



Latrobe Council

MUNICIPAL HEALTH PLAN

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CONTENTS

Preamble	4
Introduction	5
Latrobe Council, Background	6
Demographics	7
Aim	7
Scope	7
Legislation	8
Review process	9

FUNCTIONAL AREAS

Environmental management, protection	11
Food businesses	12
Food sampling program	13
Food safety	14
Complaints against a food business	15
Health and safety public places	16
Health promotion	17

Immunisation	18
Notifiable diseases	19
Nuisances	20
Private water supplies	21
Public health risk activities	22
Recreational water quality	23
Regulated systems	24
Occupational Health and safety	25
Sharps disposal	26
Sustainable development	27
Swimming pool water quality	28
Solid waste disposal	29
Wastewater disposal	30
Emergency management and social recovery	31
Action plan for health staff	32

PREAMBLE

When considering health in its broadest sense to embody social, physical and mental well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, there is an important challenge and role for local government to be part of the wider effort to improve community health.

Council's Municipal Health Plan has been developed in the context of national and state public health goals slanted towards the particular needs of the Latrobe community.

It is not to be viewed as an end-point document. Comments and input are welcome and will assist in future refinement and development of the Plan.

INTRODUCTION

The World Health Organisation definition of Health, is,

“Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity” (WHO 1946).

Public Health has also been defined as

“The science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life, and promoting health through the organised efforts of society” (Acheson 1988).

Bearing both these definitions in mind it is obvious that all tiers of government not just in a political sense but also under governing legislation have a responsibility to monitor, evaluate and improve the health and even social wellbeing of the people that they represent. A local authority such as the Latrobe Council is no different.

Many of the traditional functions undertaken by local government such as, the collection of rubbish, the maintenance of roads and provision of public infrastructure, are to a large extent taken for granted by the local community.

One way in which a local authority such as the Latrobe Council can seek to address these and other topical issues within the municipality, is to produce and implement a Municipal Health Plan.

The Latrobe Council Municipal Health Plan was first formulated in 1992 and reviewed in 2005.

The health services objective in Council’s strategic plan “Our Place, Our Plan 2012-17” is to promote and maintain public health.

Over the period of twenty years since the original health plan was written, there have been a number of social, demographic, economic and political changes at state, national and international level.

These changes have not only impinged on our quality of but also, our style of life.

With these factors in mind Latrobe Council will review this plan in 2017.

BACKGROUND

Latrobe Council was created in 1993 and was formerly the Municipality of Latrobe, which was established in 1907. The municipality covers an area of approximately 600 sq. kms including the townships of Latrobe, Port Sorell, Shearwater, Hawley, Wesley Vale, Sassafras, Moriarty and Tarleton.

The Municipality is one of the fastest growing residential growth areas in Tasmania, has a resident population of 10,199 (ABS estimated resident population – 31/7/2012), and of the 29 Local Government areas, Latrobe is one of 10 projected to show the strongest growth over the next ten years.

Latrobe Township is named after Charles Joseph La Trobe who in 1846 was Lieutenant-Governor of Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania). In 1851 he then became the first Governor of Victoria. Latrobe boasts the country's oldest continuously playing brass band (established in 1872), the famous Latrobe Bicycle Club Wheel Race which has been held for 112 years and it is also the birthplace of competitive wood chopping. Attractions at Latrobe include heritage listed buildings, the Australian Axeman's Hall of Fame, Anvers Chocolate Factory, Warrawee Reserve, Bells Parade Reserve and the Courthouse Museum.

Port Sorell is located on the Rubicon River. It was established in the early 1820s and named after Lieutenant-Governor William Sorell who arrived in Hobart Town in 1817. Originally developed as fishing and sealing port by the Van Diemen's Company, it was the oldest European settlement on Tasmania's north coast and, by the 1840s it had grown to be the largest town on the coast. It declined with the development of Devonport and most of its early history was wiped out by bushfires.

Today during the summer period the population of the picturesque area doubles with visitors taking advantage of fishing, boating and swimming. Across the Rubicon Estuary is Narawantapu National Park which is home to many types of Tasmanian wildlife in its native habitat.

The rich farmland in Sassafras, Wesley Vale and Moriarty provide poppies, fruit and vegetables and livestock for both the local and overseas market.

DEMOGRAPHICS

At the 2011 Census the population of the municipality was 9,833. Latrobe has a population of 3,897, and Port Sorell 3,709.

AIM

Aim

The aim of this document is to not only protect the public health needs of the current residents of the municipality, but to also meet the future public health needs of residents of the municipality.

Goal

The goal of this document is to establish a framework, which will facilitate implementing objectives that will enable residents to reach a contemporary, socially acceptable level of health and well-being.

Objectives

1. For the Latrobe Municipal Health Plan, to meet its legal responsibilities under all relevant governing legislation and;
2. to protect the public health of the residents of the Municipality,
3. to properly manage and protect the environment, thereby helping to reduce any adverse effects upon the health of the residents,
4. to promote a safety conscious approach to work practices, thereby helping to prevent danger and injury in the workplace,
5. to as far as possible address the social expectations for public health, within the community,
6. to promote programs that will enhance a healthy lifestyle, which in turn will help increase the personal well-being of residents.

SCOPE

As the asset of health is greater than the mere absence of disease, a Municipal Health Plan needs to aim for more than just the avoidance of disease.

The scope of Environmental and Public Health has increased over recent years to adapt to and meet the changing needs of our society. Some of the influences on these changing needs include a lower birth rate and an ageing population. The world has become more mobile and accessible (through international travel), which in turn has led to much easier transmission of disease, (for example through Influenza, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome and some years ago Mad Cow Disease). A higher dependence on social welfare, the availability of a lower number

of physically active jobs has in general led to a more sedentary population. This, combined with a higher proportion of consumption of processed foods has created an increase in associated health and medical problems within the community.

Within this setting the political factor also influences the manner in which a local council meets its obligations to the community. As state government departments “divest” themselves of functions that have traditionally remained within their control, local council’s find they have been “delegated” these responsibilities.

A Partnership Agreement between a local council and the state government is one way both tiers of government can work together in a coordinated manner to address specific needs and levels of responsibility within a municipality. Through this agreement both parties acknowledge ownership at least in part of these functional areas, thereby spreading the costs and logistics of implementing those services to the local community.

LEGISLATION

The *Public Health Act 1997* outlines the responsibilities that a council must address within its municipal area.

Section 27 of the Act states -

27 (1) A council, within its municipal area, must –

- (a) develop and implement strategies to promote and improve public health; and
- (b) ensure that the provisions of this Act are complied with; and
- (c) carry out any other function for the purpose of this Act the Minister or Director determines.

(2) A council must carry out any function under this Act in accordance with any relevant guidelines.

There is clearly under subsection 27 (1) (a) a responsibility for each council to develop and implement strategies to promote and improve public health, within its

municipal area. A Municipal Health Plan is a document that will meet those responsibilities.

The Local Government Act 1993 requires Council to prepare an Annual Plan.

Section 71 (2) of the Act states –

An Annual Plan is to;

(d) include a summary of the major strategies to be used in relation to Council's public health goals and objectives.

This Municipal Health Plan will meet council's obligations under this legislation.

REVIEW PROCESS

The Latrobe Municipal Health Plan once ratified, will be reviewed after five (5) years. The review period is consistent with a generally accepted industry standard, for a Municipal Health Plan and it also aligns with the review date for Council's Strategic Plan.

The steps required therefore to ratify this document are as follows –

1. The draft Latrobe Municipal Health Plan is presented to senior management of council
2. Senior management vet the document and make any changes they feel are necessary
3. The document is then submitted to Council with a recommendation for it to be adopted.

FUNCTIONAL AREAS

Environmental Management, (Protection/Control)

Background

Section 4(1) of the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* (EMPCA), defines best practice environmental management as “the best practice environmental management of the activity to achieve an ongoing minimisation of the activity’s environmental harm through cost effective measures assessed against the current international and national standards applicable to the activity”.

Under this act the environment is defined as

- land, air and water
- organic or inorganic matter and any living organism
- human made or modified structures and areas

and includes interacting natural ecosystems. Human activity will always have some impact on the environment. Latrobe Council has a responsibility to the community to ensure that this impact is within acceptable limits.

Target

To fulfill Council’s statutory responsibilities relating to environmental protection by monitoring and correcting any adverse pollutant that affects the health or wellbeing of individuals or the environment.

Strategies

1. Provide information and advice where required to persons and/or industries operating facilities or carrying out activities that may detrimentally affect the environment.
2. Monitor and regulate point source pollutants from industry, rural industries and residential premises in accordance with relevant guidelines.
3. Enforce relevant guidelines and standards where applicable in order to alleviate environmental harm.
4. Liaise with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Department of Primary Industries Parks Water and Environment (DPIPWE).
5. Observe and administer requirements set out in the Incident Communication Protocol as provided by the DHHS.

Desired Outcome

Preservation of the natural environment by protecting and enhancing individual’s enjoyment of that environment.

Food Businesses

Background

Under the *Food Act 2003*, the Latrobe Council has the responsibility for monitoring all existing and proposed food businesses within its municipal area. The monitoring process involves the annual registration of food businesses, and inspection of the premises or vehicles that they operate from. The inspections are to help ensure that the building or vehicle, and the food handling/hygiene practices being employed within that facility comply with the requirements of the *Food Act 2003* and the Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ).

The Priority Classification System designed by Food Standards Australia and New Zealand is a scoring system that classifies food businesses into risk categories based on the type of food, activity of the business, method of processing and customer base. Food businesses are assigned a score that relates to one of three priority classifications: high, medium and low. Individual scores for a specified set of risk factors are added to achieve an overall score that determines the priority classification for the food business.

Target

Monitor and inspect all food businesses and food vehicles within the municipality. Ensure they are annually registered and food handling/hygiene practices used within those facilities comply with the governing legislation. This should ensure that the food offered for sale is safe and wholesome. Businesses must also be priority classified against FSANZ criteria.

Strategies

To ensure all businesses:

1. comply with the requirements for food safety practices and food premises and equipment;
2. ensure that staff have skills and knowledge in food hygiene and safety matters commensurate with their work activities;
3. have in place a system for food recall; and
4. notify the relevant authority about the business.

Desired Outcome

Ensure a high level of food safety, hygiene, and compliance of relevant legislation within food businesses in the Municipal area.

Food Sampling Program

Background

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) formulates a food sampling program involving municipalities across the state. The types of food sampled in this annual program may range from raw chicken, through to salad sandwiches, fruit, vegetables and nuts.

Local councils such as Latrobe may in the course of their daily duties also undertake random food sampling. These random food samples may be instigated by a complaint from a consumer, as a follow up to a previous food sample, or as a check on the standard of a food product available from a particular food business.

Target

To ensure the quality of food grown, prepared, manufactured, stored and sold in food businesses operating within the municipality, complies with FSANZ and the *Food Act 2003*.

Strategies

1. Participate in the Department of Health and Human Services annual Food Sampling program.
2. Take random food samples from food businesses operating within the municipality where appropriate, and check that the laboratory has sufficient resources at the time of sampling to do the analysis requested.
3. Raise the awareness of operators and staff of the standard of food required under the Food Standards Code.

Desired Outcome

All food grown, prepared, manufactured and stored in food businesses complies with FSANZ, and the *Food Act 2003*.

Food Safety

Background

The Latrobe Council has a responsibility for monitoring the quality of food grown, prepared, manufactured, stored and sold in food businesses operating within the municipality.

The quality of a food product can be adversely affected in a number of different ways.

Contamination may occur from chemicals such as herbicides and pesticides. Some other foreign matter such as grease or metal from machinery may also find its way into the product. Adulteration of the food with an inferior product may also occur. Of course microbiological contamination remains the most common form of food contamination. This can occur through contact from insects such as flies or cockroaches, contact from unclean cooking utensils and equipment and through contact by food handlers using unhygienic food handling practices.

Target

Ensure that food grown, prepared, manufactured, stored or sold for human consumption within the municipality is safe, wholesome and free from contamination and complies with relevant legislation.

Objectives

1. Inspect all food establishments including food vans to ensure that they meet the required standard of construction and fit out, and the food provided is safe.
2. To promote to all food businesses good food hygiene practices by undertaking formal/informal training.

Desired Outcome

All food that is grown, prepared, manufactured or stored in the Municipality will not cause adverse health outcomes.

Complaints against food businesses

Background

Council may receive complaints from residents from time to time regarding issues with food businesses. Under the *Food Act 2003* certain non-conformances may require monetary fines or infringement notices.

Complainants may also lodge a complaint with the Department of Health and Human Services.

Some of these complaints may include self-diagnosed food poisoning, contamination of a food product, or concerns about hygiene of food handlers.

Target

To put in place a procedure whereby enquiries/complaints from members of the public are investigated, people are educated regarding the rights and responsibilities they may have as customers of food businesses, and where possible take action to mitigate the potential for adverse human health incidents.

Strategies

1. In a timely manner respond to complaints from members of the public.
2. To visit the offending business and where possible speak with the people concerned, to check the validity of the complaint, and if necessary identify corrective action.
3. If a problem has been identified, assess procedures or policies to ensure the chance of adverse health events are minimised.

Desired Outcome

Ensure community complaints are dealt with in a timely and respectful manner.

Health and Safety in Public Places

Background

Under the *Public Health Act 1997*, the health and safety of members of the public is to be taken into account when people may gather at a public event. An event such as this could be indoors or outdoors and as such is classed as a Place of Assembly under that act.

To enable the proper controls or parameters to be established, or set, for these locations or events a set of guidelines has been established under the act called "Guidelines for Place of Assembly". These guidelines refer to the 'Australian Emergency Manuals Series for Safe and Healthy Mass Gatherings' as a useful resource for planning events and identifying management issues.

These may include the number of and location of exits, signage, seating capacity, firefighting equipment, ventilation, toilet facilities etc.

Target

To fulfil Council's statutory responsibilities through the *Public Health Act 1997* by protecting and promoting the health of Tasmanian communities and to reduce the incidence of preventable illnesses, with regard to public health. This includes the health and safety of people gathered in places to which the public have access.

Strategies

1. Carry out audits of the municipality and identify all premises prescribed in the Place of Assembly Guidelines and keep a register.
2. Provide advice on legislative requirements to applicants applying for a Place of Assembly Licence.
3. Provide information and education as needed on ways to enhance the health of buildings and living conditions through the provision of relevant information brochures on the information display located at the Council office.

Desired Outcome

Ensure that all buildings and locations/facilities that are used as Places of Assembly are registered and inspected to ensure that they comply with the requirements of the *Public Health Act 1997* and "Guidelines for Places of Assembly" and refer to 'Australian Emergency Manuals Series for Safe and Healthy Mass Gatherings' when needed.

Health Promotion

Background

Health education and promotion is a broad sweeping definition, however it is important for a local authority such as the Latrobe Council to take an active lead in the promotion of information, activities and programs that increase the status of health within society. All sections of the community can at times be adversely affected by for example environmental conditions, or medical/health complaints. In this regard, local government is ideally placed to act as a resource in providing advice or information that may assist people to deal with the situation that they find themselves in.

Target

The Latrobe Council is actively involved in The Healthy Communities Initiative which promotes healthy food choices and physical activity within the municipality. It is funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health & Ageing in conjunction with Cradle Coast Authority. Council actively promotes its built environment and community capacity to help maintain a healthy lifestyle for residents and visitors alike. Development grants are also available to the community through the Council.

Strategies

1. To involve the community in the planning and development of any health education or promotional program.
2. To liaise and work in conjunction with any government agency or health educational institute on health promotion projects.
3. To improve the motivation towards a higher status of health within the community through education.

Desired Outcome

For the Latrobe Council to act as a resource for information, activities and programs that will help increase the status of health within the community.

Immunisation

Background

Immunisation is at present probably the most effective and practical single public health measure available for the reduction of illness and death caused by infectious diseases. Herd immunity, which is increasing the number of people in the community vaccinated against a specific disease, helps reduce the incidence of and spread of that disease. Herd immunity is the ultimate aim of any authority involved in immunisation. To this end the Latrobe Council actively promotes its annual and school vaccination program.

Target

To meet Council's statutory obligations through the provision of regular and professional public immunisation services in line with the Department of Health and Ageing: National Immunisation Program Schedule.

Strategies

1. Through the school vaccination program, help maintain the required immunisation status of children.
2. To ensure immunisation opportunities are available for all members of the community and to raise public awareness by promoting immunisation clinics.

Desired Outcome

The provision of a professional and accessible public and school immunisation service that allows individuals an opportunity to obtain and maintain the recommended immunisation regimen as prescribed by the Department of Health and Ageing, and to maintain accurate records for all vaccinations administered.

Notifiable Diseases

Background

Although immunisation, antibiotics, improved sanitation and living standards have all but eliminated many of the past diseases such as polio, infectious diseases still cause widespread morbidity within our community. In recent years there has been continued incidence of food poisoning and outbreaks of notifiable diseases such as whooping cough and measles. The Latrobe Council has a statutory obligation to investigate all cases of notifiable disease referred to it by the Director of Public Health.

Target

To fulfill Council's statutory responsibilities by investigating all notified cases of infectious diseases within two (2) days of receipt of notification.

Strategies

1. To promptly follow up all cases of notifiable disease referred to council and to inform the patient of prevention measures and how best to manage the disease.
2. To investigate the possible source of the disease in question and if required, take preventative action to control the possible spread of the disease within the community.
3. To complete a report on the disease investigation and file that report with the Department of Health and Human Services.

Desired Outcome

That all notifiable disease reports received from the Department of Health and Human Services be addressed in a professional and timely manner in accordance with the relevant Enteric Illness Investigation Action Guide developed by the Department of Health & Human Services Tasmania.

Nuisances

Background

Council will invariably over the course of each week receive a wide range of enquiries regarding a variety of issues, which may be of concern to residents. These matters can include such things as noisy fowls, birds, animals, smoke, dour, vermin, insects, rubbish, fire hazards or the effects of livestock and other land use activities in residential areas.

Target

The investigation of complaints raised by members of the public is an ongoing function. There is a need to monitor and where possible improve the current response protocols that exist in council, to deal with these situations.

Strategies

1. In a timely manner respond to complaints from members of the public.
2. To visit the offending property and where possible determine the validity of the complaint.
3. To try and work out a solution to the problem for both the complainant and the offending property.
4. To educate people as to their rights and responsibilities in relation to nuisances.

Desired Outcome

To ensure enquiries/complaints from members of the public are investigated, people are educated regarding their rights and responsibilities and where possible take action to mitigate the nuisance.

Private Water Supplies

Background

Private water supplies are water supplies located outside of serviced areas that through a business or enterprise either supply untreated water to members of the public, or use untreated water. A private water supply may include a rural school, a guest house, or country bed and breakfast accommodation.

Target

To fulfil Council's statutory responsibilities through the monitoring of a water supply obtained from a private water source for human consumption for commercial purpose or for human consumption in any place that is used for health, educational, imprisonment or detention purposes.

Strategies

1. Register Private Water Supplies within the municipality and ensure they comply with the *Public Health Act 1997* and Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.
2. Carry out an audit of Private Water Suppliers registered within the municipal area and where appropriate establish testing programs in line with the *Public Health Act 1997* and Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.
3. Ensure untreated private water supplies have an appropriate warning sign at the tap.
4. Assess and identify non-conformities, formulate an appropriate course of action and take necessary steps to ensure the safety of the public as recommended in the *Public Health Act 1997* and Australian Water Quality Guidelines.

Desired Outcome

Consumption of safe water which is not from a reticulated water supply.

Public Health Risk Activities

Background

Under the *Public Health Act 1997*, a Public Health Risk activity is defined as “any activity that may result in the transmission of disease”. This rather open terminology generally applies to body piercing and skin penetration and is meant to incorporate any possible activity that may lead to the spread of a communicable disease. The spread of disease can occur from person to person contact or through an activity, such as the use of contaminated instruments when body piercing etc.

Under the *Public Health Act 1997*, a number of guidelines have been written to deal with public health issues and Public Health Risk Activities are no exception. There are three sets of guidelines Acupuncture, Ear and Body Piercing and Tattooing, which deal directly with these areas.

Target

To fulfil Council’s statutory responsibilities through the *Public Health Act 1997* by identifying and registering all public health risk premises within the municipal area and ensuring that these premises comply with the *Public Health Act 1997* and relevant guidelines.

Strategies

1. Identify and register all places within the municipal boundaries where public health risk activities are carried out.
2. Conduct a minimum of an annual audit/inspection of all identified and registered public health risk premises, and ensure compliance with relevant guidelines.
3. Rank premises in order of identified risk and formulate an inspection regimen which reflects the assessed risk.
4. Provide information and advice on the *Public Health Act 1997* and relevant guidelines to new operators of skin penetration premises.

Desired Outcome

That all premises where public health risk activities are carried out are regulated, to prevent the spread of disease.

Recreational Water Quality

Background

The term recreational water generally refers to water found in areas such as creeks, rivers, and estuaries that are used for recreational purposes. These purposes can include activities such as sailing, boating, fishing or swimming. The quality or standard that is expected of this water is dictated by the type of contact and the activity being undertaken in it. For example, waters used for a contact recreational activity such as swimming would have to be of a far higher quality/standard, than waters used for a non-contact activity such as sailing. A set of guidelines have been established under the Public Health Act 1997 titled "Recreational Water Quality Guidelines 2007". The "NHMRC Guidelines for Managing Risks in Recreational Water" are referred to as a benchmark to ensure recreational water quality is safe for human use.

Target

To fulfil Council's statutory responsibilities through the monitoring of the quality of water bodies within the municipality and making informed decisions based upon this data regarding the appropriate use of those water bodies.

Strategies

1. Carry out an audit of public and commonly used recreational water bodies within the municipal area and establish testing points and programs for each.
2. Assess and identify non-conformities, formulate an appropriate course of action and take necessary steps to ensure the safety of the public as required by the *Public Health Act 1997* and Recreation Water Quality Guidelines 2007.

Desired Outcome

To ensure water bodies in the municipality are safe for recreational purposes.

Regulated Systems

Background

Legionnaire's disease is potentially deadly. Under the *Public Health Act 1997* a set of guidelines has been established with the purpose of locating, registering and monitoring regulated systems within a municipal area.

Target

To fulfil Council's statutory responsibilities through the *Public Health Act 1997* by providing the formulation and maintenance of a register of regulated systems for air.

Strategies

1. To conduct a survey of facilities and businesses within the municipality to establish the location of any regulated systems
2. Inspect identified facilities.
3. Maintain a registration system for facilities with regulated systems.
4. Ensure that the ongoing cleaning and maintenance of regulated systems complies with the requirements of the guidelines.

Desired Outcome

The registration of "regulated systems" within the municipal area to ensure compliance with relevant guidelines, reducing the risk to human health. All premises where cooling towers, evaporative condensers or warm water systems are situated must register with their local authority.

Occupational Health & Safety

Background

The Latrobe Council has not only an obligation, but also a legislative responsibility under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2012* to take reasonable precautions that will ensure the health and safety of its employees in the workplace. To this end the Council has put in place a number of policies including an Occupational Health and Safety Policy, with the purpose of protecting council employees and contractors and the general community.

Target

The Latrobe Council has put in place a number of policies with the purpose of protecting both staff and contractors in the workplace. The evaluation of these policies and mechanisms is ongoing and is also reliant on the diligence of staff and contractors within the workplace.

Strategies

1. To promote and maintain a safe work environment.
2. Instigate, implement and monitor correct work procedures.
3. Establish and sustain a framework of continuously improving standards of occupational health and safety.

Desired Outcome

To protect council employees, contractors, and the general community by providing a safe work environment.

Sharps Disposal

Background

There are a number of people within the community who for various reasons are required to, or choose to use “sharps” in their daily life. These people may be dependent on a certain type of medication that requires injecting or, they may choose to use recreational drugs. Sharps are items such as needles that are used to pierce the skin. Because of their contact with body fluids such as blood, used sharps have the ability to transmit potentially fatal diseases and therefore need to be appropriately disposed of. For this reason Latrobe Council provides sharps container exchange and disposal service. This service helps to reduce the possibility of sharps or sharps containers being placed in household garbage, or left in public buildings or parks.

Target

To meet Council's statutory obligations through provision of a sharps container exchange service for people in the community who are required to use sharps for various reasons as part of their daily routine.

Strategies

1. Provide sharps containers to the members of the community on request.
2. Provide an appropriate method of disposing used/full sharps containers.
3. Dispose of used sharps in an appropriate manner.
4. Advertise and promote the service of safe needle disposal at least once per year through Council and school newsletters.

Desired Outcome

To provide a safe method of disposing of sharps and used syringes

Sustainable Development

Planning and Development

Background

In the initial stages, the assessment of a development for approval is generally undertaken by a local council. This process of assessment is delegated to Council under existing governing legislation such as the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*, the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* and the *State Policies and Projects Act 1993*. The development controls incorporating the above legislation are set out in the Latrobe Planning Scheme.

Under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* and the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* the term “sustainable development” is defined as, “Managing the use, development and protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural well-being and for their health and safety”.

Target

To ensure all development applications lodged with council comply with statutory requirements.

Strategies

1. To ensure that development applications submitted to council contain the required information to enable a full assessment.
2. To ensure that a development approval issued by council will not only comply with any governing legislation and have minimal impact on the environment but will also be sustainable.

Desired Outcome

To ensure that a development approval issued by council will not only demonstrate a minimal impact on the environment, but will also demonstrate the long term viability of that proposed development.

Swimming Pool Water Quality

Background

Swimming pools and spa baths which are open to members of the public can present a danger to the health of those patrons. Most heated pools and spas generally operate at temperatures ranging between 27°C and 35°C. This temperature range is ideal for the breeding of pathogenic micro-organisms, which can cause disease in humans. A set of guidelines have been established under the *Public Health Act 1997*. This guideline titled “Recreational Water Quality Guidelines 2007”, sets out the standard for water quality, outlines required signage and governs the use of these facilities. The “NHMRC Guidelines for Managing Risks in Recreational Water” are referred to as a benchmark.

Councils are required to have a register of, and monitor these facilities. There is also a requirement for the water in these pools and spas to be sampled on a regular basis to ensure the quality meets the requirements of the guidelines.

Target

To fulfil Council’s statutory responsibilities through monitoring the quality of public spas and swimming pools within the municipality and to ensure compliance with the *Public Health Act 1997* and Recreational Water Quality Guidelines 2007.

Strategies

1. To establish the location of public spas and swimming pools, register and inspect them to ensure that they comply with the guidelines.
2. To regularly take water samples of facilities (currently on a monthly basis) to ensure that the maintenance and water quality is of the standard required in the guidelines.

Desired Outcome

To ensure pools and spas in the municipality are safe for recreational purposes.

Solid Waste Disposal

Background

The relationship between the waste products, rubbish etc. that our society generates, the safe management and disposal of this material and the potential adverse side effects on the community, are facts that have been well established. The safe and proper management of the waste collection and disposal system is therefore a vitally important health service. Each week a household or a business will inevitably generate a certain amount of waste that must be disposed of. It is of course the nature and volume of this waste which may dictate the method of disposal.

The reduction in volume of waste through recycling has proved very beneficial. The metal found in vehicle bodies and parts is generally stockpiled and then transported away for reuse. Oil, cooking oil, glass, paper, metal, timber, etc. can all be put to further use, through recycling.

Target

The Latrobe Council currently offers a fortnightly domestic waste collection service to the community. This service provides for the collection of waste and recyclables within the municipality. There are currently two waste transfer stations servicing the municipality, one is located at Port Sorell and the other is located at Spreyton.

Strategies

1. To provide suitably located areas for the proper disposal of waste material and rubbish. To ensure that hazardous material such as medical waste or chemicals, are appropriately disposed of.
2. To promote to the community the benefits of waste reduction, re-use and recycling.

Desired Outcome

To provide to the community, a safe and sustainable environmental waste management, minimisation and recycling service.

Waste Water Disposal

Background

In a rural community a proportion of the population will always live outside of the serviced sewer district and the Latrobe Municipality is no exception. In these un-serviced areas the safe disposal of wastewater from a dwelling is very important. The method of treating and disposing of discharge from the toilet, kitchen and bathroom can, if not undertaken correctly, create health problems. Generally for disposal of wastewater discharge in these situations there are two options. Either a traditional septic tank system may be installed or an Aerated Waste Treatment System (AWTS). For the installation of either system a Special Plumbing Permit is required.

Target

The design of a wastewater disposal system for a dwelling is assessed at the time the dwelling building application is submitted to Council. This process is followed up with the plumber at the installation stage. The suitability of a block of land for the disposal of on-site wastewater from a dwelling is assessed at the subdivision stage.

Strategies

1. To monitor the installation and operation of wastewater disposal systems situated in un-serviced areas.
2. To assess the suitability of proposed subdivisions for the on-site disposal of wastewater.

Desired Outcome

The effective treatment and safe disposal of wastewater discharge from dwellings located outside of serviced sewer areas.

Emergency Management and Social Recovery

Background

Emergency Management and Social Recovery is a growing function of local government due to the range of events such as floods, fires, and traffic accidents that may occur. Council has a statutory responsibility through the *Emergency Management Act 2006* to develop and formalise arrangements for the effective management of the recovery process in the event of an emergency in the Latrobe Municipality.

Target

To fulfil Council's statutory responsibilities through the *Emergency Management Act 2006* and to develop and formalise arrangements for the effective management of the recovery process in the event of an emergency in the Latrobe Municipality.

Strategies

1. Provide input and help maintain and review the Mersey-Leven Emergency Management Plan (MLEMP) every 2 years in order to meet statutory and community demands
2. Allocate sufficient budgetary and staffing resources to enable the efficient and effective achievement of stated targets in the MLEMP
3. Identify the trigger(s) for the activation of the MLEMP
4. Identify, mobilise and co-ordinate a range of material, financial and social support services within the municipality to assist community recovery
5. Identify primary agencies that will be responsible for the management of specific recovery support services
6. Identify resources available for use in the recovery process.

Desired Outcome

Establish the commitments of various organisations involved in recovery management in the municipality, to enable effective and coordinated management of the recovery process in the event of an emergency and to facilitate the recovery of affected individuals, communities and infrastructure as quickly and practicably as possible.

Month	Action
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation water sampling • Food business inspections • Fire abatement inspections and notices • Conduct pool sampling • Organise consent vaccination forms for schools
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send out renewals for regulated systems • Recreation water sampling • Conduct pool sampling • Food business inspections • Fire abatement inspections and notices
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation water sampling • Conduct pool sampling • EHA PD seminar • Organise staff influenza vaccinations • Food business inspections • Fire abatement inspections and notices

<p>April</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct pool sampling • Food business inspections
<p>May</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send out renewal for food business registrations • Conduct pool sampling • Food business inspections
<p>June</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct pool sampling • EHA PD seminar • Food business inspections
<p>July</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspections of Council owned buildings for Places of Assembly • Send out renewals for public health risk activities • Conduct pool sampling • Draft annual Municipal health report • Draft recreational water report • Food business inspections
<p>August</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send out renewals for privately owned Place of Assembly • Conduct pool sampling

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food business inspection
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct pool sampling • Food business inspections
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct pool sampling • EHA state conference • Food business inspections
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send out renewals for private water suppliers • Liaise with schools and medical staff re next year's immunisation program • Conduct pool sampling • Food business inspections
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation water sampling • Conduct pool sampling • EHA PD seminar • Food business inspections • Fire abatement inspections and notices

REFERENCES

Local Government Act 1993

Local Government (Building and Miscellaneous provisions) Act 1993

Public Health Act 1997

Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994

Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993.

Food Act 2003

Emergency Management Act 2006

Work Health and Safety Act 2012