

# District Council of Robe

PO Box 1 Robe SA 5276

Ph. (08)87682003

## 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 Staff Numbers

Number (FTE) of Environmental Health Officers authorised by Council pursuant to the Public & Environmental Health Act, 1987	1 (visits the area once a week)
Number of EHOs with:-	
• 0 to 2 years EHO experience	0
• 2 to 5 years EHO experience	0
• More than 5 years (12 years)	1
Number (FTE) of Ancillary Staff that assist Council fulfil its responsibilities under the Public & Environmental Health Act, 1987	0
Immunisation Nurses	0
Other (please specify)	0

Ana Catarina Santos

Wattle Range Council - full time officer, - job share with Robe & Kingston - visit once a week

Bachelor of Applied Science - majoring in Environmental Health - Swinburne University of Technology.

Years of Experience: 13 years.

I am employed as a full time officer to Wattle Range Council, and that Wattle Range Council has an arrangement with Robe & Kingston whereby they charge for my services.

Average I work at Kingston 15 hours a week (two hour return trip) and Robe - 12 hours average a week (1.5 hours return trip)

If there is an urgent matter to deal with, I would attend to those either at Robe &/or Kingston Councils.

WRC - My Manager has qualifications as an EHO - he can attend to Environmental Health matters whilst I am away. He is authorised under P & EH Act - not as a FTE but roughly 0.3 of his time.

Kingston - My Manager who has plumbing background conducts inspections of STEDS/ CWMS connections & septic tank installations, Mozzie traps & eradicates European wasp nests. He spends 1/5 of his time.

Robe - No assistance.

There was no vacancy for the EHO position - arrangement with both Councils for my services were renewed for another three (3) years

## **1.2 Staff Training**

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

April 2009 – State Conference – EHA

November 2008 – Food Act Seminar

September 2008 – Seminar on Clandestine Laboratory

Attended SELGIG Meetings.

## 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
<b>Public &amp; Environmental Health Act, Part III</b>				
15 & 16	Prevention / offences re insanitary conditions on premises	0	0	
17	Control of offensive activities	0		
18	Discharge of wastes in a public place	0		
19	Private thoroughfare	0		
20	Provision of adequate sanitation	0		
21	Pollution of water	2		
22	Closure of water supplies	0		
<b>Regulations 1995 - Waste Control</b>				
Reg. 19	Maintenance orders	0	0	
Reg. 24	Connect to STEDS	0	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).
- 2.1.2 Please briefly describe the properties most implicated in the insanitary conditions reported (eg rental properties, privately owned).
- 2.1.3 Please briefly describe the primary impediments to resolving the insanitary conditions reported.

### 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.

*Nil.*

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

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

##### Greater imposition on Council from EPA to close public access to landfill sites.

*Council is in process of considering the different alternatives for a new Resource Recovery Centre. Cost of building such Centre is a great concern to Council, and it is therefore looking at avenues such as coming to a joint venture with adjoining Council/s. Council is currently at the stage of setting up options for Council to consider. The current landfill is to be closed on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010.*

##### Septic Tank Effluent discharge in Robe

*Council has engaged engineers who are currently in the process of designing an upgrade to Robe's Community Waste Water Management Scheme. The proposal is to increase the storage capacity of the scheme and to treat and reuse the water to irrigate Council parks and playing fields.*

*Council has also purchased land adjacent to the effluent lagoons which maybe utilized for pasture irrigation with the treated effluent.*

*A monitoring program insures that wastewater in the lagoons is regularly tested for phosphate and nitrate levels.*

##### Pump Stations

*Pump station number 16 had an upgrade of electrical and pump and increased the holding tank capacity. Pump Station no. 12, had a pump upgrade. More work is anticipated for more upgrades to other pump stations in the next financial year, some which will involve also the installation of alarm system ringing into a mobile phone.*

##### Sprinklers

*There has been two (2) upgrade of sprinklers, where extra effluent from the holding ponds is irrigated in the sand hills.*

##### Lake Water testing

*Water testing was carried out at the Lake Fellmongery every year, and for the first time Lake Battye, to ensure water is suitable for primary contact of water, as there is skiing, canoeing, swimming and other water activities by the local residents and visitors a like.*

*Council also receives calls from residents and users of the Lake of terrible odours coming from the Lake Charra, and sometime the near by Lake Fellmongery. Upon physical inspecting the sites, it can conclude that the odours are most prominent during hot days in summer, which can be due to the vegetation around the lakes decomposing. Water testing was taken from Lake Charra, to test for the number of organisms and e.coli in the water to determine if water is contaminated. The test results were, however, low.*

*Some type of algae can cause bad odours, testing for possible algae in the water was considered, but it is an expensive exercise and thus it was not carried out this time round.*

#### **3.2 Prioritization process**

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

Greater imposition on Council from EPA to close public access to landfill sites.

*The changes being imposed by EPA to meet more stringent methods of disposal of waste material.*

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

*The above programs were prioritised on basis of available funds to commence the design processes and the push for improved environmental protection.*

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

Council is in the process of repairing and undertaking some maintenance to the Robe Medical Clinic, which is Council owned building, by installing automatic sliding entrance doors. Also plans are to extend the building to build extra consulting rooms.

A new playground is to be built in a new housing development in Robe. Expect to be completed 09/2010 financial Year.

Council has a stage program to repair or replace components of the foreshore playground in Robe. Council is waiting for quotes to determine as to whether or not it will replace all the equipment or repair them. A fence will also be installed to make the area safer for children, so as to void the risk of children running onto the road.

A new toilet block has been built in the football oval. Another block is expected at Robe Street in 2009/2010.

**4 DISEASE CONTROL**

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**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	0	0	3
Spa	0				
Hydrotherapy	0				
Waterslide	0				
Other - Lake	2	2	2	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>

Any Additional Comments

*There are two (2) swimming pools, one situated in a Motel facility and the other in a public Caravan Park.*

*The Caravan Park has an indoor bromine swimming pool. It is relatively a new facility.*

*The Motel has an indoor chlorinated swimming pool.*

*There is one (1) privately owned swimming pool, which is open for the public for private swimming lessons and available for the public to use as a lap swim. This is a popular used indoor swimming pool.*

*A survey on hygiene/cleanliness in spa baths located in the rooms in various accommodations; particularly Bed and breakfast industry was carried out. Water sampling was taken from spas to test for *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and total bacteria count. There were some high counts, but follow up sampling was carried out to ensure improvement and safety levels.*

*It was interesting that many operators had little knowledge on the need to disinfect their spas after each use. Many simply only cleaned the outside of the spa, to remove scum and dirt, but not many used disinfectant to flush out the unit, to ensure any build up of water in the pipes are flushed out to on a regular basis to avoid bacterial growth.*

*Robe has many homes/ accommodations that are used for temporary holidaymakers and many have spa baths. It was an exercise that was well received and very educational to many of these operators that were not aware of the hazards associated with spas, particularly when these units are not maintained and looked after correctly and frequently. Due to the numbers of accommodation available, not all were part of this survey, but it is anticipated that an ongoing survey will be conducted in the 2009/2010 financial year.*

**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 Pool	Number in area	Number of routine inspections	Number of complaints	Number of Inspections related to complaints/investigations	Total number of inspections
Cooling Tower	0				
Warm water System	0				
Other					
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>				

Any Additional - Comments

*Council is not aware of any cooling towers or warm water systems in its area.*

**4.2 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	3		
Aerobic System	1		
Other (name) STEDS	27		
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>		

Any Additional - Comments

*The township of Robe is serviced by CWMS, used to be known as STEDS. Council has a contractor that desludges all septic tanks on a five (5) year cycle. Due to the increase numbers of large land divisions, Council currently has five (5) numbers of sectors dividing the township of Robe. Every year all septic tanks in one sector are desludged. Council is currently covering the number four (4) sector in the township. By 2010, Council will be reviewing the size of the sectors so to bring the desludging Program to every four (4) cycle.*

*Council has an area called Boatswains Point and Nora Creina where both areas have been declared as zones where aerobic wastewater units are the only system to be installed due to having unfavourable characteristics for subsurface effluent disposal.*

*Council has now been charging to undertake a final inspection to all wastewater treatment systems installations that are approved in the Council area.*

*All solid wastes from the pump outs of septic tanks are taken to the Council's three (3) geotextile soxs, which have been installed near the holding ponds. One (1) of the soxs had to be replaced as it cracked open after three (3) of use.*

### 4.3 **Immunisation programs**

#### 4.4.1 Regularity of Council Operated Public Clinics

*Council does not operate public immunisation clinics. Robe Medical Clinic provides all the immunisation services to the general public.*

#### 4.4.2 Regularity of School Clinics

*Council has an agreement with the local Medical Centre to provide the immunisation programs including the school immunisation program.*

#### 4.4.3 Regularity of Workplace Clinics

*Council only provides immunisations to those staff at risk of exposure while at work, Hepatitis B vaccinations. Council has now offer free flu vaccinations to all staff.*

#### 4.4.4 Number of Vaccinations provided (Vaccination types from the Australian Immunisation Handbook 8<sup>th</sup> Edition)

Type of Vaccination	Total number of Vaccinations
Hep B	
DTPa	
Hib	
IPV	
PCV	
MMR	
VZV	
PPV	
Influenza	
dT	
Other (name)	
<b>Total</b>	

#### 4.4.5 Have you had any adverse events occur at the clinics or reported to the Council (please describe).

*Unknown.*

### 4.5 **Notifiable Disease Follow Up**

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

*If advised a follow up investigation is carried out on cases where food history is required. There has been no request from the Communicable Disease Control Branch, to undertake any follow up investigations in this financial year.*

#### 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				
Hairdressing & Beauty Salons (including those that undertake skin penetration)	3	2	0	0	0
Other					
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Any Additional Comments:

*Robe, has a beautician business that performs ear piercing. This is the only venue that provides such service.*

*A home-based hairdressing business is also operating in the Council area. It is a well set up small salon.*

#### 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	
Rodents	0	
Head Lice	0	
Flies	0	
Pigeons	0	
Scabies	0	
Cockroaches	0	
Bees	0	
European Wasps	1	Yes
Other (please describe)		

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

##### European Wasps

*For the first time, Council received a sighting of a European wasp nest in its area. However, resident eradicated the nest. Council provides a service at no charge to ratepayers to eradicate nests where evident. Council uses a Professional Pest Controller to eradicate all nests reported.*

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

**4.9 Outline any preparation work done for Pandemic Flu**  
Council has purchased one (1) box of P2 disposal respirators facemasks to make available to staff who are feeling unwell and showing signs of the flu to use to avoid infected others at work and at home. Staff is also encouraged to visit the doctor for a check up as soon as possible.

**4.10 Other**  
Nil.

## **5 PUBLIC & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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**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

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 proresidential  
gressing and how regularly it is reviewed.

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

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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 has endorsed FoodSafe Food Handlers Training Program to its region and a very positive response has been received by all food businesses in Robe Township. There is an ongoing introduction to the FoodSafe program to the food premises. There has been some who have been completed the Program and are FoodSafe accredited.

It is anticipated that a majority of food premises in Robe will be ready for more accreditation in 2009/2010.

Council has a Food Sampling Program, and conducts sampling on a quarterly basis. Sandwiches with various high-risk fillings, like chicken, have been targeted. Any unsatisfactory result, a further follow up food sampling is conducted to determine as to whether or not there has been any improvements.

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

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*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)**

*Activities taken on complaint basis and dealt with as necessary. Council had collected a sample for microbiological quality from a residential rainwater tank due to suspicion of causing illness. Result showed no water contamination.*

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

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

*See item 3.1 and 3.2*

### **7.4 Monitoring of Contaminated Land** *Nil.*

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

### **7.6 Monitoring of Air Quality including Noise**

*Nil. Generally referred to EPA for action.*

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

*The Regional Risk Coordinator has inspected all playgrounds to ensure safety.*

### **7.8 Emergency Planning Activities (eg. disaster recovery / business continuity plans)** *Nil.*

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

*All Development Applications that involve dwellings, additions to dwellings, and commercial proposals that involve installation or modification of waste control systems are referred to the EHO for assessment and other issues related to Environmental Health.*

### **7.10 Other** *Nil.*

## **8. OTHER**

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*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.*

**This report is to be presented to District Council of Robe on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

**This report is to be submitted by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009 in soft copy emailed to:**

**[public.health@health.sa.gov.au](mailto:public.health@health.sa.gov.au)**

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