

**5.6 LATE REPORT: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AUSTRALIA NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2019**

**TRIM Ref:** D19/132945  
**Author:** Mark Fallows, Manager Regulatory Services  
**Authoriser:** Stephanie Smith, A/Executive Director Planning and Place  
**Attachments:** 1. Draft Environmental Health Australia National Conference Program 6, 7 & 8 November 2019

**RECOMMENDATION:****That Council:**

1. **APPROVES** the attendance of a City Environmental Health Officer or her nominated City representative at the Environmental Health Australia National Conference 2019 in Adelaide on 6, 7 and 8 November 2019; and
2. **NOTES** the associated costs of \$1,940 would be funded by the City in accordance with Policy No. 4.1.15 – Conferences.

**PURPOSE OF REPORT:**

To seek approval a City Environmental Health Officer to attend the Environmental Health Australia National Conference 2019 in Adelaide on 6, 7 and 8 November 2019.

**BACKGROUND:**

Attendance at the Environmental Health Australia National Conference 2019 would provide the City with valuable insight and ongoing learnings into existing and emerging public health trends, threats and management measures. These learnings would inform the development of the City's Public Health Plan, in addition to implementing best practice ethos and new initiatives into the delivery of existing environmental health programs and services. This conference would also provide the opportunity to engage environmental health stakeholders from all tiers of government and the private sector.

**DETAILS:**

The Environmental Health Australia National Conference will feature presentations on:

1. Building the capacity of local communities for the betterment of overall health and wellbeing;
2. Emerging threats of climate change and the impact on public health;
3. How Environmental Health Officers can contribute to reducing food waste; and
4. Technology initiatives to assist with noise investigations.

The draft program is included as **Attachment 1**.

**CONSULTATION/ADVERTISING:**

Not applicable.

**LEGAL/POLICY:**

Under Policy No. 4.1.15 – Conferences, Council approval is required for staff attendance at interstate conferences or training. As per Clause 2.1(i) of the Policy, employees may be authorised to attend through a resolution passed at a Council Meeting. Clause 3.3(i) articulates that the City will pay reasonable accommodation costs in accordance with the award. As the award referred to in the Policy is no longer in operation, and the existing Modern Award does not refer to travel and accommodation entitlements, the reasonableness of these costs is open to Council discretion.

**RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS:**

**Low:** It is considered low risk for a City employee to attend an interstate conference. The employee will continue to be covered under the City's existing insurances whilst in Adelaide on work time.

**STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS:**

This is in keeping with the City's *Strategic Community Plan 2018-2028*:

Innovative and Accountable

*We are open and accountable to an engaged community.*

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:**

Nil.

**FINANCIAL/BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:**

The approximate cost for attending this conference is detailed below:

Three Day Conference Registration Fee	\$ 990
Economy Airfare (approx.)	\$ 500
Accommodation 3 nights @ \$150/night	\$ 450
Total:	<u>\$1,940</u>

An early bird registration fee and member discount has been applied to the above. Non-member registration is \$1,475.

**Cancellation, Refunds & Transferring of Registrations**

For the conference, cancellations received and acknowledged prior to 12 October 2019 will receive a refund of registration fees less an administration charge of \$65.00. Cancellations after this date, an alternate delegate is welcome to attend, or the full cost of registration will be incurred. An additional fee may be payable if the original registration is at the member rate and the alternate delegate is not a member.



# 44th EHA NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Environmental Health  
Protecting People—Saving Lives



National Wine Centre—Adelaide

6-8th November 2019

## INVITATION

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Environmental Health Australia (SA) Inc invites you to attend the 44th National Environmental Health Conference to be held on the 6th—8th November at the National Wine Centre, Hackney Road, Adelaide.

The conference theme ‘Environmental Health : Protecting People—Saving Lives’ aims to highlight the important role environmental health plays in improving the health status of western communities.

An exciting program is in store with presentations and case studies that address the topical and important issues facing today’s Environmental Health Officers. Presenters from across the wider profession will share their skills and knowledge with the Environmental Health community.

Please join your fellow environmental health professionals, share your experiences, and celebrate our diverse role and the part we all play in protecting and developing our own communities.

This conference will be of interest to anyone involved in the delivery and/or development of environmental health and public health initiatives. This include Environmental Health Officers, Environmental Project Officers, Scientific Officers, Managers, Local Government Elected Members and Students.

### THE COMMITTEE

**Helen Psarras, Local Governmental Association**

**Nadia Conci, Eastern Health Authority**

**Rebecca Burton, Berri Barmera Council**

**Nathan Maple, City of Onkaparinga**

**Kirstin Ross, Flinders University**

**Roxanne Clark, Environmental Health Australia**

## VENUE

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Environmental Health Australia (SA) Inc invites you to attend the 44th National Environmental Health Conference to be held on the 6th—8th November at the National Wine Centre of Australia, Hackney Road, Adelaide.

The 2019 National EHA Conference will be held at the National Wine Centre situated on the edge of Adelaide's stunning Botanical Gardens. The National Wine Centre combines eye-catching architecture with smooth functionality to create an exciting tourism attraction showcasing the Australian wine industry as well as a world class function centre.

The outer shell of the building resembles wine barrels. Inside, you can take a wine discovery journey or enjoy the outdoor space and interactive exhibits. The National Wine Centre of Australia is fully wheelchair accessible, with accessible bathrooms and parking reserved for disabled badge holders.

The National Wine Centre of Australia occupies a prime position in the heart of Adelaide, next to the Adelaide Botanic Gardens. There is parking or you could consider public transport. The free 98A and 98C city bus services stop at the top of East Terrace, about an 800-metres walk to the centre.



## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Registration Desk

The registration desk is located on the ground floor foyer of the Wine Centre.

The Registration desk will be open at the below times with conference staff available to assist with any of your enquiries.

Wednesday 6 November 08:00–15:00

Thursday 7 November 08:00–17:00

All delegates are required to register at the registration desk prior to entering any conference sessions, social functions or the exhibition space.

### Conference Name Badges

All delegates, speakers, sponsors and exhibitors will be provided with a name badge, which must be worn at all times within the conference venue and is required for access to all sessions and social functions.

### Presenters and Session Chairs

All speakers are asked to provide their presentation on USB to the registration desk at least three hours before they are due to present—this may mean the day before the presentation.

All presentations will be loaded onto the conference laptop. An audio visual technician will be present through the conference.

Speakers are asked to introduce themselves to their Session Chair during the break before their sessions—at least 10 minutes before the session, if possible—to familiarise themselves with the equipment and check that presentations are working.

### Exhibition

We are pleased to welcome our Sponsors and Exhibitors to the conference. Please visit them during the refreshment and lunch breaks, to add extra value to your conference experience, and to thank them for their support.

### Dietary Requirements

The centre has been advised of any special dietary requirements you have indicated on your registration form and there will be a special table set up with dietary requirements. Please make yourself known to the centre staff—they will be happy to assist in pointing out the appropriate food.

### Parking

Parking is available after the first parking bay off Hackney Road and on Plane Tree Drive in Botanic Park.

Parking is Botanic Park Gardens Pay and Display metered parking with up to 4-10 hours. The cost of parking is \$2.60 per hour (Monday to Friday) with free parking after 6.00pm.

Multi story car parks are located on Frome Road, Rundle Street and North Terrace followed by a 5-10 minute walk along Botanic Road to the National Wine Centre. Two disabled car parks are located at the Western end of the venue; access is via the driveway on Botanic Road after Bus Stop 1.

### Acknowledgement

Environmental Health Australia would like to acknowledge and pay respect to the South Australian Aboriginal Community as the traditional and original owners, and continuing custodians of this land on which we gather and acknowledge Elders—past and present

### Public Transport

Adelaide Free Bus - City Loop (99C) and stop at Stop No. 11 Botanic Gardens/East Terrace. The Botanic Road entrance to the National Wine Centre is approximately a 200 metre walk.

### Internet Access

Complimentary internet access will be available for the duration of the conference. There will be wifi cards with the username and password available from the registration desk.

### Mobile Phones

As a courtesy to other delegates and presenters, please ensure that all mobile phones are switched to silent during all sessions and social functions.

## EXTRAS

### Wednesday 6th November

5.30pm – 7.00pm  
National Wine Centre

### Cocktail Function

A welcome cocktail function will be held on the Terrace of the National Wine Centre.

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### Thursday 7th November

7.00pm – 12.00am  
Gala Dinner at the National Wine Centre—Exhibition Hall

### Gala Conference Dinner at National Wine Centre—Exhibition Hall

A black tie and pearls conference dinner will accompany the conference to ensure delegates have the opportunity to network.

Come dressed in your finest attire and join us in the Exhibition Hall at National Wine Centre, one of Adelaide's signature locations.

Live music will ensure the dance floor is jam packed!



## MASTERCLASS - Tuesday 5th November 2019

### Tuesday 5th November

10.30am – 5.00pm

Flinders in the City

**\$270.00**

### Master Class

Flinders in the City

Victoria Square, Adelaide

10.0am–5.00–pm

\$270.00

### Assessment and Remediation of Meth Houses

#### When Cooks don't Clean

Chemical contamination, including drug residues such as methamphetamine, have been identified in properties used for the manufacture and smoking of methamphetamine.

More specifically methamphetamine residues have been found to persist on various surfaces inside properties, and exposure to these residues has been associated with adverse health effects, particularly for young children.

This workshop will provide an overview of a new industry code of practice aimed at providing consistency in the testing and remediation of properties affected by drug residues from manufacture and/or use.

Specifically the workshop will aim to assist EHOs understand how to respond to clandestine drug labs and what to expect when testing and remediation works are undertaken so that these properties are properly remediated so they are safe for future occupation.

Case studies and examples of how these sites are assessed and managed will be presented.

**Please note: Conference program is subject to change without notice**

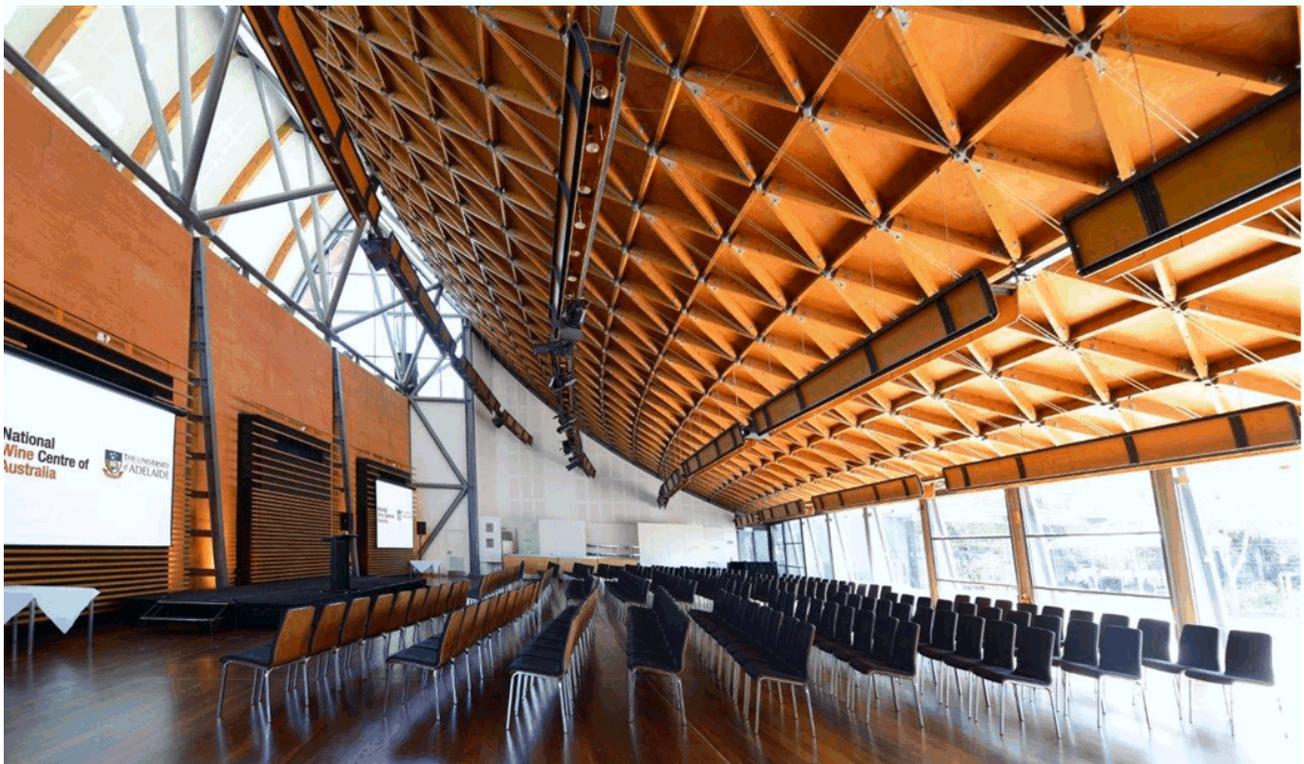
## PROGRAM - Wednesday 6th November 2019

Time	Activity	
	<b>Higginbotham Room</b>	
8.30am	Registration	
9.00am	Welcome - Helen Psarras, President, EHA (SA) Inc	
9.10am	Welcome to Country	
9.30am	<b>Opening Address</b> The Hon Stephen Wade MLC, Minister for Health	
9.40am	<b>Keynote Speaker</b> Dr David Dyjack, National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) of United States of America	
<b>10.30am</b>	<b>MORNING TEA</b>	
10.50am	<b>Environmental Health in Australia : Overlooked and Underrated</b> Dr Harriet Whiley, Senior Lecturer Environmental Health, Flinders University	
11.15am	<b>Local Governmental Perceptions of Environmental Health and the Need for Change</b> Jim Smith, Professor Environmental Health, Flinders University	
11.40am	<b>Mistake ..Little lie .. Big lies: an Ethical Dilemma and an Environmental Health Officer</b> Dr Kirstin Ross, Senior Lecturer Environmental Health, Flinders University	
12.05pm	<b>Australian Food Enforcement - A South Australian Perspective</b> Paul Kelly, Director, Norman Waterhouse Lawyers Dale Mazzachi, Principal, Norman Waterhouse Lawyers	
<b>12.45pm</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>	
1.30pm	<b>News Zealand Institute of Environmental Health (NZIEH)</b> Vanessa Coull, President	
1.40pm	<b>Introduction into the National Strawberry Tampering Incident</b> Dr Faye Jenkins, Director food and Controlled Drugs Branch, SA Health	
1.50pm	<b>Pinning Down Food Tampering - National Strawberry Tampering Incident</b> Craig McGrath, A/g Detective Superintendent, Major and Organised Crime Squad, QLD Police and Tenille Fort, Director, Food Safety Standards and Regulation, QLD Health	
<b>2.40pm</b>	<b>Higginbotham Room</b>	<b>Vine Room</b>
	Theme: Food	Theme: Hoarding and Squalor
2.45pm	<b>Wine Regulation and the Label Integrity Program</b> Belinda van Eyssen, Label Integrity Auditor, Wine Australia for Australian Wine	<b>Hoarding and Squalor Initiatives to Reduce Health Risk and Improve Wellbeing in the Community</b> Nicole Moore, City of Onkaparinga
3.05pm	<b>Garibaldi 25 years on - The Human Toll</b> David Cowell, Adelaide Plains Councils	<b>Rightsize your Life - The Balanced Approach to Living Better with your Belongings</b> Amelia Balmer

Please note: Conference program is subject to change without notice

## PROGRAM - Wednesday 6th November 2019

	Theme: Food	Theme: Hoarding and Squalor
3.25pm	<b>An Effective Method for Salmonella Enterica Serovar Typhimurium Decontamination of Chicken Eggs</b> Thilini Keerthirathne, Student, Flinders University	<b>Rightsize your Life - The Balanced Approach to Living Better with your Belongings</b> Amelia Balmer
3.45pm	<b>AFTERNOON TEA</b>	
	<b>Higginbotham Room</b>	
4.05pm	<b>The Role of Councils and Environmental Health Officers in Fighting Food Waste</b> Dr Stephen Lapidge, CEO Fight Food Waste	
4.40pm	<b>Culture and Behaviour – an Innovative Approach to Supporting Foodborne Illness Reduction</b> Karen Ferres, Manager, Food Safety & Audit, SA Health	
5.20pm	Close	
5.30pm	Cocktail Function on the Terrace	





## PROGRAM - Thursday 7th November 2019

2.35pm	<b>Diving in Your Drinking Water</b> David Cunliffe, SA Health	
3.00pm	<b>AFTERNOON TEA</b>	
	<b>Higginbotham Room</b>	<b>Gallery Room</b>
	<b>Theme: Water</b>	<b>Theme: Public Health &amp; Clan Labs</b>
3.20pm	<b>The Health Risks Associated with the use of Water Mist Systems as a Cooling Intervention in Public Places</b> Edmore Masaka, Manager Development Services-Health, East Pilbara Shire	<b>Operation Kohl: an Investigation into Lead Poisoning in Children</b> Haylee Sneesby, Environmental Health Officer, Western Sydney Local Health District
3.40pm	<b>Legionella</b> Dr Richard Bentham, Associate Director Consultancy, Built Water Solutions	<b>Investigation into the Presence of Campylobacter Jejuni and Salmonella Enterica Serovar Typhimurium in Wild Bird Faeces on the Yorke Peninsula</b> Jessica Dennis, Student, Flinders University
4.00pm	<b>Challenges and Triumphs: the Safe Drinking Water Act in Action</b> Renay Cooke, Senior Water Quality Advisor, SA Health	<b>South Australia's Largest Clandestine Methamphetamine Laboratory: a Case Study</b> Gillian Miller, EHO, City of Charles Sturt
4.20pm	<b>High Rate Algal Ponds for Treatment of Wastewater in Rural Communities</b> Howard Fallowfield, Lecturer, Flinders University	<b>Not in Our Backyard... Research detailing how Clandestine Laboratories may Further Impact the Health and Environment of our Regional Communities</b> Juliet Duffy, Director, Regional Enviroscience Pty Ltd
	<b>Higginbotham Room</b>	
4.45pm	NSW National Conference 2020	
4.50pm	David Dyjack, NEHA	
5.30pm	Close	
7.00pm	Gala Dinner	

Please note: Conference program is subject to change without notice



## PROGRAM - Friday 8th November 2019

Time	Educational Tour of McLaren Vale
9.15am	Assemble at National Wine Centre
9.30am	Depart Adelaide
10.30am	Arrive d'Arenberg Winery, McLaren Vale
10.35am	<p><b>Chef Talks on Level One (Kitchen) including canapes</b> After many years training at a Michelin starred kitchen, travelling and learning about global gastronomy, South African husband-and-wife team Brendan Wessels and Lindsay Durr have worked together to create a unique dining adventure at the d'Arenberg Cube.</p> <p>Serving exceptional dishes that engage the imagination of guests, each aspect of the restaurant has been designed to create an environment that stimulates the senses, with a playful element. Their presentation will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How their food safety standards here branch from their education in Europe and the harsh penalties to food businesses in within the EU.</li> <li>• How they have operated extremely efficient food safe businesses in Australia in all restaurant kitchens they have managed.</li> <li>• How they have implemented these strategies in the d'Arenberg Cube Restaurant with unique cooking techniques and food preparation including a 3D food printer.</li> </ul>
11.20am	<p><b>Architectural Talk and Hosted Wine Tasting on Level Two of the d'Arenberg Cube</b> Located on the top level of the d'Arenberg Cube, the tasting room has panoramic views over McLaren Vale, the Willunga Hills and the Gulf St Vincent</p>
12.30pm	Lunch at Pizzateca
2.00pm	<p><b>Torresan Wines - Tour of Bottling/Sterilization Plant</b> This family owned company service over 250 customers within Australia and New Zealand wine regions. In 2007, Torresan Wines opened their environmentally friendly, state of the art, contract bottling facility situated in McLaren Vale. The purpose built facility has two bottling lines in operation. These bottling lines have required at least one staff member to be present to facilitate the daily manual processes such as sterilisation, which have significantly impacted on staff time and quality of life. Recently, in July 2019 the larger bottling line was upgraded and became the first fully automated and remotely accessed bottling line in the region capable of bottling over 14,000 bottles per hour.</p> <p>The tour of Torresan Bottling Plant will provide EHOs with an insight of the state of the art Blue H2O automated filtration system, which was recently nominated for the WISA Tine Industry Impact Award. This custom designed system will provide EHOs an understanding of a filtration, sterilisation and integrated integrity system that is fully automated and remotely accessed and managed. This upgrade has enabled improved work place efficiencies; reduced cost production; significantly decreased the need for manual processing and subsequently improved the work life balance of staff, whilst maintaining the integrity of the end product and high quality service of their customers. The tour will also demonstrate best practice measures such as screening systems for foreign objects and fill heights, and swab testing for Adenosine triphosphate production after sterilisation</p>
4.00pm	Arrive Adelaide

**Please note: Conference program is subject to change without notice**

## MEET YOUR KEY NOTE SPEAKER—Wednesday

### David Dyjack, Dr. PH, CIH

*"Public Health is profoundly local. My professional aim is to enhance the capacity of local communities and their workforce in support of conditions that optimize the potential of every citizen."*

David Dyjack is the Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) of United States of America.



The National Environmental Health Association has more than 5,000 members in the public and private sectors as well as in universities and uniformed services. It publishes the peer-reviewed Journal of Environmental Health providing a valuable resource for the complete spectrum of environmental health topics. NEHA's mission, "to advance the environmental health professional for the purpose of providing a healthful environment for all" is fulfilled in the products and services offered by NEHA [www.neha.org](http://www.neha.org).

"David's background in both environmental health and association management are an ideal fit for NEHA's new executive director. We are extremely excited about David joining us as we chart a course to further advance and elevate the environmental health arena both nationally and globally," said NEHA Board President Carolyn Harvey.

David's 30-year career includes expertise in environmental health, emergency preparedness and response, public health informatics, infectious disease, workforce development, governmental infrastructure, maternal and child health, health equity, and chronic disease. A board certified industrial hygienist, Dyjack also has advanced degrees in public health with a doctorate from the University of Michigan and a master's degree from the University of Utah.

## SPEAKER ABSTRACTS—Wednesday

### Dr Harriet Whiley

**The future of Environmental Health: Overlooked, Undervalued and Facing Emerging Challenges Driven by Climate Change and Aging Populations**

Environmental health is the discipline that has had the greatest impact on human health. The World Health Organization estimates that 15 of the extra 20 years of life that we now enjoy compared with a century ago can be attributed to environmental health interventions.

However, in Australia, the environmental health profession is under-recognised and undervalued. There are too few Environmental Health Officers to meet the current regulatory requirements, much less deal with the emerging environmental health issues arising because of changing global conditions. This presentation will explore emerging environmental health threats driven by climate change including extreme heat, allergens, changing pattern of infectious diseases (including foodborne, waterborne and vector borne diseases) and increased frequencies of natural disasters. The confounding of these issues due to our aging population will also be discussed. Environmental health is the invisible profession. Advocacy is crucial to raise awareness and ensure the profession has the support needed to manage these emerging challenges.

## SPEAKER ABSTRACTS—Wednesday

### Professor Jim Smith, Dr PH FIML AFCHSM

#### Local Government Perceptions of Environmental Health and the Need for Change

It is well recognised that environmental health has had a critical impact on the improvement of the health status of Western populations however, there seems to be a trend of under-recognition and undervaluing of the environmental health effort in today's local government sector. This presentation, based on research being conducted currently and initiated by a recent article on the standing of environmental health in Australia, explores local government perceptions of environmental health and environmental health officers across Australia. It will also explore reasons for the "invisibility" of EHOs and how these might be addressed to meet the future environmental health challenges faced by the community and local government

### Vanessa Coull

#### New Zealand Institute of Environmental Health (NZIEH) - President

Response Manager Incident Management Team at Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)

Member of the Incident Management Team and responsible for managing the regional co ordination centre/field headquarters in Hamilton for the North Island for the MBovis Response

Member of the National Council Committee and Organising Committee for the World Congress.

Senior Adviser in the Animal Products team. Member of project team for MPI strategic project - Ease of business for small food businesses.

### National Strawberry Tampering Incident

#### National Strawberry Tampering Incident

Dr Jenkins will provide background for the Queensland presentation on the National Strawberry Tampering Incident by introducing the food regulatory system and its preparedness to manage food safety incidents. She will also introduce the Queensland speakers.

#### Debrief of the National Strawberry Tampering Incident

In September 2018, a food tampering incident occurred involving sewing needles inserted into Australian strawberries. Initially an isolated event in Queensland, the incident escalated to other states and territories involving multiple tampering events in strawberries and other fruit across the country. Only a few instances were believed by authorities to be associated with the original event with most other instances believed to multiple hoax or 'copycat' events.

Queensland Health and the Queensland Police Service (QPS) led the incident investigation and response. State and territory food regulatory agencies and the Australian Government have also responded with a range of measures including removing implicated strawberries from sale, introducing and strengthening penalties for food tampering and imposing stricter conditions for strawberry export.



### Dr Kirstin Ross

#### Mistake...Little Lie...Big Lies: an Ethical Dilemma and an EHO

Public health protection lies at the heart of what an environmental health officer does. We work tirelessly to ensure that the public's health is protected. So when protecting public health is in conflict with a directive of your employers, how should this be resolved? Here we present a case study of a situation that escalated as a result of a number of poor decisions, resulting in a family becoming unwell and potentially facing long term health impacts. What could the EHO have done differently? What tools are available to enable us to make the right decisions in cases like this? How do we deal with conflicting advice about what is right and what is wrong?

## SPEAKERS ABSTRACTS—Wednesday

### Norman Waterhouse Lawyers

#### Australian Food Enforcement - A South Australian Perspective

Paul Kelly, Director, Norman Waterhouse Lawyers

Dale Mazzachi, Principal, Norman Waterhouse Lawyers

Paul Kelly is a Partner in the firm's specialist Local Government Governance & Regulatory Services Team. The Norman Waterhouse Local Government Team is the largest of its kind in the State and is widely recognised as the leader in the provision of administrative and regulatory advice to the local government sector in South Australia.



### Belinda Van Eyssen

#### Wine Regulation and the Label Integrity Program

The objective of the Label Integrity Program (LIP) is to help to ensure the truth, and the reputation for truthfulness, of statements made on wine labels, or made for commercial purposes in other ways, about the vintage, variety or the geographical indication of wine manufactured in Australia.

The Label Integrity Program is legislated for under Part VIB of the *Wine Australia Act 2013* (the Act).

### Nicole Moore

#### Hoarding and Squalor Initiatives to Reduce Health Risk and Improve Wellbeing in the Community

Multiple departments within the City of Onkaparinga work in collaboration to assist residents whose homes are in a state of hoarding and/or squalor to reduce risks to public health, to obtain support services to improve wellbeing of residents, reduce social isolation and risks of eviction and homelessness.

### David Cowell

#### Garibaldi 25 years on – The Human Toll

In February 1995, four year old Nikki Robinson died from a fatal stroke after consuming contaminated mettwurst. 173 people became sick and 23 people developed (HUS) Haemolytic Uremic Syndrome. Within a week the national sales of Mettwurst were down almost 100 per cent and Garibaldi Smallgoods, the manufacturer along with several other

smallgoods manufacturers closed down. This presentation will explore the human side of the outbreak from a local Environmental Health Officers perspective.

This outbreak, occurred 25 years ago in South Australia and fundamentally changed the public discussion of foodborne illness, and altered the public perception and regulatory regimes in Australia.

## SPEAKERS ABSTRACTS—Wednesday

### Thilini Keerthirathne

#### An Effective Method to Decontaminate Eggs

In Australia, the incidence of salmonellosis has been increasing over the last decade, with eggs and raw egg products identified as the main source of outbreaks. The primary cause of salmonellosis in Australia is *Salmonella Typhimurium*.

This study developed a decontamination method for whole shell eggs that does not affect the eggs' usability.

This is a simple method that can be completed by food handlers prior to the preparation of raw egg products to reduce the risk of salmonellosis.

### Amelia Balmer

#### Rightsize Your Life! The Balanced Approach to Living Better With Your Belongings

Amelia Balmer is changing how we deal with the excess clutter in our lives! In just over 2 years Amelia has transformed not only homes but lives as a result of her original concept to manage excess possessions called The Rightsize Approach. She achieves successful outcomes with coaching, workshops and educational practices with individuals and for government agencies.

### Dr Steven Lapidge

#### The Role of Councils and EHOs in Fighting Food Waste

Dr Steven Lapidge is the inaugural CEO of the Fight Food Waste Cooperative Research Centre (CRC). Steven led the development of the FFW CRC bid and in recent years has represented Australia at G20, OECD and national food waste forums. He is a member of the National Food Waste Strategy Steering Committee and a Non-Executive Director of the Australian Institute of Food Science and Technology.



It is estimated that Australia loses or wastes 7.3 million tonnes of food grown for human consumption each year, which is valued at \$18-\$20 billion. The Australian Government has committed to Sustainable Development Goal 12.3, to halve per capita food waste by 50% - from 298 kg to 149 kg per person - by 2030.

With over 40% of food waste occurring in the hospitality, food service, institution and household sectors councils and Environmental Health Officers will have a significant role to play to achieve this goal.

### Karen Ferres

#### Culture and Behaviour—an Innovative Approach to Supporting Foodborne Illness Reduction

Karen has over 30 years' experience working in food safety and quality assurance, 12 years as a regulator and 18 years across food industry, airline, and academia sectors. Karen has many years' experience in risk assessment and management as well as building and maintaining a 'safety' culture, integral to the performance of the organisation. Karen has participated on national /state government committees focussing on improving food safety outcomes.

Karen's presentation will explore the work that is currently occurring under one of the non-regulatory focus areas of Australia's Foodborne Illness Reduction Strategy 2018-2021+. This strategy was developed to reduce foodborne illness, particularly related to *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella*. An important part of the strategy is 'focusing on food safety culture with government, industry and educational institutions working together to promote its importance and support through resources and training.

## MEET YOUR KEY NOTE SPEAKER—Thursday



### Dr Robert Glasser

**The Emergence of Climate Change and Disaster Risk as a Fundamental Threat to Australia's National Security**

Dr Robert Glasser former United Nations Special Risk Reduction and Head of the UN Office of Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) will be our keynote speaker on Thursday 7th November 2019 at the 44th National Environmental Health Conference.

Dr Glasser will share details from his recent Australian Strategic Policy Institute Report 'Preparing for the Era of Disasters' in support of why that new approach is required.

### Dr Paul Barnes

**Bolstering National Disaster Resilience - What can be done?**

Dr Paul Barnes, Head of Risk and Resilience, Australian Strategic Policy Institute

Dr Barnes has extensive experience as an academic and research leader on risk and crisis management issues. Prior to his role at ASPI he led the Infrastructure Research Program within the Centre for Emergency & Disaster Management (CEDM) at the Queensland University of Technology.

He has completed projects for the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) economies on gaps in counter terrorism capability and capacity planning, and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet on national risk assessment frameworks.



### Nina Keath

**Climate Change Action at a Local Level**

Nina Keath, Senior Strategic Planner, City of Onkaparinga/Resilient South

South Australian councils have been responding to physical climate risk for many years. However, in the past two years, the conversation has shifted dramatically. Climate change has gone from being seen primarily as an environmental problem to being a major risk management problem that affects all parts of council business. The private sector are now recognising climate change as a major legal, financial and transitional risk and there are big implications for local government. Climate resilience is also increasingly recognised as a competitive advantage to regions wanting to attract investment and growth. The decisions councils make now about whether to invest in resilience or build in vulnerability will directly affect whether our communities thrive or struggle as the climate continues to change.

## SPEAKER ABSTRACTS—Thursday

### Melissa McKeown

#### Public Health Response to the Townsville Floods

Melissa McKeown, Environmental Health & Regulatory Services, City of Townsville

### Michael Arman

#### The Risk of Societal Resilience

Michael Arman, Local Government Association

### Caroline Smith

#### AJ2019: an EHOs Perspective of the Scouts Jamboree - Caroline Thomas, Environmental Health Officer, Coorong District Council

Caroline Thomas, Environmental Health Officer for the Coorong District Council will provide an overview of her experience being the public health authority for the Australian Scout Jamboree 2019. AJ2019 was held at The Bend Motorsport Park, Tailem Bend in January 2019 with 10,000 Scouts and Volunteers attending from across Australia and overseas. Thinking outside the square, dealing with never ending dust and working with one of the biggest youth organisations in Australia certainly makes for an interesting journey.

### Jerry Casburn

#### End Polio Now: Overcoming Geographic, Cultural, and Religious Barriers to End Polio 2 Drops at a Time—Jerry Casburn, Rotary Club of Unley

Rotary is an international community bringing together leaders who take on the world's toughest challenges, locally and globally. The eradication of polio is one of their longest standing and most significant efforts. Along with their partners they have helped immunise more than 2.5 billion children against polio in 122 countries. Polio cases have been reduced by 99.9% since 1988 and wild polio cases are now reported in only 2 countries, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Rotary will not stop until the disease has been ended for good.

## SPEAKER ABSTRACTS—Thursday

### Evelyn Wright

#### RAAF Exercise - Pacific Angel : An EHOs Experience

A HADR activity lead by the Pacific Air Forces to enhance a host nation's ability to respond to HADR events within their own country. It is an opportunity for the Australian Defence Force to highlight the importance of advancing shared interests in the prevention of climate related illness and injury through a collaborative exchange of information, knowledge, and business practices. One RAAF ENVHO's experience.

### Professor Helen Marshall

#### Meningococcal B Vaccine Evaluation: Impact on Meningococcal Disease and Carriage

Professor Helen Marshall, Deputy Director and Research Leader, Robinson Research Institute, The University of Adelaide

South Australia has consistently had the highest rates of meningococcal disease in Australia, with >80% of cases caused by group B. The B Part of it study assessed the impact of a meningococcal B vaccine (4CMenB) on meningococcal disease and carriage in adolescents. 35,000 students in >95% of South Australian schools, enrolled in the cluster randomised controlled trial with 88% of students completing the study to 12 months. A meningococcal B vaccine program has now been funded by the South Australian Government for infants children, adolescents and young people. This is the most extensive meningococcal B vaccine program introduced globally. This presentation will describe the B Part of it study results and the early evaluation of the South Australian MenB immunisation program.

### Andrew Mathieson

#### Public Health in Afghanistan

This presentation looks at work of NGOs in Afghanistan and PNG in 2016-2018. I will mention some NGOs doing amazing work for few \$\$ and others that did shameful work in and is still trading on a reputation that is not justified.

The paper calls upon the Government of Australia to put in place fully fund panel of assessors who can visit NGOs on the ground and ensure they are meeting their promises.

### Peter Wright

#### App Technology Resolving Noise Issues

No two days are the same in the life of an Environmental Health Officer. The job is varied, far reaching and often unpredictable. Yet, there are certain things we know we will have to deal with. One of those is complaints. In many councils, The City of Casey included, a large part of this is noise complaints. So, we found a way to improve the investigation process. We made it easier, more consistent and faster, with better outcomes for officers and residents. Since January 2019 The City of Casey Environmental Health team have trialled and introduced the 'Noise app to replace paper noise diaries.

## SPEAKER ABSTRACTS—Thursday

### John Piispanen & Harold Figueroa

#### Deployment and Preparation of EHOs for Disasters

Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) undertake an important and valued role in the planning, response and recovery to disasters and emergencies.

This presentation will discuss the challenges and opportunities associated with the deployment of EHOs in response to disasters and emergencies, based on the experiences of Metro North Public Health Unit, Brisbane.

Due to the number of EHOs and vast array of skills, knowledge and experiences, the deployment of EHOs requires a functional and transparent system to facilitate a coordinated response which seeks to enable the deployment of EHOs with the right skills to the right place at the right time. This presentation will describe how EHOs can better prepare themselves for deployment and discuss the 'trips and traps' for deployment, including pre-deployment screening, verification of skills and experience, suitability of equipment and preparation for response conditions.

### Kelley Jones Lawyers—Cimon Burke

#### When Regulatory Decisions are Challenged: A Public Health Appeal Case Study

Increasingly we see that persons who are aggrieved by council decisions are seeking to challenge those decisions to oversight bodies. Public health decisions are by no means excluded from this trend. The presentation will examine a South Australian case study relating to a recent District Court appeal against a decision by an environmental health officer to issue a notice under the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011* to address concerns regarding wastewater disposal. In addition, the changes to the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011* that impact upon appeal rights and the practical implications for councils will be discussed.



### David Cunliffe

#### Diving in your Drinking Water

Historically most Australian metropolitan drinking water reservoirs have been closed to recreational activities with the notable exception of three reservoirs in South East Queensland. However, there is growing pressure to open further reservoirs for recreational access including on-water activities. Reasons presented for increased access include limited availability of freshwater bodies for recreational activities, economic development and tourism. In South Australia and Victoria, recent Government policy commitments have led to increased access.

However, support for recreational access is not universal. Potential public health risks and aesthetic concerns have been raised about allowing contact with intended sources for drinking water. Access to reservoirs has to be balanced against the essential requirements to protect the quality of drinking water supplies. Issues that need to be considered include the type of activity (from bushwalking to swimming), type of reservoir (direct or indirect supply), physical characteristics (size) and level of water treatment risk assessments need to consider these issues together with on-site controls (e.g. rangers, provision of amenities) that can be applied to allow controlled recreational access while protecting drinking water quality.

## SPEAKER ABSTRACTS—Thursday

### Edmore Masaka

#### The Health Risks Associated with the Use of Water Mist Systems as a Cooling Intervention in Public Places

The exposure of people to opportunistic premise plumbing pathogens such as Legionella, Mycobacterium and Pseudomonas in aerosolised water has been associated with opportunistic infections. Water mist systems that are used to cool public places by flash evaporation of tiny water aerosols in the ambient atmosphere are gaining prominence in hot climatic regions of Australia, their potential to be colonised by OPPP has not been adequately studied.

### Dr Richard Bentham

#### Legionella

Dr Richard Bentham, Associate Director Consultancy, Built Water Solutions

### Renay Cook

#### Challenges and Triumphs: the Safe Drinking Water Act in Action

The introduction of the Safe Drinking Water Act in 2013 has resulted in the registration of over 180 drinking water providers throughout South Australia ranging from SA Water and independent town supplies to small rain and bore water providers.

The aim of the legislation is to ensure the safe delivery of drinking water by providing greater clarity and direction to drinking water providers. Six years on, is there evidence that

### Haylee Sneesby

#### Operation Kohl: an Investigation into Lead Poisoning in Children

This case highlights the need to look beyond traditional lead exposure sources and consider cultural practices that could be causing lead poisoning.

The Western Sydney Public Health Unit was notified of three children from the same family with blood lead levels greater than 5µg/dL. The investigation revealed that the mother of the children had been applying a kohl eyeliner product around their eyes. When this product was tested, results indicated that the eyeliner contained 50.93% lead.

### Jessica Dennis

#### Investigation into the Presence of Campylobacter Jejuni and Salmonella Enterica Serovar Typhimurium in Wild Bird Faeces on the Yorke Peninsula

The public health consequences of gastrointestinal outbreaks linked to bird faeces can be quite dire, especially in vulnerable populations (young, elderly and sick). This is particularly a concern within areas that vulnerable populations frequent often, such as playgrounds. It is important to understand the survival of these bacteria within the environment and identify the potential routes of exposure.

This study aimed to test for the presence of *C. jejuni* and *Salmonella* spp. in the faeces of wild bird on the Yorke Peninsula.

### Gillian Miller & Catherine Jones

#### SAs Largest Clandestine Drug Lab

The Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission's Illicit Drug Data Report 2016 reported that Nationally, the number of clandestine drug laboratories detected during the 2016/2017 decreased. Despite this, the detections in South Australia have increased slightly. Whilst the majority of detected drug laboratories in Australia are smaller, addict-based, South Australian Police detected three record sized laboratories in late 2018. Two of the largest were alleged to be operating in syndicate. The City of Charles Sturt and Greencap will jointly present this engaging session.

## SPEAKER ABSTRACTS—Thursday

### Howard Fallowfield

#### High Rate Algal Ponds for Treatment of Wastewater in Rural Communities

Research conducted at Kingston on Murray has had a significant impact on the treatment of wastewaters from rural communities. Many rural communities depend upon Community Wastewater Management Schemes operated by local councils for centralised treatment of wastewater. Typically, septic tanks are retained on-site and the treated liquid phase is delivered to large lagoons or waste stabilisation ponds (WSPs). Concerted research resulted in the validation and acceptance of high rate algal ponds (HRAPs) as suitable replacements for the large WSPs. A consequence of the reduction in treatment time from 66 to 10d is that HRAPs require 50% less surface area to effect treatment, reducing construction costs and decreasing water lost due to evaporation. The Kingston on Murray research has been adopted as a case study by the UNESCO/BMGF Global Water Pathogen Project to support the implementation of the WHO Sanitation Safety

### Juliet Duffy

#### Not in Our Backyard... Research Detailing How Clandestine Laboratories may Further Impact the Health and Environment of our Regional Communities

This presentation will detail the findings of independent research as well as field case studies undertaken regarding the impacts on regional communities in relation to Clandestine Laboratories. The presentation will touch on some of the health, social, environmental and financial impacts that these laboratories are having on our communities. From a practitioners and research perspective the insights will aim to promote awareness and to encourage the development of regional policies and support to continue to sustain vibrant and healthy communities in regional Australia .

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