

**DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MALLALA**  
**2a Wasleys Road**  
**MALLALA 5502**  
**Ph: 8527 2006**

**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)
Ken Savage	Associate Diploma E H	10 years	19/11/2008
Steve Bateman (Manager Community Services)	Associate Diploma E H	20 years	1994

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)


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

<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

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.

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	
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.*

Attended Liquor Licensing Seminar

Attended Stormwater Reuse field Day

Attended Basic Plumbing Training Course

Attended EHO's Seminar – Regulatory Activities in Councils – Dealing with the Ombudsman

## 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	2		
17	Control of offensive activities	3		
18	Discharge of wastes in a public place			
19	Private thoroughfare			
20	Provision of adequate sanitation	3		
21	Pollution of water			
22	Closure of water supplies			
<b>Regulations 1995 - Waste Control</b>				
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).

Accumulation of rubbish and debris with the likelihood to provide harbourage for vermin.

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

Privately owned properties predominately in semi-rural areas.

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

Uncooperative owners and lack of evidence regarding harbourage of vermin along with complaints often being of a vindictive nature against neighbours and may have a long history of dispute.

## **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.

One complaint involved the spreading of animal blood and other waste products from an abattoir on to vacant land with the resulting odour problem. This complaint was resolved with the involvement of the EPA as this was an EPA licensed premises.

Another complaint was received regarding odour associated with the accumulation of sediment (pig faeces) from a settling pond. This complaint was resolved by ensuring that correct procedures are observed to limit the likelihood of odours emanating from the property.

A complaint was received regarding an individual pumping out his septic tank effluent on to the garden. This remains a problem in this region due to failing septic systems mainly in the townships of Mallala and Two Wells on small blocks. A CWMS is in the initial stages of planning and works will be commencing in the near future with the system in both Mallala and Two Wells, hopefully becoming operational by the end of 2010.

### **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**

Illegal pumping out of septic tanks continues to be one of the main issues and as mentioned previously this should be virtually eliminated with the introduction of the CWMS.

#### **3.2 Prioritisation process**

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

Council was made aware of the issues by way of complaint and investigation and by studies conducted by several students in this area.

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

The issues were prioritised by the numbers of people undertaking this practice, the associated health risk and the health and economic benefits relating to development of smaller allotments.

#### **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).**

There are no specific programs dealing with public health issues in regards to vulnerable groups in the community.

## 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	1	Nil	Nil	1
Spa	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Hydrotherapy	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Waterslide	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>1</b>

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	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Warm Water System	1	1	Nil	Nil	1
Other	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>1</b>

Any Additional Comments?

**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	36	53	5
Aerobic System	40	41	3
Other (name)	5	5	
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>8</b>

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

**4.5 Notifiable Disease Follow Up**

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

There were no Notifiable Disease Notifications that required follow up.

#### 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 & Beauty Salons (including those that undertake skin penetration)	3	3	Nil	Nil	3
Other					
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>4</b>

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	N
Rodents	Nil	N
Head Lice	Nil	N
Flies	Nil	N
Pigeons	Nil	N
Scabies	Nil	N
Cockroaches	Nil	N
Bees	Nil	N
European Wasps	Nil	N
Other (please describe)	1	N
Ants		

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

There is currently a mosquito monitoring program but no control measures have been undertaken.

Other pests are largely dealt with by private pest control companies in response to complaints investigated by an officer.

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

No monitoring in regards to Animal Keeping Facilities is undertaken. We do attend to complaints as they arise.

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

Have kept informed regarding the latest information regarding Pandemic Flu (H1N1) and have passed on information to staff and distributed information leaflets to public buildings and community centres and contacted local surgeries that are administering vaccines.

**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?**

**NO**

**IF NO**

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

**NO**

**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.*

Would have an expectation of producing a regional plan with any future Council amalgamation under the new Health Act.

## **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.*

There has been significant community consultation with the introduction of the "Bio Basket" in the Mallala, Two Wells and Dublin townships, as well as information leaflets and information on the Website. This pilot run in conjunction with Zero Waste encourages householders to recycle and compost their green and organic waste.

## 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)

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 operates and offers an alternating domestic waste and recycling collection to all residents. Each residential property is provided with a 240 litre MGB for recycling purposes. Council collects approximately 25 tonnes of recyclables per fortnight, which equates to an average of 10 kilograms per household. Approximately 4,500 cubic metres of recyclable materials were diverted from landfill.

Council operates its own landfill and is committed to reducing the amount of waste to landfill. All domestic waste and recyclable materials are transported and disposed of at the Northern Adelaide Waste Management Authority (NAWMA) to be sorted and further processed.

The waste collection tonnage statistics for the reporting period are provided below:

Year 2008/2009

Waste . . . . .	1383 tonnes
Recycling . . . . .	554 tonnes
Total . . . . .	1937 tonnes

Council is committed to reducing waste to landfill and its dedicated Waste Management Unit is responsible for waste collection and disposal including resource recovery programs

#### Resource Recovery Facility

Council's successful grant application has allowed for the construction and development of an undercover sorting facility for recovery of recyclable materials from; (1) Two Wells transfer station, (2) illegally dumped rubbish; and (3) residential general trailer waste. The sorting and diversion of the material will significantly reduce the amount of waste to landfill.

## Illegal Dumping

The issue of illegal dumping is a major concern. Council is being greatly affected as quantities of waste dumped range from persons depositing trailer loads of domestic waste to contractors depositing semi-trailer loads of refuse from housing demolition. Illegal dumping is not only limited to road verges, but also occurs on parks, reserves, creeks and other watercourses.

Council in partnership with the Local Government Association, Zero Waste SA, KESAB and other Councils affected by illegal dumping are exploring methods of addressing this issue through activities such as increasing surveillance with the aim of prosecuting offenders.

Recent initiatives such as a computer system (Zeus - Zero Waste SA) capable of recording and identifying "hot spots" throughout the state and the amount and type of illegal dumping is now in place and currently hand held PDA's are being trialled on site to assist with this effort.

This Council is also in the process of setting up covert camera surveillance in an attempt to identify and prosecute illegal dumping perpetrators.

### 7.4 **Monitoring of Contaminated Land**

The District Council of Mallala as part of its commitment to the EPA ensures that all current and old landfill sites are periodically checked for leachates entering the water table

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

The District Council of Mallala has an asbestos register that identifies all asbestos materials located on any of the buildings located on council lands. This is maintained on a yearly basis with updates placed into each respective folder

### 7.6 **Monitoring of Air Quality**

Nil

### 7.7 **Noise Complaint Investigations**

Nil

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

Inspections are carried out by the engineering staff and is controlled by that section.

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

All emergency planning activities are handled by the assistant to the records officer.

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

All developments that are presented to Council's Planning Section are reviewed by the EHO to ensure that issues such as contravening setbacks to waste water control systems prior to the Planning Section granting approval for the developments. Other issues such as health impacts are determined when and as the need arises.

**7.11 Other**

Nil

## 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**

**19 / 10 /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.**