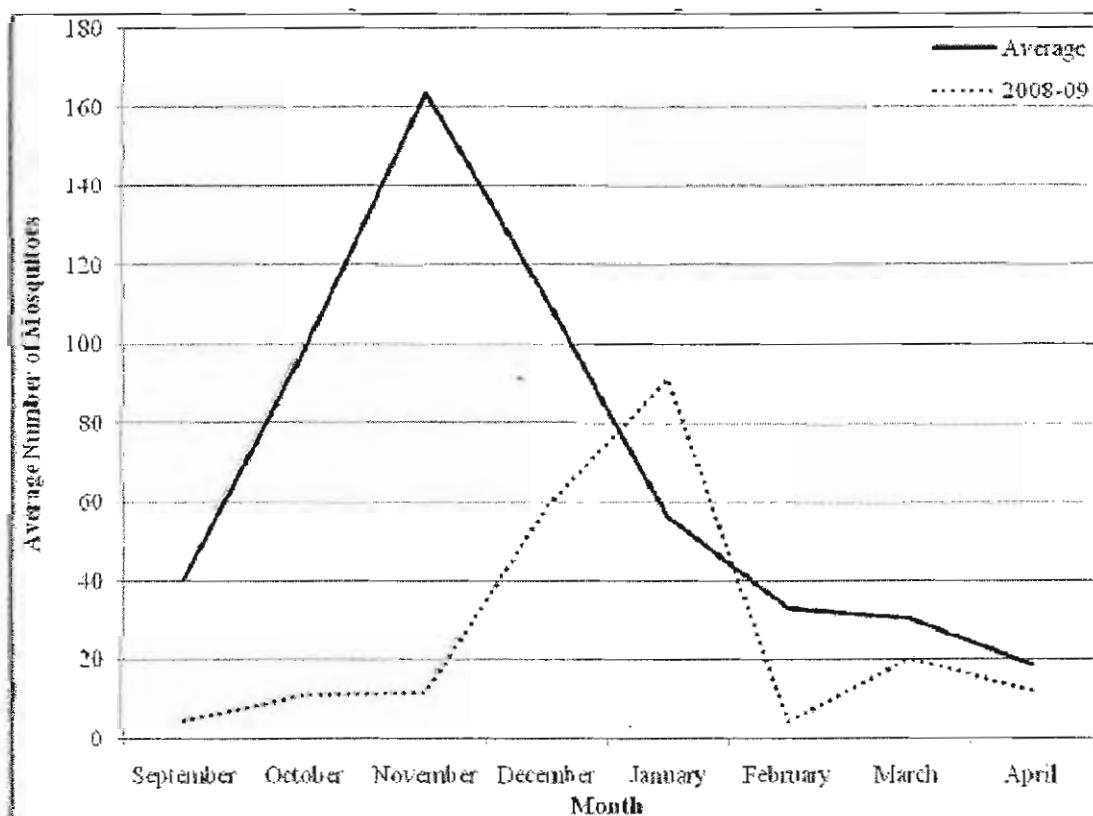
4.7 Monitoring and control of Vectors and Other Pests (include level of activity, control measures, number/regularity of complaints, education programs etc)

Vector or Pest	Number of Complaints	Control Program (Y/N) (Please provide further details below)
Mosquitoes	0	Y
Rodents	6	N
Head Lice	2 requests for advice	N
Flies	5 - Moth flies (F. Psychodidae)	Y
Pigeons	5	N
Scabies	0	N
Cockroaches	0	N
Bees	3	N
European Wasps	48	N
Other (please describe)		
Dust	8	N

Mosquito Monitoring Program - Low rainfall over the spring, summer and autumn has reduced the number of mosquitoes breeding in the 2008/09 season. Council has had a contract with The University of South Australia (Uni SA) for routine surveillance, reporting and some control activities of mosquito breeding since the 2000/01 season. Other participating Councils in the program are; Renmark-Paringa, Berri-Barmera, Loxton-Waikerie, Mid-Murray and Coorong. Council maintains stocks of insecticide, biocides and dispersal equipment for any additional mosquito control that may be necessary. As can be seen in the graph below, catches of mosquitoes over the five permanent trapping sites in the Council area during the 08/09 season were much lower than the mean for the previous nine years.

Rural City of Murray Bridge - Average mosquito catch for the 2008-2009 season compared to the mean for the previous 9 years.

(A SURVEY OF THE MOSQUITOES ALONG THE RIVER MURRAY IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA FOR THE 2008/2009 SEASON – Uni SA)



Summary of incidence of arboviral infections over the 2008-2009-mosquito season in South Australia and those associated with River Murray communities.

(A SURVEY OF THE MOSQUITOES ALONG THE RIVER MURRAY IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA FOR THE 2008/2009 SEASON - Uni SA)

Arboviral infection	Total number of reported cases Statewide
Ross River Virus	206
Barmah Forest Virus	40

Local Council	Notifications		
	RRV	BFV	Total Arbovirus
Renmark Paringa	11	1	12
Berri Barmera	7	0	7
Loxton Waikerie	3	2	5
Mid Murray	2	1	3
Rural City of Murray Bridge	8	5	13
Coorong District	10	6	16
Total	41	15	56

Summary of 2004 to 2009 monitoring seasons

(A SURVEY OF THE MOSQUITOES ALONG THE RIVER MURRAY IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA FOR THE 2008/2009 SEASON - Uni SA)

FEATURE	2004/ 2005	2005/ 2006	2006/ 2007	2007 /2008	2008 /2009
Rainfall	Peak in Dec	Wet winter/spring, average summer	Peak in January/April	Average to below average	Average winter, Peak in Aug, Nov/Dec
River Levels	No peak		No peak	No peak	No peak
Total Mosquitoes trapped	3 663	9 782	1 803	818	1193
Mosquito Peak	November	November	November/ February	October	January
Dominant Species	<i>Ae camptorhynchus</i> & <i>Cx. quinquefasciatus</i>	<i>Ae camptorhynchus</i> & <i>Cx. quinquefasciatus</i>	<i>Ae. camptorhynchus</i> & <i>Cx. quinquefasciatus</i>	<i>Ae camptorhynchus</i> & <i>Ae. notoscriptus</i>	<i>Ae camptorhynchus</i> & <i>Ae. notoscriptus</i>
Reported arbovirus infections(RRV,BFV)	~1	~14	6	~18 (10,8)	~13 (8.5)

Recommendations from Uni SA 2008/09 Report

General

Two of the general recommendations from the University of South Australia report for the 2008/09 season to participating River Murray Councils are considered particularly important and will be given priority in 2009/10.

1. Revise contingency plans for future epidemic seasons/flood events, and
2. Establish a separately funded program to take bulk sample collections of vector mosquitoes and to analyse them for pathogenic arboviruses.

Local Recommendations – Rural City of Murray Bridge

*“The control of the introduced pest mosquito, *Cx. quinquefasciatus*, should be a relatively simple operation. These mosquitoes are renowned for their biting behaviour indoors after midnight. They can cause considerable discomfort to people and livestock and should be controlled where possible. Winter rains need monitoring. If heavy rains occur then preventative treatment of known *Ae. camptorhynchus* larval sites should be undertaken”.*

Rodents - Like most urban/rural fringe areas in South Australia the Rural City of Murray Bridge faces some seasonal challenges with mice breeding. Mouse breeding in urban areas of Murray Bridge is commonly associated with poorly managed feeding of domestic chickens and other birds and pets. Limited quantities of rodent baits are provided free of charge to the community to assist with control.

Moth flies (F. Psychodidae) – In April 2009 Council received several complaints from residents regarding heavy infestations of moth flies. Investigation by Council and the EPA identified the source of breeding as a wastewater disposal irrigation site that received wastewater from an abattoir. Soil conditions at the site were found to be conducive to breeding and measures were taken to manage and treat the affected area to prevent further breeding.

European Wasps & Bees - Council provides a control service for bees and nests of European wasps through a local pest control contractor. Reports of European wasps have been slightly down on the previous reporting period.

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

Council’s General Inspectors administer the Dog and Cat Management Act.

Animal keeping facilities are not routinely inspected but any complaints are promptly investigated. Complaints investigated in the reporting period include emission of offensive odours and associated waste disposal issues.

4.9 Outline any preparation work done for Pandemic Flu

Council’s Environmental Health Officers and Risk Control Officer attended the SA Health, Chief Health Officer’s – Human Swine Flu Workshop for Local Government on 9 June 2009. The SA Health “wash, wipe, cover” health promotion material was widely circulated throughout June 2009.

The LGA “Human Pandemic Influenza Business Continuity Guidelines” (version 2 July 2007) were reviewed and Public Health Alerts from the Communicable Disease Control Branch were circulated as necessary.

4.10 Other

Nil to report

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

IF YES Date commenced April 2009

Have details of the plan been provided in previous reports?

NO

(If Yes, go to next item)

Council has commenced drafting an Environmental Health Management Plan. In SA, Plans completed by Councils typically incorporate planning for a three to five year period. Given that a new Public & Environmental Health Bill is to be released late in 2009, with potentially substantial revisions to scope and content regarding public health, Council is keen to ensure that appropriate consideration is given to changes that may impact on forward planning. It is anticipated that the plan will be finalised in 2009.

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.

Council provides a range of health advice to businesses and the Community during inspections and when responding to enquiries and complaints. Additionally, a wide range of printed material is available.

Environmental Health Officers and General Inspectors have met with Community Health and Rural & Remote Mental Health teams to discuss issues that are occasionally common to each agency and where closer liaison may improve services provided.

Council has facilitated training of food handlers with a TAFE accredited course. The course was well attended and another session is planned later in 2009. Presentations of hygiene and food safety have also been provided to primary schools in Murray Bridge.

Council printed material from the "Wash Wipe Cover" resource kit provided by SA Health and distributed the material widely through businesses and community groups in Murray Bridge.

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)

Council operates and maintains water treatment and supply infrastructure at Riverglen Marina approximately 7 km south of Murray Bridge which services houseboat mooring facilities and 31 residential properties. A contractor undertakes routine monitoring and service. Water samples are submitted to the IMVS Food and Environmental laboratory for microbiological analysis in accordance with The Australian Drinking Water Guidelines on a weekly basis. The plant is 19 years old and will require major overhaul or replacement in the next 2 to 4 years. A review of risk management for the plant will be undertaken early in 2009/2010. Options for connection of the system to the treated SA Water supply are being evaluated.

Council also has responsibility for a reticulated water supply to the Woodland residential area north of Murray Bridge. Water is supplied to 58 residential properties by SA Water however; Council retains responsibility for the reticulation system at the development. Water samples from this system are submitted to the IMVS Food and Environmental laboratory for microbiological analysis on a monthly basis.

It is anticipated that SA Health's proposed "Safe Drinking Water Bill" will require significant input by local Government in SA. The proposed Bill will require registration of all water suppliers including small suppliers who maintain a bore or rainwater supply as part of their food, retail or accommodation (B&Bs etc) service and will require preparation of a risk management plan, routine microbiological (and chemical analysis for bores) and inspection/audit by Council EHOs.

Council's Environmental health Officers currently provide advice to members of the public if they have concerns and wish to have their water/rainwater tested.

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

Council has liaised with SA Health and negotiated with owners of riverfront residential property in the "Willowbanks" area to upgrade the private community effluent disposal system in accordance with current standards.

T&R Pastoral operates an export abattoir facility in Murray Bridge and contributes significantly to the economy of the region. The company is currently proposing to invest in an upgrade of on-site wastewater treatment (as part of the EIP under its current EPA Licence) to significantly improve the quality of effluent, broadening the scope of potential reuse opportunities for the water used by the abattoir.

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

Council has recently introduced a new weekly kerbside waste and fortnightly recycling service. The service also incorporates a fortnightly green organics collection service for township locations. Council also operates a recycling and transfer station for residents two days per week.

7.4 Monitoring of Contaminated Land

Nil to report

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

Council provides sharps containers to members of the public on request. Council's Parks & Gardens Staff are responsible for removal and disposal of sharps containers in public toilets. The Murray Bridge Soldiers Memorial Hospital maintains a secure sharps disposal/collection bin for used sharps materials and sharps containers. The bin is accessible to the public at all times.

Council Environmental Health Officers provide advice to members of the public regarding the safe handling and disposal of asbestos. Safe Work SA and EPA brochures are made available through Customer Services. Council's waste services are not licensed to receive hazardous waste.

7.6 Monitoring of Air Quality

Complaints of offensive odours associated with intensive farming and abattoir activities have been received during the reporting period. Council is continuing to work closely with the EPA and business to resolve odour issues. The use of EPA "odour diaries" by businesses and complainants are a valuable tool in establishing the type, frequency and intensity of odours and provide guidance for EPA and Council in finding and negotiating solutions. Bureau of Meteorology weather data has also been invaluable in monitoring air quality.

Council has also received several dust complaints. The dry summer of 2008-09 and water restrictions present obvious challenges for dust control. Where possible, Council has requested or negotiated restrictions in certain activities in an effort to reduce generation of dust.

7.7 Noise Complaint Investigations

The EPA Guidelines for the use of the Environment Protection (Noise) Policy 2007 describe the most appropriate agency to address and resolve with noise complaints. Often a joint-agency approach is required. Noise sources which were the subject of complaints received by Council include;

- Licensed premises
- Traffic noise – Trucks & motorcycles
- Roosters
- Various industrial noise
- Remote control cars
- Music Festival

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

- Slumping (subsiding) of several sections of riverbank in the Council area due to low water levels has required barriers to be erected to prevent public access in some recreational reserves. Public warnings have been published widely in local, regional and State media advising of the potential for further slumping events to occur.
- Council undertakes risk assessments of playgrounds in accordance with Australian Standards.

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

The Rural City of Murray Bridge is part of the Hills Murray Zone Emergency Management Plan. The designated Hills Murray Zone Emergency Centre is located in the Mount Barker Police Complex. The Local Emergency Centre is the Murray Bridge Police Station. Council maintains an Annex to the Hills Murray Zone Plan with comprehensive contact details for support agencies and Community Services.

Council's Senior EHO and Risk Manager attended a regional seminar at Karoonda convened by the LGA and the Director of the State Disaster Recovery Office in May 2009. The seminar reviewed emergency service and recovery arrangements in SA. The role of Local Government in disaster recovery and funding arrangements were discussed. The essential elements of inter-agency cooperation were also discussed in the context of recent disaster recovery efforts in the Eyre Peninsula and Kangaroo Island bushfires.

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

EHOs assessed a total of 59 development applications for a variety of health related issues, the majority being related to sanitary plumbing design, wastewater disposal or food safety requirements.

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)

Nil to report

Date this report was / is to be presented to Council _____ / 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.