

## COUNCIL NAME

The Barossa Council  
PO Box867  
NURIOOTPA SA 5355

## 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)
Joshua Hopkins	Bachelor Environmental Health	1 Yr 7 months	5/1/07

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)
Ian Baldwin	Dip RSH Dip Meat & Other Foods	10	32 Yrs	1991
Ian Gillies	Dip RSH Dip Meat & Other Foods	20	37 Yrs 9 Months	1989
Ron Sweetman	Dip RSH Dip Meat & Other Foods	15	40 Yrs	Approx 1980

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

<b>Contracted non-employee</b> environmental health officers (30 June 2009)				
Full name	Qualifications	Average contracted hours worked per week	EHO experience (years/months)	Contract start/finish dates
Nil				

Environmental health officer <b>positions vacant</b> (30 June 2009)				
Position type (fulltime/ part time/ contract)	Position hours/week	When the position was first advertised (date)?	Number of suitably qualified applicants (at 30/6/09)	Comments regarding this position.
Nil				

Number (FTE) of Ancillary Staff that assist council to fulfil its responsibilities under the <i>Public &amp; Environmental Health Act, 1987</i> (30 June 2009)	
Immunisation Nurses	2
Administration	1
Other (please specify) Medical Officer Supplied by Barossa Division of General Practice	1

## 1.2 Staff Training

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

### Staff attendance at :-

Environmental Health Australia State Conference  
 Department of Health Legionella Training  
 Waste Water Management Field Days and Biolitix Training  
 TAFE Plumbing Course  
 Emergency Management Training Course  
 Quarterly Northern Areas Local Government Inspectors Group meetings  
 Regional Seminar on Pandemic Flu by Barossa Division of General Practice (BDGP)  
 Immunisation Update by Department of Health and BDGP  
 Member of Waste Water Special Interest Group (SIG)  
 Environmental Health Australia - various health & food seminars

## 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	9	2	Nil
17	Control of offensive activities	3	Nil	Nil
18	Discharge of wastes in a public place	7	2	Nil
19	Private thoroughfare	Nil	Nil	Nil
20	Provision of adequate sanitation	Nil	Nil	Nil
21	Pollution of water	Nil	Nil	Nil
22	Closure of water supplies	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>Regulations 1995 - Waste Control</b>				
Reg. 19	Maintenance orders	5	3	Nil
Reg. 24	Connect to CWMS Note letters sent to 68 owners at Springton to connect to new CWMS	15	68 letters	Nil

### 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).*

- Hoarded materials
- Incorrect or illegal disposal of effluent
- Disposal of biosolids not in accordance with Code of Practice or Council approval
- Disposal of rubbish in public place

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

- Rental properties (mainly Housing Trust homes)
- Private property residential
- Commercial Property
- Council Land

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

- Habitual hoarders
- Unknown offenders dumping rubbish

## **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.*

- Odour from agricultural business
- Noise and odour from poultry keeping
- Spray drift from vineyard

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

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

3.1.1 .1 Noise, dust & drag out from a local quarry

A consultative committee made up of Government agencies, Council, local residents and quarry personnel formed to address issues arising from expansion of Quarry activities. The redesign of internal roadway of and sealing as well as regular road sweeping has greatly reduced drag out issue. Operations management has seen a slight reduction in noise particularly between 10pm and 6am.

The matter of dust arising from vehicle movement, crushing and loading operations will need to be addressed further.

3.1.1.2.1 Water proofing the Barossa

There is a need to ensure that the water issues and water needs for sustainability of the wine industry, industry generally and domestic consumption. Many avenues to achieve this need are being addressed in the form of recycling waste water better farming practices. Council staff and the Barossa & Light Regional Development Board are reviewing the Vision 2045 study addressing issues regarding waterproofing the Barossa.

## **3.2 Prioritisation process**

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

- Through complaints, public meetings and during the development assessment process
- Through government forums

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

- Immediate risk to health and well being, risk management traffic, able to affect solutions in a short time frame
- Longer more sustainable solutions with progressive gains

**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).**

Council assists vulnerable groups in the community through;-

- The provision of a home transport scheme
- A Home Assists Scheme
- A home handyman service
- Through the Leisure Options Coordination Group provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities for people with a disability, mental health illness and frail or aged as well as their carers.
- Councils Disability Access Review Committee assist and advise Council and businesses in the area in the provision of access and amenities to businesses recreation places and public buildings for the disabled in the community.

Council through the food safety plans auditing and with the assistance of accredited food auditors ensure the safety of food for vulnerable groups in Nursing Homes, Hospitals, Hostels and Child Care Centres in the area.

## **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	10	11			11
Spa	7	5	2	3	10
Hydrotherapy	1	1			1
Waterslide					
Other					
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>22</b>

Any Additional Comments?

Nil

**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	35	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Warm Water System	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other					
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>Nil</b>

#### Any Additional Comments?

Council is developing a policy in relation to the monitoring of cooling towers and warm water systems and the implications of work loads on current staffing created by this legislation and other work loads yet to be realised with the introduction of new public health legislation.

#### 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	232	185*	16
Aerobic System	10	15	1
Other (name)	13#	15	
<b>Total</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>17</b>

#### Any Additional Comments?

\*Council carries out 80% of inspections when notified. Often underfloor plumbing installations are not notified nor are the installation stages of dedicated disposal areas.

#The 13 Others are represented by Biolitics systems and the installation of grease traps in food premises following food inspections

#### 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	<i>Nil</i>
Number of School Clinics	<i>11</i>
Number of Internal (Council Staff) Influenza Clinics	<i>2</i>
Number of External Influenza Workplace Clinics	<i>Nil</i>
Number of Other Workplace Clinics	<i>Nil</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b><i>13</i></b>

In Addition to the regular clinics council carries out catch up clinics to provide service to those students who are absent on clinic days.

The Barossa Division of General Practice conducts workplace Influenza clinics in the council area.

#### 4.5 Notifiable Disease Follow Up

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

Council received 6 referrals from the Department of Health, 3 were held via phone interview and 3 by home visits all findings were conveyed to the Department of Health.

#### 4.6 Monitoring of Hairdressing, Beauty & Skin Penetration businesses

Type of Facility	Number in area	Number of routine inspections	Number of complaints	Inspections related to complaints/investigations	Total number of inspections
Tattoo Parlours & Body Piercing	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Hairdressing & Beauty Salons (including those that undertake skin penetration)	30 *	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other	8 #				
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>Nil</b>

*Any Additional Comments?*

\* Council received no complaints in relation to this activity.

# This figure represents acupuncturists or physios who offer acupuncture. Council believes that some local medical officers administer acupuncture as part of patient treatment.

#### 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	Public places 5 Local homes not recorded	Local ponds sprayed. Home rainwater tank solution of paraffin & kerosene issued to residents as requested
Rodents	8	Creeks and drains regularly baited by Adams Pest Control. EHOs follow up and bait domestic premises
Head Lice	Nil	
Flies	Not recorded	
Pigeons	4	Destroyed by Council staff
Scabies	Nil	
Cockroaches	Nil	
Bees	8	Referred to apiarists in the area
European Wasps	136	Nests destroyed free of charge by Council contractor.
Other (please describe)		

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

Refer above

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

10 commercial kennels routinely inspected for health and nuisance factors as well as for animal health.

2 commercial horse studs exist in the area but were not inspected.

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

Staff attended lectures training seminars and group discussions with medical personnel.

Barossa Division of General Practice, Council and other health related agencies are developing a plan for the region including a strategy for the delivery of vaccinations for the public

**4.10 Other**

Council investigated 28 cases of illegal domestic burning and either by education or expiation notices resolved the matters.

**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**

Council does not have a Public & Environmental Health Management Plan. Forward health planning objectives & strategies are defined in Council's Strategic Plan. Health matters are also addressed in Regional Emergency Management Plans and Councils Risk Management Plans

(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.*

Council has a regular segment on local radio and disseminates the promotion, education or general information of:-

- Waste control solid & liquid
- drumMUSTER and Chem Clear collections
- Swimming pool safety awareness
- Food safety measures particularly over the Christmas period
- Immunisation awareness

Further in conjunction with the medical officers of the Barossa Division of General Practice coordinated blood pressure checks and other health education matters at "Health Week in the Library".

Prepared press releases and information leaflets on Pandemic flu particularly for staff.

Carried out public consultation on:-

- Barossa Heath and Fitness Centre
- Penrice Mine issues both public and environmental health and social
- Various planning matters affecting social lifestyle and wellbeing aspects

## **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)  
Nil.
- 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)  
Council provides a kerbside recycling and domestic waste collection service to both townships and rural properties in its area as well as a green waste collection service in townships.  
Council contractors collected on average:  
9.1 Kg of general per household per week from approximately 9700 premises  
4.4 Kg of recycled material per household per week from approximately 9000 premises  
An average of 50.2 tonnes of green waste per month
- 7.4 Monitoring of Contaminated Land**  
Nil.
- 7.5 Monitoring and Control of Hazardous Substances** (eg. asbestos, medical waste)  
Council collects sharps containers from diabetics and immunisation clinics and containers from public toilets and disposes of them through a recognised medical waste collection agency.  
Asbestos from buildings at Council Depot removed and disposed of through licensed removalists.
- 7.6 Monitoring of Air Quality**  
Nil.
- 7.7 Noise Complaint Investigations**  
Refer to the comments in section 2.2.1 & 3.1.
- 7.8 Monitoring and Control of Recreation Facilities** (eg. risk assessment of playgrounds, inspections of camping areas etc.)  
Council's Building Fire Safety Committee have inspected camping grounds and caravan parks for fire safety matters. Council's risk assessment officers routinely inspect Council parks, caravan & camping grounds and playgrounds.
- 7.9 Emergency Planning Activities** (eg. disaster recovery / business continuity plans)  
Council is developing a business continuity plan for all areas of its operation.  
Council has developed and reviewed its Risk Management Plan.  
Council has representation on and has input to the Regional Emergency Management Plan.  
Council, together with The Barossa Division of General Practice and other stakeholders is involved in preparing a Pandemic Health Plan.

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

Refer to the attached report.

7.11 **Other**

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)*

**Date this report was / is to be presented to Council** \_\_\_\_\_ **/ /2009**

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

**[andrew.vickers@health.sa.gov.au](mailto: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.**