

District Council of the Copper Coast

51 Taylor Street
KADINA SA 5554

Jan Truter Environmental Services Officer: Health

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 **30th 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)
Jan Truter	Advanced Diploma in Public Health	22 years & 6 months	25/07/05

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)
N/A				

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
N/A				

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
N/A				

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.
N/A				

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
Administration	0
Other (please specify)	1 – Master Plumber

1.2 Staff Training

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

Staff attended several seminars and meetings pertaining to Plumbing and Environmental Health issues. Council is also a member of the Northern Areas Local Government Inspectors Group

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	10	1
17	Control of offensive activities	3	1	0
18	Discharge of wastes in a public place	2	0	0
19	Private thoroughfare	0	0	0
20	Provision of adequate sanitation	6	4	0
21	Pollution of water	0	0	0
22	Closure of water supplies	0	0	0
Regulations 1995 - Waste Control				
Reg. 19	Maintenance orders	7	7	0
Reg. 24	Connect to STEDS	5	5	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).

Several complaints have been received of insanitary living conditions. Inspections have been carried out and where appropriate the necessary actions have been undertaken. Problems ranged from overgrown properties, hoarding of materials and insanitary living conditions.

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

Insanitary conditions were found on privately owned and rental properties. Overgrown properties and hoarding were found to be more prevalent at rental properties.

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

Mostly dealing with rental properties where the occupant does not have the pride of ownership. Prosecution under current legislation takes up too much time & resources.

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.

No offensive activities were reported for this period.

3 PRIORITY OF PUBLIC & ENVIROMENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

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

- Discussions via the public consultation process for a Community Wastewater Management System for Moonta, Moonta Bay and Port Hughes are to continue. Environmentally sensitive areas along the coastline will benefit from this scheme. Areas that have problems with soakage, i.e. clay and rock areas will also benefit.
- Closure of landfills at Wallaroo and Moonta prior to 2010 in line with State and EPA Legislation and the erection of a waste transfer station at Kadina is also a priority.

3.2 Prioritisation process

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

Investigations into the nature of the soil and block sizes and location played a roll in the decision making.

Closure of landfill sites are directly contributed to EPA & State Government legislation

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

Protecting the Gulf and subsurface water from pollution were the main priority.

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

No programs were implemented for this period.

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	1	2	0	0	2
Spa	0	0	0	0	0
Hydrotherapy	0	0	0	0	0
Waterslide	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1	0	0	0	2

Any Additional Comments?

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	0	0	0	0	0
Warm Water System	3	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Total	3	0	0	0	0

4.3 Monitoring and control of Waste Control Systems (eg. septic tanks, STEDS, CEDS)

Type of System	Number of applications	Number of routine inspections	Number of complaints
Septic Tank	287	464	17
Aerobic System	12	10	3
Other (name)		0	0
Total	299	474	20

Any Additional Comments ?

Council encourages regular desludging of all septic tanks. Contractors have access to a council operated dumping facility and carry out desludging of septic tanks privately. Council has started with a four year cleaning out program of all septic tanks (approximately 3,000 Households) connected to the common effluent disposal system. The CWMS provide irrigation water for two golf courses. Treated irrigation water provided by the CWMS are regularly tested.

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	0
Number of School Clinics	1
Number of Internal (Council Staff) Influenza Clinics	1
Number of External Influenza Workplace Clinics	2
Number of Other Workplace Clinics	0
<i>Total</i>	<i>4</i>

4.5 **Notifiable Disease Follow Up**

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

Three cases of alleged food poisoning were followed up by Council Staff.

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	0	0	0	0
Hairdressing & Beauty Salons (including those that undertake skin penetration)	15	0	0	0	0
Other					
Total	16	0	0	0	0

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	9	N
Rodents	8	N
Head Lice	0	N
Flies	3	N
Pigeons	17	Y
Scabies	0	N
Cockroaches	0	N
Bees	1	N
European Wasps	0	N
Other (please describe)		

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

HEAD LICE

Information regarding the control of Head Lice is available from the Council in the form of pamphlets and brochures.

MOSQUITOES

Information regarding the control of mosquitoes is available from the Council in the form of pamphlets and brochures. Old car bodies, tyres, poorly maintained effluent systems; tanks and drums are possible breeding sites for mosquitoes. When properties are being inspected in relation to possible insanitary or unsightly conditions, these items receive particular attention.

EUROPEAN WASPS / BEES

There have been no verified reports of European wasp nests or stings. An officer from the Animal and Plant Control Board deals with European wasps. Pamphlets regarding this pest are available from the Council office.

RODENTS

Information regarding rat control is available from the Council office in the form of pamphlets, brochures and advice from EHO.

PIGEONS

Pigeons are being eradicated from council and private buildings with the use of a mix of alpha chloralose & wheat.

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

The General Inspector undertakes administration of the Dog and Cat Management Act.

4.9 Outline any preparation work done for Pandemic Flu

Council is part of the overall Regional Disaster & Emergency Management Plan.

4.10 Other

None.

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

Have details of the plan been provided in previous reports ?

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.

Council provides information concerning food safety and other health related topics to church, community groups and individuals. This is generally in the form of pamphlets or brochures downloaded from the web from organizations such as The Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Health. Council distributes letters pertaining safe handling of food information at all community events.

Council also holds copies of food safety videos available for loan to schools and community groups. Community groups & schools have access to "I am Alert" program on Council's website.

Council provides food safety sessions to church and community groups in response to requests from various groups.

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)

The potable water supply is monitored and controlled by SA Water.

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

Inspectors monitor soil erosion and washing / cleaning of equipment on building sites during daily routine inspections.

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

Council operates a two bin system. A 140-litre bin for domestic refuse is collected weekly and a 240-litre bin for recyclables is collected fortnightly. Green waste is mulched and applied to parks and community gardens in order to reduce evaporation and the amount of water normally required to maintain these assets.

Effluent sludge is collected by licensed contractors and is disposed of in Council maintained facilities.

7.4 Monitoring of Contaminated Land

A contaminated land register has been established. An old industrial site is undergoing further investigation. A number of old sheep dips are also on this register.

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

Council maintains a record of Council owned properties that are known to contain asbestos. Asbestos is stored at Kadina landfill site according to EPA licence requirements.

Council has installed sharp containers in public toilets to facilitate the safe disposal of medical waste.

7.6 Monitoring of Air Quality

Domestic wood heaters and burning off continue to be a minor source of complaints received by Council. Burning on farms close to town is a much larger issue and results in many complaints.

Chemical over-spray complaints are directed to the Department of Primary Industries and Resources.

7.7 Noise Complaint Investigations

Noise complaints generally involve dogs, and are therefore handled by the general inspector

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

Routine inspections are being carried out of camping areas and public recreation facilities by Council's Occupational Health & Safety Officer.

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

Council is a participant in the overall Regional & State disaster plan.

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

Planning and development is controlled to ensure orderly and sustainable development and to reduce the impact of development on residents quality of life and the environment.

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 is to be presented to Council Meeting to be held on 2 / 9 /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.