

CITY OF PORT LINCOLN

Level One, Civic Centre 60
Tasman Terrace
PO Box 1787
Port Lincoln, South Australia 5606

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)
Bob Milic			
Aaron Price	B.Sc. & B.Ed Diploma of Business (Quality Auditing) RABQSA - FS RABQSA – NFS1, RABQSA – NFS2, RABQSA – NFS3, RABQSA – AU, RABQSA – TL, BSB AUD501A, BSB AUD502A, BSB AUD503A, BSB AUD504A, Certificate II in Hospitality (Operations) unit: THHGHS01B	2.5	15/01/2007
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)
Nil				

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
Nil				

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
Nil				

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.
Nil				

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	0.02
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.

The annual South Australian Environmental Health conference in April 2009 was attended. Some of the presentations listened to include: Experiences of an Environmental Health Officer in the Royal Australian Air Force, Dairy Distributors Handover to Local Government, Microbiological Quality of Soft Noodles, The Year of The Cough, Healthy Body Art for Young People, and Safe Design of Artificial Water Bodies.

Other training activities for the year included:

- Authorised Persons Seminar – Regulatory Activities in Councils
- Expiation Training
- EPA Sound Meter Use Training

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	7	1 (issued by HIB) – later withdrawn	
17	Control of offensive activities	5		
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			

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).

Inadequate weatherproofing, poor ventilation, hoarded materials, and inappropriate waste disposal methods were the main causes.

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

Rental and commercial properties

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

Difficulties experienced in contacting property owners, denial of the problem by the owners, and inadequate measures employed by tradespeople to remedy situation were the primary 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.

Spillage of liquid and pilchards from heavy vehicles on route to the fish factories resulted in a couple of complaints being lodged. Another complaint was in relation to odours from treated timber in a storage yard. Odours emanating from poorly maintained poultry enclosures were the basis of other complaints.

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

Limited landfill space, water restrictions, wastewater and stormwater management are significant challenges currently facing Council and the local community.

Kerbside collection of recyclable material has increased substantially in the last year. The community has needed to adjust to the changes implemented by Council and contribute by way of identifying and sorting domestic waste. The volume of the bins provided for refuse collection have been reduced to 140L and the bins provided for recyclable material increased to 240L. The objective is to minimise the volume of waste going into landfill. Council has conducted an educational campaign during this transitional period to inform residents of the range of recyclable materials.

Water restrictions have impacted on residents and the Council in a number of ways. Council has needed to give more consideration to the selection criteria for new plantings in parks, reserves, median strips etc. Council continues to review and expand its water reuse scheme.

There has been an increase in the number of enquiries regarding grey water reuse. Some people have been deterred by the legal requirements for permanent irrigation systems. A few residents have sought advice about disconnecting from the sewer and installing onsite waste control systems. This switch has been discouraged.

3.2 Prioritisation process

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

Council is generally made aware of wastewater issues through customer enquiry, complaints or servicing reports.

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

Many factors are considered when prioritising issues, such as the degree of risk posed to the community, the number of people affected or potentially affected, ability of local government to deal with issue (i.e. underpinning legislation, authorisation of officers), costs etc. Occasionally, issues have been referred to other authorities, where it has been deemed that Council does not have the capacity or legislative power to resolve them.

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).

Some staffing resources continue to be used to assist the Aged Care, Acute Care, and Childcare sector in its implementation of the mandatory food safety programs.

Food safety training opportunities have been offered to sporting and community groups, some of which have significant indigenous memberships.

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	2	2			2
Spa	1	2			2
Hydrotherapy					
Waterslide	1	2			2
Other					
Total		6			6

Any Additional Comments?

Educational material is regularly provided to public aquatic facilities and Council staff liaise with operators during outbreaks of water borne illnesses.

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	6				
Warm Water System	2				
Other					
Total	8				Nil

Any Additional Comments?

Training on these systems is to be attended in September 2009.

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	1	1 (not yet installed)	2
Aerobic System	2	4	
Other (name)			
Total	3	7	2

Any Additional Comments ?

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	8
Number of Internal (Council Staff) Influenza Clinics	1
Number of External Influenza Workplace Clinics	
Number of Other Workplace Clinics	
<i>Total</i>	9

4.5 **Notifiable Disease Follow Up**

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

Disease	Number of Infected Persons	Follow Up Action
Varicella virus	19	You've got what? disease transmission material provided to infected persons/caregivers.
Salmonella	8	Contacted infected persons/ caregivers. CDCB information provided. No potential sources were identified.
Influenza A & B	20	Contacted infected persons/ caregivers. CDCB information provided.
Pertussis	41	Contacted infected persons/ caregivers. CDCB information provided. Article written in local newspaper.
Rotavirus	6	Contacted infected persons/ caregivers. CDCB information provided.
Shigella	1	Contacted caregiver of infected person.
STEC / HUS / TTP	1	
Campylobacter	10	Contacted infected persons/ caregivers. Potential sources were identified and investigated.
Arbovirus	2	CDCB information provided.

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	Nil	Nil	1
Hairdressing	22	10	1	1	11

& Beauty Salons (including those that undertake skin penetration)					
Other					
Total	23	11	1	1	12

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	The services of a pest control professional were enlisted by the resident. Nearby landholder's property (potential source) also assessed. Artificial water body drained.
Rodents	2	In one case the neighbouring property owner was instructed to clean up his property. The second case involved the clean up of a vacant house block.
Head Lice		
Flies		
Pigeons	7	Remedial building works were required in one case. alphachloralose used at grain silos in control program. Other complaints were in relation to pigeons roosting in date palms.
Scabies		
Cockroaches		
Bees	2	Pest control professional removed hive
European Wasps	1	In timber delivery
Sea gulls	1	Bird scaring device used
Ants	1	Land owner opted to manage issue himself
Rabbits	1	NRM involved
Others		

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

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

The Council kennel is used for the purpose of temporarily holding animals detained under the Dog & Cat Management Act 1995. It is maintained by Council staff.

The RSPCA has a facility with a holding capacity of approximately 30 (dogs). There are a couple of other small private boarding facilities on the outskirts of Port Lincoln. Council officers regularly liaise with these parties. Complaints regarding domestic animal keeping facilities are dealt with under the P&EH Act and Local Government Act 1999.

4.9 Outline any preparation work done for Pandemic Flu

Preparation for pandemic flu has been incorporated in the Business Continuity Plan.

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?

YES / NO

IF NO

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

YES / NO

IF YES

Date commenced **21/05/2007**

Have details of the plan been provided in previous reports ?

YES / NO

(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.

Some of the local Home Economics teachers have been assisted by the Council EHO in the preparation and/or delivery of units on food safety. Assistance has taken the form of in class presentations and the provision of information. Some senior students have directly sought assistance from Council with environmental health study topics.

Food safety training workshops have also been provided to some community groups. Advice on outdoor events has been provided to a couple of group representatives. Volunteers of sporting groups have been targeted for the next round of food safety training.

Letters designed to generate awareness of common food safety issues have been distributed to retail food businesses. A regular newsletter containing information about regulatory changes and local compliance issues is in the pipeline for 2009/10.

An article in the Port Lincoln Times on Pertussis was published following anecdotal reports of numerous cases of infants contracting the infection.

Following a request by SA Great, the Council EHO made a presentation to upper primary classes at Kirton Point Primary School on Careers.

A group of approximately 40 students from Navigator College visited the Council Chambers and listened to a presentation on Council's involvement in local environmental issues.

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 offers rebates to residents who install rainwater tanks of a size of 10000 litres or greater. Two complaints were lodged with Council in regard to alleged contamination of rainwater stored in tanks. Information on disinfection methods was provided to the owner of the property.

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

Transport SA conducts water quality tests in a couple of locations at the Marina.

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

The Council waste collection service incorporates household refuse, recyclables and green waste. Refuse (140L bin) is collected from the kerbside weekly and recycling bins (240L) are emptied fortnightly.

7.4 Monitoring of Contaminated Land

The property at 20 Haigh Street was once used by the Highways Department and the Port Lincoln City Council. Remedial work is continuing on the site.

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

An asbestos register is maintained by the Plant & Infrastructure Maintenance Officer.

7.6 Monitoring of Air Quality

Council received a couple of dust complaints from new developments. Developers were asked to ensure water tankers were on site to wet the surface down and minimise the impact on nearby residents. Council investigates other air quality issues including: burn-off activities associated with the clearing of land, smoke from household combustion heaters, industrial odours and odours associated with the keeping of animals in domestic settings.

Council has a bushfire prevention brochure available for landholders.

7.7 Noise Complaint Investigations

Some noise complaints are able to be resolved by Council stating the permissible levels for various activities from the EPA Noise Policy. Others have required the assistance of the EPA.

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

All existing and proposed new equipment on Council Reserves must conform to the Australian Play Equipment Standard and accepted standards of good practice. Equipment that does not conform is either modified or removed. Every item of equipment from which a fall, no matter how low, can be anticipated must be provided with a soft fall surface. Weekly checks, including the depth of soft fall surface are conducted by Parks and Garden staff. A Maintenance Register is maintained by the Manager of Community Infrastructure.

Council owned public conveniences are inspected monthly by the EHO. The Code of Practice for the Provision of Facilities for Sanitation and Personal Hygiene is used as a reference. A copy of each inspection sheet is provided to the Manager of Community Infrastructure.

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

A Business Continuity Plan has been drafted. Staff are in the process of developing action plans.

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

The Council EHO is involved in assessing development applications, primarily in relation to proposed food businesses and properties where onsite waste control systems are required.

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 / /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.