



Government of Western Australia
Department of Health

Environmental Health Directorate Yearbook

2020 - 2021 Financial Year Report

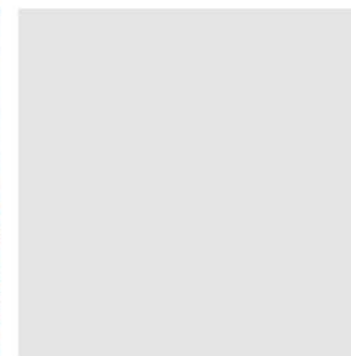
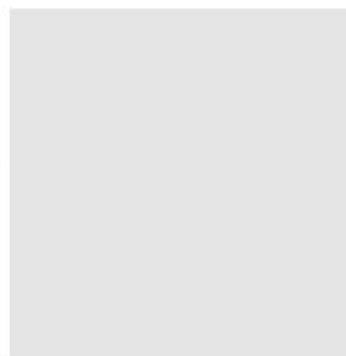
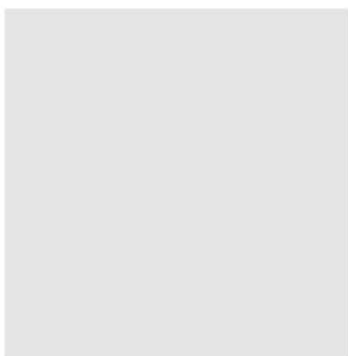
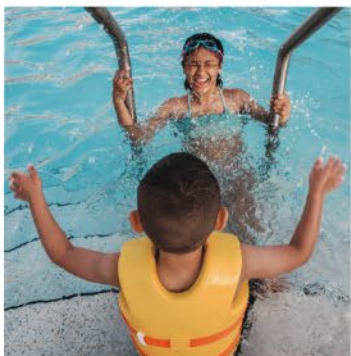
Safe food and
water



Healthy built
environments
and safer
industries



Managed
community
hazards



This Yearbook outlines the work of the Environmental Health Directorate, in the Public and Aboriginal Health Division of the Department of Health, Western Australia, for the 2020-21 financial year.



Purposeful



Caring



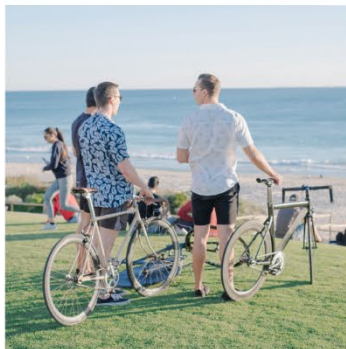
Collaborative



Open



Outcome focused



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**PLAY it
FOOD SAFE.**

CLEAN • SEPARATE • COOK • CHILL



Message from the Executive Director

The Environmental Health Directorate continued to play important roles to support the State's ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic during 2020-2021. This year, our focus was on managing COVID risks for large events, leading the review into ventilation risks in quarantine hotels and participating in the SARS-CoV-2 wastewater testing program. Our work on COVID safe events was recognised across Australia, with requests from various agencies in other jurisdictions to work in partnership through sharing of resources and experiences.

The Directorate was also subject to a review by the Office of the Auditor General into the effectiveness of our management of consumer food safety. It has been pleasing to see the progress made in responding to a number of the review's findings, which collectively provide an opportunity to enhance our food safety services.

We invested in Stage 2 of the *Play it Food Safe* campaign to improve Western Australians' awareness of safe food handling practices, partnering with many local governments who hosted a range of activities to promote the campaign. We also invested extensively in management programs to control populations of disease-carrying mosquitoes associated with a surge in activity of mosquito-borne Ross River virus across several parts of the State.

Our Aboriginal Environmental Health team have been working with a multi-disciplinary committee to review the Aboriginal Environmental Health program. The review aims to ensure the program addresses public health needs of Aboriginal communities in line with community aspirations and with opportunities for long-term employment for Aboriginal people.

We provided training to many local governments, including workshops in the assessment of site and soil evaluation reports in Broome and Busselton, mosquito management training in Broome, a Contiguous Local Authorities Group forum in Mandurah and introduced a triennial environmental health webinar series for Local Government Officers and other stakeholders.

Every year we also undertake a substantial and disparate range of regulatory, licensing and surveillance activities and respond to numerous emerging and unanticipated public health risks. This included deploying two officers to Northampton to assist with managing asbestos and other hazards on the ground, particularly in the heavily impacted town of Kalbarri following cyclone Seroja.

I trust that this Yearbook provides you with an insight into the diverse program of work and achievements by our team during the past year, and the many important initiatives we lead to protect the health of Western Australians. I thank the entire team in the Directorate for their commitment and hard work in 2020-2021, and also acknowledge the work of local government Environmental Health Officers for their tireless efforts in maintaining high environmental health standards across WA.



Dr Michael Lindsay
Executive Director
Environmental Health Directorate | Public and Aboriginal Health Division
Department of Health, Western Australia

About the Environmental Health Directorate

The Environmental Health Directorate (EHD) is the government sector with a responsibility for maintaining public and environmental health (EH) standards across WA. Our role is to ensure appropriate management strategies such as legislation, guidelines, surveillance, monitoring and public education are in place to prevent disease, illness, injury, disability and premature death arising from environmental exposures and other public and environmental health impacts.

This yearbook is our way of documenting our annual financial year activities that align with the objectives and key priorities described in the [Environmental Health Directorate Strategic Plan 2020-2023](#), [WA State Public Health Plan](#), [WA Sustainable Health Review](#) and the [WA Health Strategic Intent](#) to ensure we are doing our part to create liveable, vibrant places where all Western Australians experience the best possible health, wellbeing and quality of life.



Our Vision

A safe, sustainable environment for the enhancement of public health



Our Mission

Collaboratively leading the protection of people through effective assessment, management and education of environmental health risks



Our Values

Purposeful
Caring
Collaborative
Open
Outcome focused



Our Focus

The young, the elderly, people with compromised health and people living in disadvantaged conditions

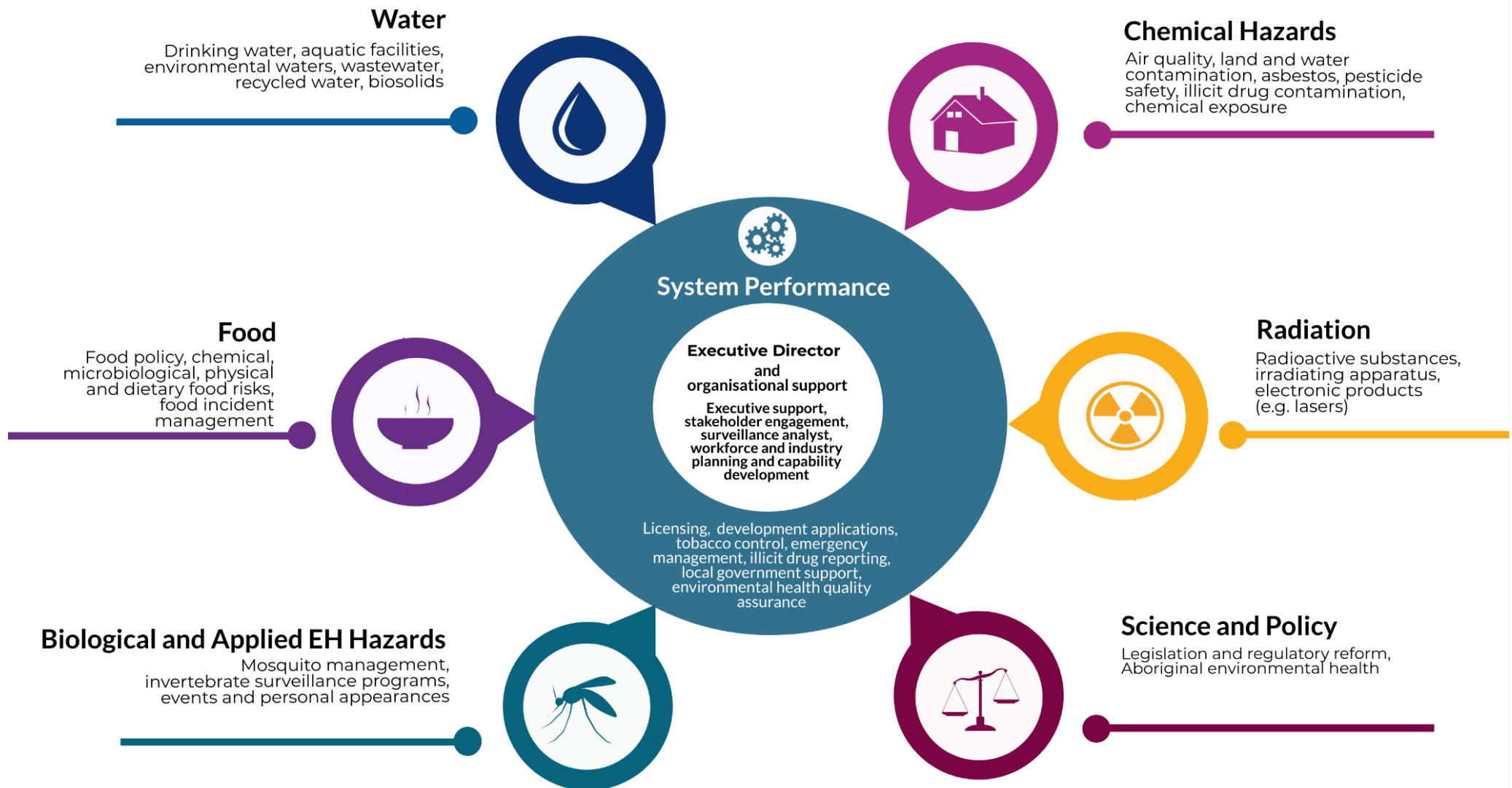


Our Goals

Prevent disease, illness, injury, disability and premature death from environmental health risks

Operating structure

The EHD employs a team of 82 full time equivalent staff (shared over ~90 employees) who work across seven program areas. The program areas are supported by the Executive Director and organisational supporting team.



Enabling legislation

On behalf of the Minister for Health, the EHD is required to manage the requirements of seven Acts and thirty-one subsidiary regulations.

Public Health Act 2016

Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1911

Environmental Health Hazards

Construction Camp Regulations

Fly Eradication Regulations

Health (Air-handling and Water Systems) Regulations 1994

Health (Asbestos) Regulations 1992

Health (Cloth Materials) Regulation 1985

Health Act (Carbon Monoxide) Regulations 1975

Health (Garden Soil) Regulations 1998

Hairdressing Establishment Regulations 1972

Health (Skin Penetration Procedure) Regulations 1998

Health (Offensive Trades Fees) Regulations 1976

Health (Construction Work) Regulations 1973

Health Act (Laundries and Bathrooms) Regulations

Health (Public Buildings) Regulations 1992

Health (Rottneest Island) By-laws 1989

Health (Pesticides) Regulations 2011

Health (Prescribed Insect Pests) Regulations 1991

Health (Notification of Lead Poisoning) Regulations 1985

Health (Section 112(2) Prohibition) Regulations 2006

Piggeries Regulations 1952

Registration, Enforcement and Discharge of Local Authority Charges on Land Regulations

Sewerage (Lighting, Ventilation and Construction) Regulations 1971

Food

Food Act 2008

Food Regulations 2009

Water

Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Act 1966

Health (Treatment of Sewage and Disposal of Effluent and Liquid Waste) Regulations 1974

Health (Temporary Sanitary Conveniences) Regulations 1997

Health Act (Underground Water Supply) Regulations 1959

Health (Aquatic Facilities) Regulations 2007

Radiation Health

Nuclear Waste Storage and Transportation (Prohibition) Act 1999

Radiation Health as secretariat to the Radiological Council

Radiation Safety Act 1975

Radiation Safety (General) Regulations 1983

Radiation Safety (Qualifications) Regulations 1980

Radiation Safety (Transport of Radioactive Substances) Regulations 2002

Science and Policy

Tobacco Products Control Act 2006

Tobacco Products Control Regulations 2006

Major achievements for 2020-2021

2020-21 has been a challenging but productive year. Some of our most significant achievements have included:

30% reduction in Salmonella rates achieved in 2020

Following the implementation of a range of initiatives as part of the Foodborne Illness Reduction Strategy (FBIRS), the rates of Salmonella reduced in WA by 30% since 2017. Projects included the establishment of the Salmonella Outbreak Response Taskforce, roll out of the Play it Food Safe consumer campaign, and a range of proactive on farm collaborative activities with WA egg producers.

SARs-CoV-2 wastewater testing

As a foundation member of the national and international ColoSSoS (Collaboration on Sewage Surveillance of SARs-CoV-2) project, the EHD was involved in the wastewater surveillance program for SARs-CoV-2 in WA. The knowledge gained may be able to be extended to look further into a wide variety of community health issues.

Asbestos in soils guideline updated

Fast forward 10 years from its original publication, the review of the Western Australian Guidelines for Assessment, Remediation and Management of Asbestos Contaminated-Sites has been finalised and the updated guidance will be launched during Asbestos Awareness Week with a seminar for government and industry.

Increased doctor notification rate of Ross River virus

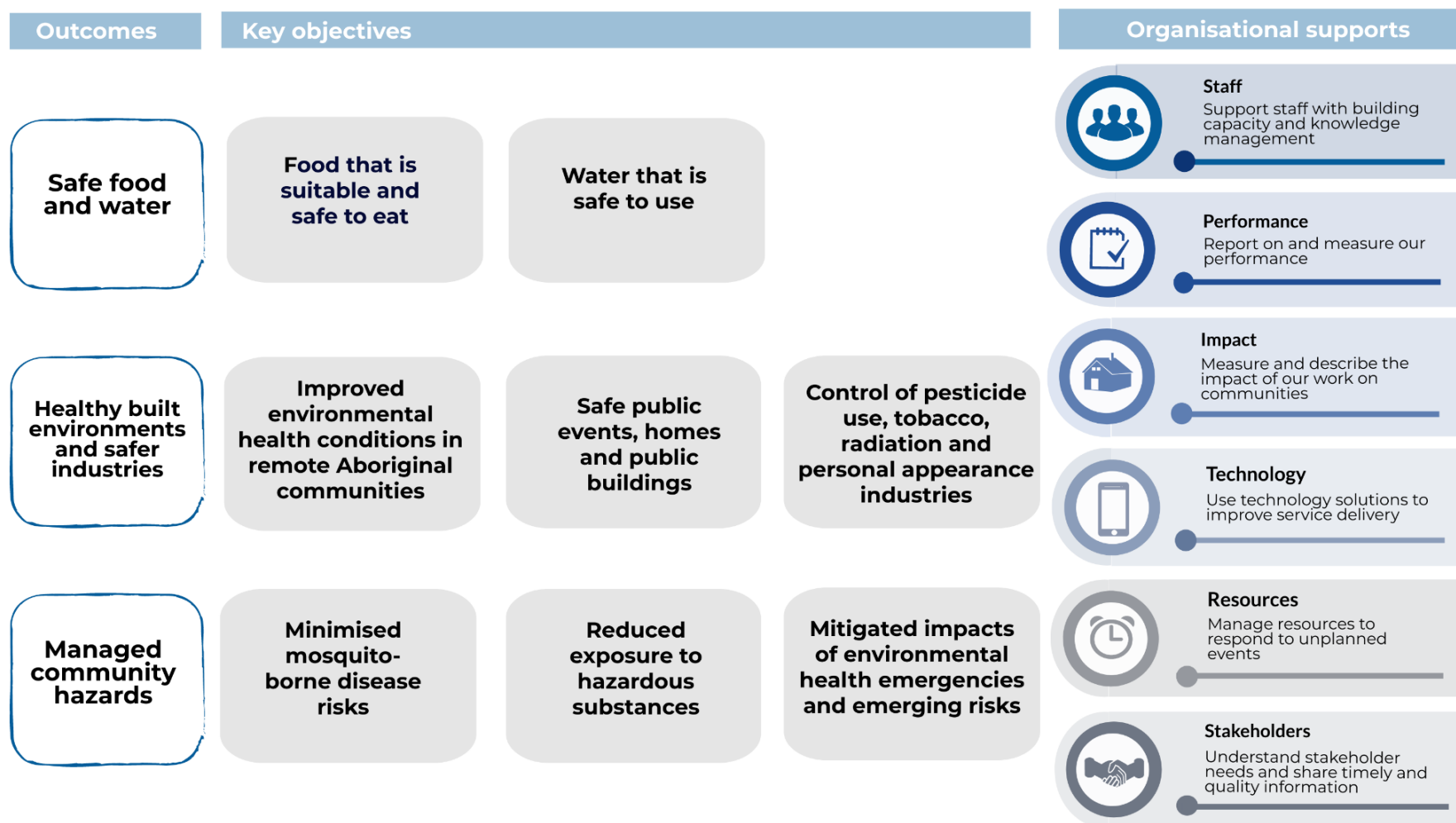
The rate of notification by doctors for Ross River virus increased from 50 per cent, to over 90 per cent. This has resulted in more accurate enhanced surveillance data, which in turn informs mosquito management and risk communication.

Food vendor register launched

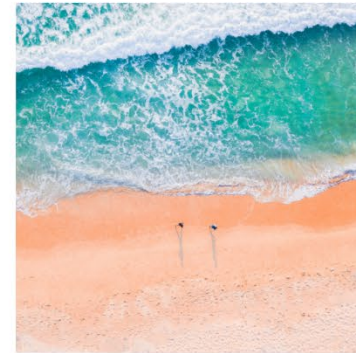
The roll out of the WA Mobile Food Vendor Register website commenced, which now enables participating local government enforcement agencies to update a single centralised register to improve the administration and compliance matters for mobile food businesses that travel across jurisdictions.

Our year in review

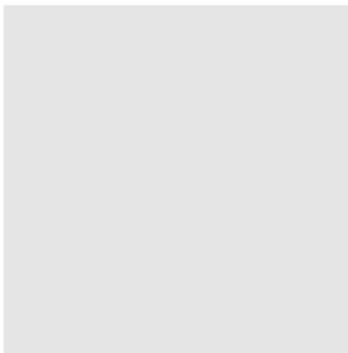
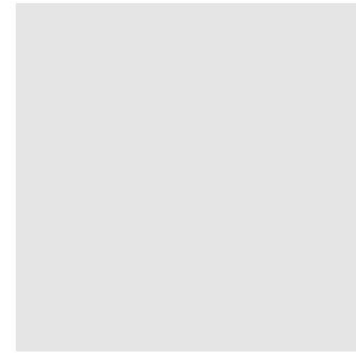
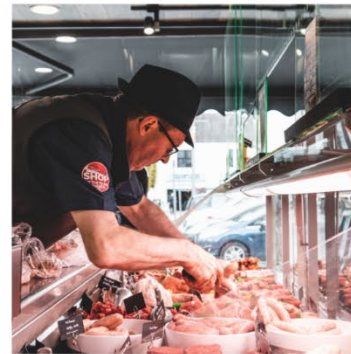
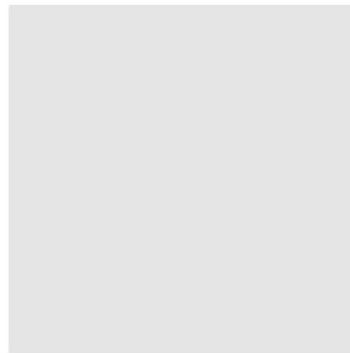
Our teams deliver a diverse range of activities and partners with numerous State and local governments, universities and industry groups to protect the health and safety of the WA community. Our activities fall broadly into three core outcomes described below and further documented in the [Environmental Health Directorate Strategic Plan 2020-2023](#). A range of projects were completed during the 2020-21 financial year to work towards achieving our outcomes.



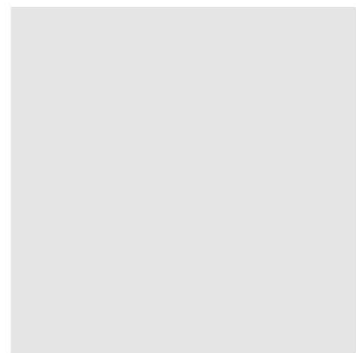
Safe food and water



Water that is
safe to use



Food that is
safe and
suitable to eat



Food that is safe and suitable to eat

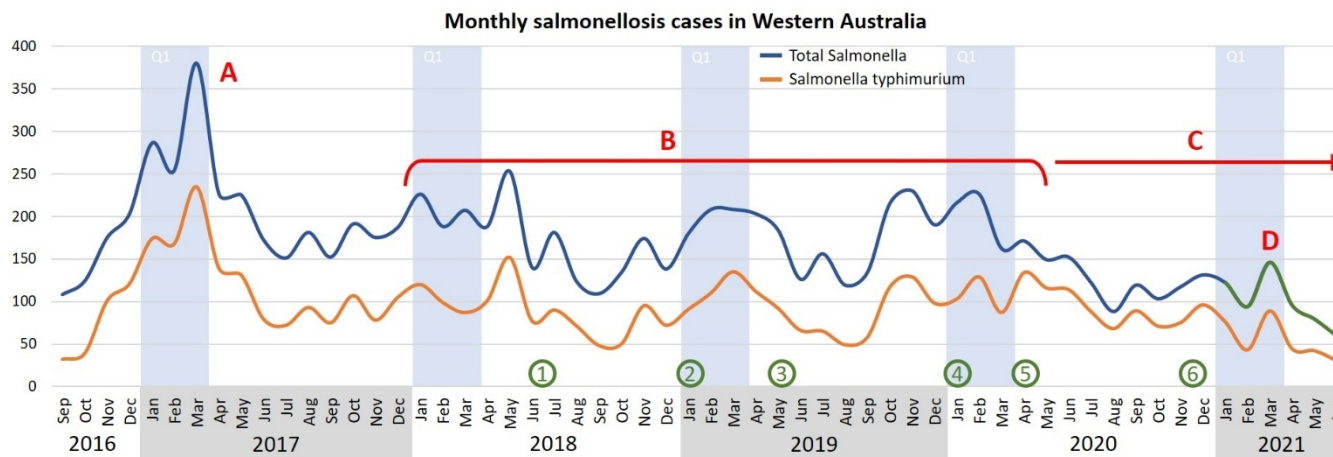


Our role is to manage the WA food regulatory system, enforce legislation for specific primary production industries, public hospitals and food businesses not in a local government district, provide guidance to local government enforcement agencies to support the effective and consistent implementation of food legislation across WA and provide input into the National food safety agenda.

WA Foodborne illness reduction strategy timeline

The EHD has led a range of initiatives that aim to reduce Salmonella rates in WA. A timeline of key initiatives undertaken as part of the [WA Foodborne Illness Reduction Strategy](#) (FBIRS) and Salmonella Outbreak Response Taskforce include:

1. Minister for Health WA launches WA Foodborne Illness Reduction Strategy (WA FBIRS).
 2. Implementation of Stage 1 of WA FBIRS focusing on Salmonellosis reduction.
 3. Establishment of the Salmonella Outbreak Response Taskforce to control the ongoing outbreak of Salmonella Typhimurium (STM) which peaked in 2017.
 4. Initiated on-farm salmonella risk assessment and proactive collaboration with WA egg producers to improve Salmonella risk management.
 5. Month-long WA COVID lock down. Salmonellosis rates decreased in all jurisdictions in 2020.
 6. Launch of state-wide consumer food safety awareness campaign – Play it Food Safe.
- A. For the period 2017-2020, WA has had the second highest rates (after the Northern Territory) of Salmonellosis in the country.
- B. The rates of Salmonellosis in WA remained (range 40-50% higher) above the national average for 2017 to 2020.
- C. Since May 2020, there has been a steady decline in the number of STM reported each month.
- D. There has been a promising decline in STM cases for the period January to June in 2021 where case numbers are at the lowest since 2014.



The aim of FBIRS was to reduce high Salmonellosis rates experienced in WA by 30% over a 4 year period. This reduction was achieved by 2020.

Food that is safe and suitable to eat



State-wide Play it Food Safe campaign

In an effort to increase consumer food safety awareness, stage one of the [Play it Food Safe campaign](#) was rolled out across WA, which focused on promoting priority food safety messages identified in stage one of the campaign pilot related to cooking with chicken and eggs, separating raw and ready to cooked foods and the overarching Clean | Separate | Cook | Chill messages.

\$350,000 was invested in implementing and evaluating the State-wide campaign, with messaging promoted on metropolitan billboards, social media, shopping centres and digital media platforms (On-Demand video, YouTube) and radio, over the summer period (December 2020 to February 2021, with extension of certain media to April). For details read the [Play it Food Safe to prevent food poisoning media statement](#).

A range of presentations and meetings were organised with local governments and non-government organisations to encourage participation in promoting the campaign materials. There was great involvement from local governments organising numerous local community educational initiatives.

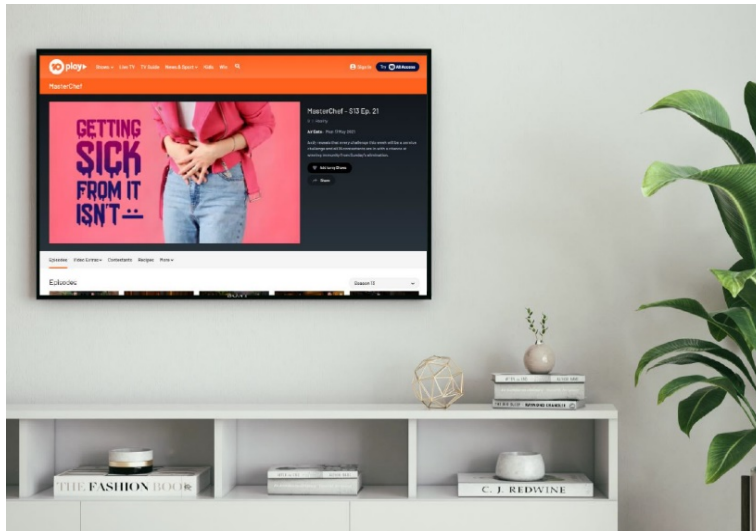
Curtin University was contracted to evaluate and report on stage two of the campaign's effectiveness, which commenced in April 2021. The findings will be published in the later part of 2021. Curtin University published the evaluation findings for stage one in the Journal of Food Control Australia; [The impact of a pilot safe food-handling media campaign among consumers in Western Australia: Implications for public health messaging](#).

We invested \$350,000 to roll out the State-wide Play it Food Safe campaign.

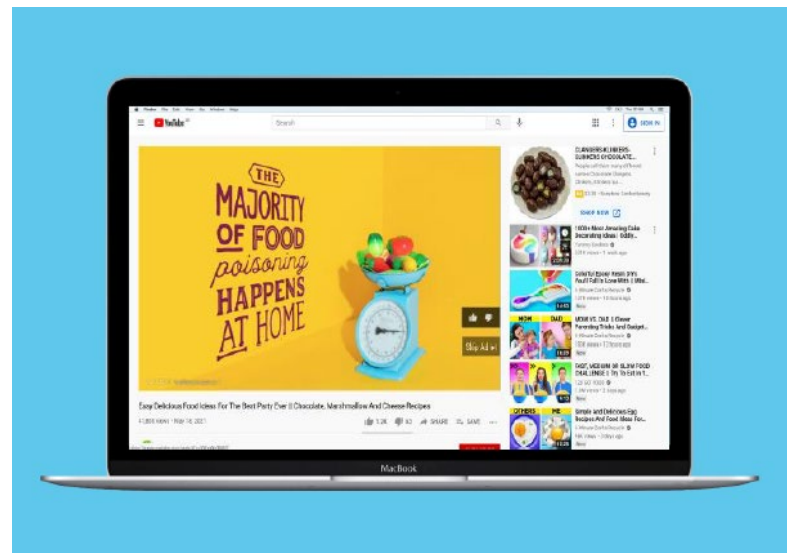


The City of Rockingham, City of Kwinana and City of Bunbury supporting the promotion of the Play it Food Safe campaign.

Food that is safe and suitable to eat



A range of media was used to promote the Play it Food Safe campaign materials including on-demand videos, YouTube and shopping centre billboards.



Food that is safe and suitable to eat



Partnering with WA egg producers

The Department is working with select WA egg producers to trial the effectiveness of Salmonella vaccination in layer flocks to reduce the prevalence of Salmonella on-farm (and in eggs). For the past 18 months, the Department, in conjunction with local governments, has conducted numerous environmental samplings of egg farms and has provided egg producers with guidance on how their salmonella risk can be better managed. To further reduce the salmonella risk in the primary production environment, the Department is also currently working with selected egg producers to investigate the effectiveness of Salmonella vaccination in layer flock via a series of trials.

We partnered with WA egg producers to trial Salmonella vaccination with the aim to reduce the prevalence of Salmonella in chickens.

Educating food businesses on egg safety

There was a reduction in the number of Salmonella cases associated with foodborne outbreaks in the past year. This coincided with the proactive intervention by local governments in enforcing the regulatory guideline related to the preparation of raw egg-based product and education of food businesses on egg safety.

Campylobacteriosis reduction

The next stage of the WA FBIRS will focus on the reduction of Campylobacteriosis, which is still the most prevalent foodborne illness in WA. The Department is currently working closely with WA chicken meat producers and abattoirs on key process controls that reduces the loading of Campylobacter in chicken meat. In the upcoming year, WA FBIRS will be focusing on the following key food safety risk factors for Campylobacteriosis:

- High risk foods, such as foods containing offal (Pâté) and kebabs
- Undercooked chicken meat
- Food handling practices in food businesses
- Food services to vulnerable persons.



Terry Mayor, EHO, Shire of August-Maragert River, and Yvonne McCarthy and John Coles from the EHD participating in on farm egg sampling projects

Food that is safe and suitable to eat



Foodborne disease outbreak investigations

The partnership between Ozfoodnet, EHD and local governments continued with nineteen food borne illness outbreaks investigated. As with previous years, *Salmonella Typhimurium* was associated with the largest percentage (90%) of outbreaks.

Food outbreaks were commonly linked to eggs.

The implicated foods were commonly related to eggs and included raw egg sauces (aioli, mayonnaise), tiramisu, poached eggs, fried rice, scrambled eggs, honey ice-cream and French toast. Investigations revealed there were issues with food business practices such as separating egg yolks using the eggshell, cross contamination after handling raw eggs and undercooking the pooled egg mixture. The EHD introduced a [triennial Infographic](#) to provide regular feedback for EHOs on outbreak investigation outcomes and updated the [Food Business Egg Use Assessment Form](#) to enhance investigations.



Salmonella outbreak conviction for unsafe food

The City of Wanneroo, OzFoodnet and the EHD jointly investigated the largest known point source Salmonella outbreak to have occurred in WA, resulting in 107 cases which was linked to the consumption of banh mi rolls containing an egg butter. Whole Genome Sequencing technology was used to link food sold to the cases who were ill, with samples from other cases who were ill across the Perth and with food and swab samples taken from the premises. These were all genetically identical. Not only was this outbreak the State's largest recorded, it was also the first prosecution in WA to be considered by the Courts directly connected to selling unsafe food, leading to illness, which resulted in a conviction in November 2020— [Notification of Conviction](#).

Office of Auditor General Auditors report

The Office of the Auditor General (OAG) completed an audit of the Department into whether the EHD effectively regulates consumer food safety in food businesses. It focused on the Department's inspection and enforcement processes, support to local government entities and monitoring and reporting of regulation activities. The OAG published a [report](#) which outlined recommendations for improvements. The Department welcomed the OAG's findings, supports all five recommendations and will implement measures to address each recommendation, in accordance with available resources.

Food that is safe and suitable to eat



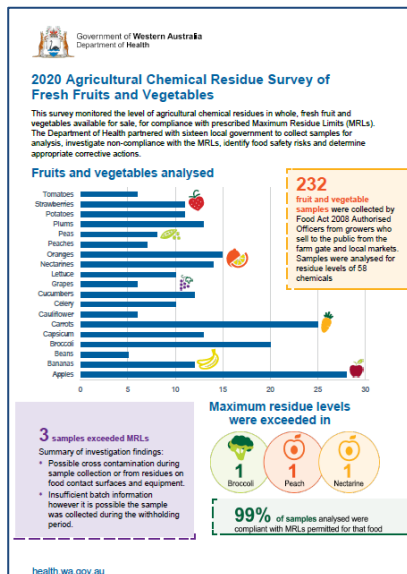
2020 fresh fruit and vegetables survey

The Department partnered with sixteen local government enforcement agencies to monitor the level of agricultural chemical residues on whole, fresh fruit and vegetables and investigate non-compliances with Maximum Residue Limits ([MRLs](#)) prescribed in the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code. The 2020 survey forms part of routine surveillance and monitoring activities managed under the WA Food Monitoring Program (WAFMP).

99% of fruit and vegetable samples were compliant with MRL levels.

A report on the [2020 Agricultural Chemical Residue Survey of Fruits and Vegetables](#) was published. In total 232 samples from a range of

commodities were collected from local growers who sell fresh produce directly to the public. These samples were submitted to ChemCentre for analysis. In total, 229 (99%) of samples were found to be compliant with the MRLs permitted in those foods. Overall, food safety risks associated with agricultural chemical residues on fresh fruits and vegetables are low and are managed appropriately by industry-based food safety schemes.



Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the WA Shellfish Quality Assurance Program

Recently there has been an unprecedented level of growth of potential shellfish growing areas in WA attributable to the high priority being given by Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) for the expansion of edible aquaculture production and investment in various shellfish projects.

The Western Australia Shellfish Quality Assurance Program (WASQAP) has had to adapt to ensure better coordination of research and development, scientific expertise, strong governance foundations along with clear delineation of roles and responsibilities between the Department and DPIRD, to enable stronger system decision-making, operation and risk management. An MOU was established early 2021 between the two Departments to ensure a coordinated approach to the Australian Shellfish Quality Assurance Program as particularised by the Western Australia Shellfish Quality Assurance Program.

Review of the WA Shellfish Quality Assurance Program

During late 2020 and early 2021, the Department led several consultation sessions with key stakeholders involved in the [WASQAP](#). These sessions not only provided a robust review of the existing shellfish quality system, but were instrumental in the development of an industry specific WASQAP

Food that is safe and suitable to eat



manual/user guide and updated [Marine Biotoxin Monitoring and Management Plan](#). Following the review and the implementation of the MOU (between the Department and DPIRD) the Department provided assistance to DPIRD and industry in the final stages of the development of the [WASQAP Sampler Manual](#) and online sampler training module.

Updates to regulatory food safety auditing

Following a report completed by the Department regarding recommendations to improve the regulatory food safety auditing framework, documentation supporting the revised framework following consultation with several stakeholders has now been produced. Guidelines and information for each specific stakeholder:

- [regulatory food safety auditors](#)
- [food businesses](#) and
- [enforcement agencies](#)

within the regulatory food safety auditing system are now available on the Department website together with the updated approved forms, checklists and other resources.

Representation on national food committees

The EHD represents WA on several national food regulation committees of the bi-national food regulation system including:

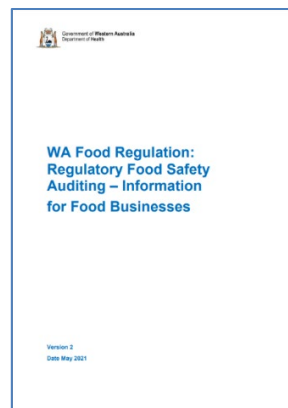
1. [Food Regulation Standing Committee](#) (FRSC) - policy development and supports the Food Minister's Meeting

(formerly the [Australia and New Zealand Ministerial Forum on Food Regulation](#))

2. [Implementation Subcommittee for Food Regulation](#) (ISFR) - Implementation and enforcement.
3. [Food Standards Australia New Zealand](#) (FSANZ)- External advisory and technical committees.

As well as via consultation processes, the EHD has input into food regulation through the FRSC and ISFR committees and sub-committees. EHD policy or food standards work projects this year have included the aspirations of the food regulatory system, pure and highly concentrated caffeine products, Kava, infant formula – safety and labelling, Implementation of the Health Start Rating System, and the pregnancy warning labels on packaged alcohol standard.

The [mandatory pregnancy warning labels](#) on alcohol came into effect in on 31 July 2020 and was welcomed by the [State Government](#) which has been a strong supporter of this important food standard which aims to help to protect the health of developing babies. Businesses have three years to comply with the new requirements. For example, alcohol cans and bottles larger than 200 mL (but less than 800 mL) will have to carry the new labels which have the pregnancy warning logo and text saying: 'PREGNANCY WARNING Alcohol can cause lifelong harm to your baby.'



Food that is safe and suitable to eat



Updates to food related webpages

To improve information available for food businesses and enforcement agencies on a range of food related topics, webpages were redesigned, or new pages created on the Department's website for Food businesses and EH Practitioners, including:

- [importing and exporting food](#)
- [registration of a food business](#)
- [starting a food business in WA](#)
- [fundraisers, charities and volunteers](#)
- [food handlers and food safety](#)
- [food safety toolkit](#)
- [shellfish biotoxin monitoring and management](#)
- [food-borne disease outbreak investigations](#)
- [safe handling of raw egg products](#)
- [annual performance reporting for local government enforcement agencies](#)
- [regulatory food safety auditors](#)
- [regulatory food safety auditing for food businesses](#)
- [regulatory food safety auditing for enforcement agencies](#)

Further updates to the website will continue.

WA food recall activities

Overall there were 83 national food recalls, with WA affected by 39 food recalls. Seven recalls originated in WA. Five of the food recalls that originated in WA, were due to undeclared allergens, one was due to a foreign

object and one was due to what were classified under term "Other"- which was the potential for alcohol content to be exceeded and the possibility for the can to pop, due to secondary fermentation. The EHD guides local government EHOs, and in some cases food businesses, through the process of initiating a food recall. The EHD also reviewed and provided comments to the FSANZ updated 8th edition of Food Industry Recall Protocol, soon to become electronically available.

Food Act enforcement agency reporting

The 2019-20 financial year reports on the performance of food regulatory functions from all 138 Food Act enforcement agencies in WA were published in the report on the *Food Act 2008*.

Health for...
Health professionals
Environmental Health practitioners
Researchers and educators
Licensing and industry

Food safety for business

It is important that anyone working in the food industry, handling or selling food for charity or community events, makes sure food sold is safe and suitable to eat.

All food businesses have a legal responsibility to comply with the [Food Act 2008 \(external site\)](#), [Food Regulations 2008 \(external site\)](#) and the [Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code \(external site\)](#) including [Chapter 3: Food Safety Standards \(external site\)](#).

The following resources will help you to understand food laws and practice safe food handling to help you to run or work in a food business.

COVID-19: Refer to the [food businesses and licensed premises \(external site\)](#) for COVID-19 restrictions.

Food labelling and allergens	+
Food monitoring, laboratories and pathogens	+
Food offenders	+
Food recalls and incident management	+
Food safety programs and auditing	+
Primary production and processing	+
Safe food handling and hygiene	+
Starting or registering a food business	+

Health for...
Health professionals
Environmental Health practitioners
Researchers and educators
Licensing and industry

Food

The following resources are designed to support local government Food Act authorised officers, food safety auditors, laboratories and analysts.

Local government enforcement agencies are responsible for enforcing the [Food Act 2008 \(external site\)](#), [Food Regulations 2008 \(external site\)](#) and the [Australian and New Zealand Food Standards Code \(external site\)](#) including [Chapter 3: Food Safety Standards \(external site\)](#).

Food businesses and anyone working in the food industry should refer to food safety for business information.

Administration, designations, registration and reporting	+
Compliance and enforcement tools	+
Food labelling and allergens	+
Food monitoring, laboratories and pathogens	+
Food offenders	+
Food recalls and incident management	+
Food safety and health promotion	+
Food safety programs and auditing	+
Primary production and processing	+
Strategy and governance	+

Subscribe to the Environmental Health e-News for monthly updates on environmental health matters relevant to WA, including food safety. [Subscribe here](#)

Food that is safe and suitable to eat



Novel food assessments

The EHD assessed 32 potential novel food items through the national Advisory Committee on Novel Foods (ACNF). By using the FSANZ guidance tool, each state jurisdiction considers whether a food is non-traditional in accordance with the definition in the Standard and, if so, whether an assessment of public health and safety is required.

The Committee gives its recommendations to the FSANZ General Manager, Food Standards and this forms the basis of a response to the applicant. The assessments have resulted in recommendations for 32 submissions as follows:

- 2 of the assessed items met criteria of traditional food
- 12 met criteria for non-traditional and not novel food
- 13 met criteria of non-traditional and novel food requiring FSANZ safety assessment.

Five submissions did not result in a recommendation as the assessments have concluded that:

- 3 did not warrant a recommendation in relation to the novel food definition, as a result of being a food additive and/or a nutritive substance
- 2 require further detail and information to reach recommendation.

Audits of meat wholesalers

Wholesalers of meat and meat products for human consumption are required to comply with the Australian Standard 4696:2007, which requires the food business to have an “Approved Arrangement” incorporating a Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point plan. The food business must be registered under the Food Act with the local government enforcement agency whilst the Department, as the Controlling Authority for businesses that process meat for human consumption intended for wholesale, is responsible for verifying and conducting audits of Approved Arrangements on behalf of the relevant enforcement agency. Over the course of the 2020-21 financial year, 97 audits were completed.



Food

The Food team play a key role in implementation of food legislative functions. This includes state-wide coordination of food regulatory activities, monitoring, surveillance, incident response and stakeholder support, and enforcement agency controlling authority functions.

2,132



Email enquiries

320



Pathogen notifications actioned

22



Food outbreaks coordinated

39



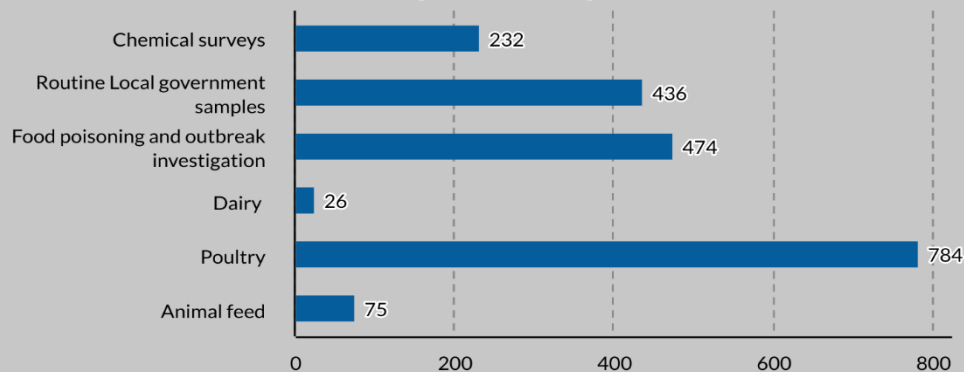
Food recalls coordinated

32

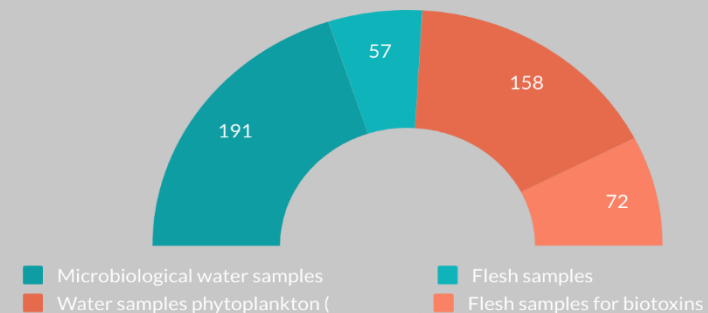


Novel foods / non-traditional foods assessed

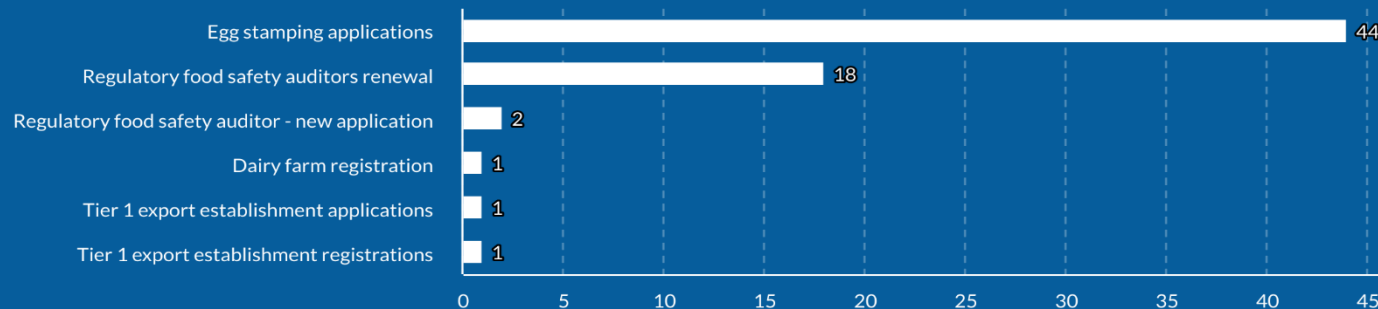
Food samples analysed



WA Shellfish Quality Assurance Program monitoring



Food applications and renewals



Food

Food business activities registered with the Department of Health
(and Controlling Authority activities)

446

Total food businesses under the
Department of Health's responsibility

31

Food businesses not
in a district

85

Public hospitals

4

Bivalve molluscs

150

Dairy farms

59

Dairy processors

4

Diary transport

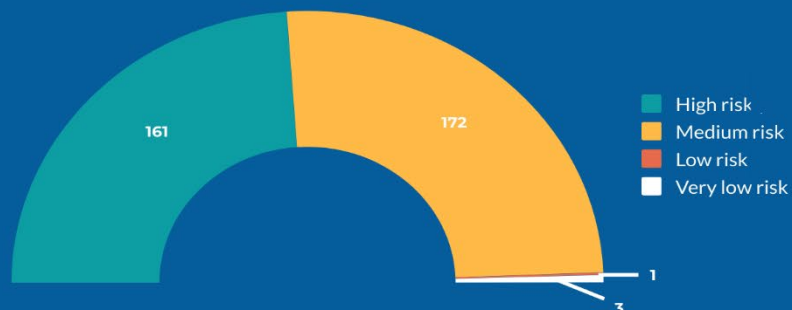
4

Tier 1 export
abattoirs

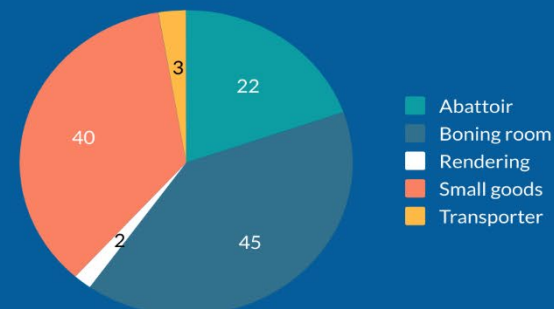
109

Controlling
Authority
(meat processors)

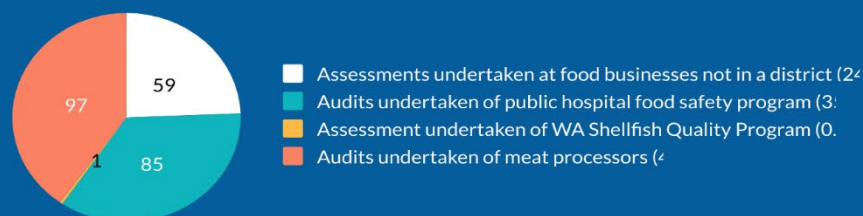
Risk rating of food businesses



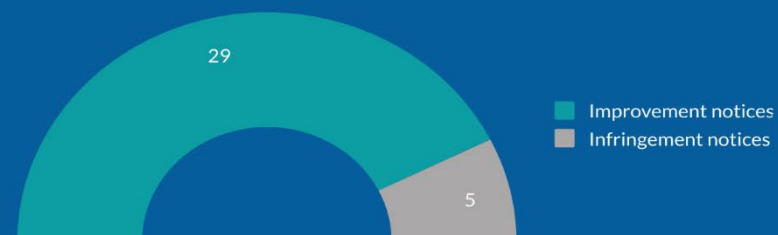
Type of wholesale meat processors



Audits and assessments



EHD Compliance and enforcement action taken across all food business activities



Water that is safe to use



We oversee all forms of water use, examining chemical, microbiological, radiological, physical hazards, and risk assessment and risk mitigation activities required to protect and promote public health.

Management of wastewater conveyances, treatment and disposal discussion paper released

The [Managing public health risks from wastewater conveyance, treatment and disposal in WA discussion paper](#) was released for three month consultation. The paper aims to determine the best way to manage the health risks from wastewater in the preparation for the implementation of stage 5 of the *Public Health Act 2016* (Public Health Act). The EHD provided updates on the discussion paper via the Great Southern Environmental Health Regional Meeting, WALGA webinar for local government EHOs and an industry seminar.

Assessment of site and soil evaluation reports masterclass and workshops

The EHD hosted three Assessment of Site and Soil Evaluation Reports workshops held at the Environmental Health Australia conference, and the Broome and Busselton EH regional meetings. A big thanks to the Shires of Mundaring and Serpentine-Jarrahdale for presenting on practical local government examples. Further workshops are planned for 2021.



Assessment of Site and Soil Evaluation Reports Workshops
Top: Environmental Health Australia conference
Below: Busselton workshop, South-West EH Regional Group



Water that is safe to use



Site and soil evaluation for onsite wastewater management updates

The EHD developed the [Site and soil evaluation for onsite wastewater management](#) webpage to assist industry and enforcement agencies in the preparation and assessment of site and soil evaluation (SSE) reports that intended to address the Government Sewerage Policy (GSP) requirements of planning and development applications. Information includes:

- [Guidance on site-and-soil evaluation for on-site wastewater management](#)
- [Template for Site and Soil Evaluation Report](#)
- [Water Balance Excel spreadsheet](#)
- [Checklist for Assessment of Site and Soil Evaluation Reports](#)
- [Wastewater Calculator](#)

Review of information provided with planning proposals

Applications for unsewered rezonings, subdivisions and developments are assessed against the GSP Policy. Site and Soil Evaluations form part of the supporting documentation, but the level of information and content can vary. Such reports are also important in the development of town planning and local planning strategies. The review is to help identify information gaps, differences in GSP interpretation etc and resolve this with the industry. EHD will determine internal issues but will also liaise with Local Government to assess whether there are consistent themes of concern.

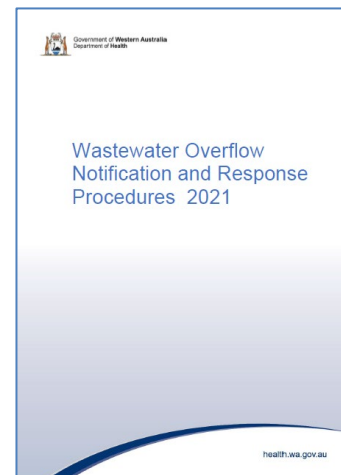
Planning advice inter-agency workshop

The EHD formed part of the planning for water inter-agency workshop where staff provided public health advice regarding water, wastewater and recycled water management in WA at each planning and development stage. The metro and regional representatives from the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Department of Health and Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) participated in discussion forum with the intention to expend the knowledge of the various areas of expertise both within the departments and across agencies. The workshop was formed to:

- discuss the roles and responsibilities of each Department in planning for water
- look at current policies, guidelines and templates, and
- draw on case studies to look at emerging issues and options for resolution of drying climate challenges.

Review of wastewater overflow notification and response procedures

The Wastewater Overflow Response Procedures has been updated after targeted consultation with relevant state agencies, wastewater service providers and local governments known to deal with these incidents. The protocol improves response protocols needed to protect the public's health from overflow events into environmental waterways and domestic properties.



Water that is safe to use



Passive sampling of SARS-CoV-2 for wastewater

A part of developing the sewage testing program for SARs-CoV-2, the CoLoSSoS project was to review cost effective sampling methodologies. The EHD collaborated with Monash University, adopted their passive sampler design, and worked with engineers from multiple companies for local production to support the state's sampling demand. The Water Corporation has since been using the passive sampler for wastewater sampling at multiple sampling sites across WA for the SARs-CoV-2 surveillance program. The inexpensive passive sampler is an accurate and simple testing device to detect SARs-CoV-2 in wastewater.

Wastewater surveillance of viruses

Traditional sampling



\$\$\$, complex,
power, bulky



Passive sampling



\$, simple,
no power, small

Passive sampler device designed to collect SARS-CoV-2 samples

Separation distances between wastewater treatment plants and residential areas

The EHD became aware that several large wastewater systems around the State have been installed adjacent to residential areas without considering adequate separation distances to minimise odour and noise nuisance. A project was initiated to review the optimal separation distances between wastewater treatment systems and residential areas. This involved the identification of wastewater treatment systems including lagoon and large wastewater treatment plants adjacent to residential areas, determination of adequate separation distances and identification of actions required to remediate the current situation.

Memoranda of Understanding for sewerage and non-potable water services

The EHD executed two new Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) for Sewerage and Non-Potable Water Services with Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd and with the City of Kalgoorlie Boulder. The MOUs provide a uniform method for documenting existing processes and procedures related to sewerage collection, treatment and disposal/reuse for the licensees. The MOUs incorporate the 'Framework for Management of Sewerage and Recycled Water Quality' and Guiding Principles set out in the "Guidelines for Sewerage Systems". By adopting the MOU's, each party recognises the importance of strong and visible sewerage management and the need to establish monitoring and support arrangements, including information for the public.

Water that is safe to use



Vehicle mounted fire fighting in drinking water catchments guidelines

The [Materials, products and substances in contact with drinking water guidance](#) was published on suitable fire retardants for vehicle mounted firefighting when vehicles in extraction industries (including mining) or other major commercial applications may be in or near drinking water catchments in WA. The EHD recommends substances that do not pose a PFAS related risk to the environment and are linked to the phase out of PFAS containing substances for such uses in WA.

Serpentine pipehead drinking water catchment. Photo courtesy of the Water Corporation



MOU for drinking water

The EHD executed two new Memoranda of Understanding for Drinking Water (MOUs), with Athena Water Solutions Pty Ltd in November 2020 and with Aqua Ferre (Muchea) Pty Ltd in May 2021. The MOUs incorporate the 'Framework for Management of Drinking Water Quality' and Guiding Principles set out in the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines and integrate all facets of the drinking water quality management and assurance system.

Bunbury district water fluoridation project

Significant progress on the Bunbury district fluoridation project means that the South-West communities of Bunbury and Dalyellup will have fluoridated drinking water on tap by 2023. This follows the setting of fluoridation target dates of June 2022 for Dalyellup and June 2023 for Bunbury. It also follows water fluoridation in November 2020 of neighbouring communities Eaton and Australind, as well as Burekup, Brunswick Junction, Roelands and Pelican Point.

Fluoridation is an important preventative health measure that improves the oral and overall health of populations. Improving oral health in these communities will go a long way to lifting the overall health and wellbeing of residents, particularly children. Fluoridating community water supplies is a key element of the National and State Oral Health plans. The EHD will also monitor the performance of the treatment plant to ensure compliance with the "Australian Drinking Water Guidelines" and the *Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Act 1966*.

Water that is safe to use

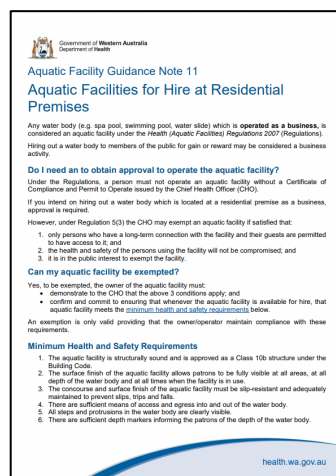


Recycled water annual reports

Recycled water scheme operators are required to submit annual reports to the EHD each year. There has been an increase in the number of annual reports submitted in the 20-21 financial year in comparison to previous years. The EHD assess each report and provides a response to the scheme operator on how the performance of the scheme may be improved. This collaboration allows the operators to implement these changes and achieve better outcomes for effective treatment and reuse of recycled water.

Backyard swimming pools for hire

Following the launch of a web-based platform which facilitates the hire of backyard pools to members of the public, the EHD received numerous enquiries seeking advice in relation to the application of the Aquatic Facilities Regulations. The EHD sought the views of local government on the best way to manage this style of aquatic facility. A process for exempting aquatic facilities for hire from the Regulations has now been approved by the Chief Health Officer and published in the [Guidance Note 11 – Aquatic Facilities for Hire at Residential Premises](#). The exemption process is intended to provide some public health and safety assurance in relation to exempted facilities commensurate with risk and the regulatory capacity of local government. The Department appreciates the support provided by all respondents who completed the survey.



Changing pace of aquatic facilities

The EHD is responsible for overseeing the regulation of WA aquatic facilities, which require public aquatic facilities to be approved before use. Together with local government, almost 2000 aquatic facilities are also routinely monitored across the state, to ensure physical, chemical and microbiological risks are minimised.

As part of the ongoing role of assessing public health risks associated with new types of aquatic facilities and staying up to date with new technologies, such as water spray grounds and waterslides, the EHD updated a range of publications to assist local government and industry to maintain compliance with regulatory requirements including:

- [Construction and operation of an aquatic facility/water body](#) - application form updated
- [Resources, guidance and checklists for aquatic facility operators](#) – most resources have been updated



Caryn Gore from the EHD assessing the installation of an aquatic facility.

Water that is safe to use



Trichodesmium algal bloom in Perth, South Coast and Albany coastline

Each year the Perth metropolitan, South Coast and/or Albany to Esperance coastlines, experience expansive *Trichodesmium erythraeum* ('red-tide' or 'sea sawdust') algal blooms. These blooms, although transient in nature can stretch for hundreds of kilometres potentially impacting the coastline. During March 2021, several sightings and reports of *Trichodesmium* blooms were made to the Department over a three-week period stretching between Pinnaroo Point (City of Joondalup) and Bremer Bay (Shire of Jerramungup), also including Cape Riche (Albany), Hardy Inlet (Augusta), Gracetown, Yallingup, Rottnest Island, Falcon Bay, Secret Harbour, Warnbro Sound and Fremantle Port. *Trichodesmium* blooms may cause skin irritation and rashes, particularly amongst sensitive people, as was anecdotally reported at a surfing school near Rabbits Beach (Yallingup) during this bloom. The Department worked with local government, Surf Life Saving WA and the Westpac Life Saving Rescue Helicopters to monitor the bloom, issue community health warnings and deploy warning signs.



Trichodesmium bloom near Lefthanders Beach, Gracetown
(photo courtesy of SLSSWA)

Lower Vasse River algal bloom health concerns

The Department received several enquiries and reports from local Busselton residents regarding cyanobacteria / blue-green algae (BGA) blooms impacting the Lower Vasse River. Concerns were raised regarding the BGA toxin β -methylamino-L-alanine (BMAA) and potential associations of increased neurological disease e.g. Motor Neuron Disease, if living or working near waters regularly impacted by BGA blooms.

The Department worked closely with the City of Busselton, Lower Vasse River Management Advisory Group and the DWER, to provide health advice and alleviate community concerns, including providing BMAA findings from a 2021 World Health Organization report. A factsheet was developed for circulation to the Busselton community.



Toxic Blue Green Algae warning sign - Lower Vasse River

Water that is safe to use

Alexandrium management for recreational crabbing in the Swan and Canning Rivers

Following major *Alexandrium* blooms in the Swan and Canning Rivers in consecutive years, the DPIRD, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), working together with the EHD, implemented a new recreational crabbing health risk approach for the Swan and Canning Rivers during 2020-2021.

The Department helped develop 'Caution' crabbing signage, updated frequently asked questions, participated in key stakeholder meetings, and liaised with local governments to erect signage along river foreshore reserve areas. DPIRD and DBCA also developed a suite of other educational information (multi-lingual), including a video to inform recreational fishers.

Northam flooding and heavy rainfall impact

In early March 2021, the town of Northam received more than 100mm of rainfall in a short period resulting in localised flooding and an extensive wastewater overflow event which impacted the townsite, Avon River downstream to the Swan River.

The EHD liaised with the Shire of Northam and the Water Corporation, to ensure appropriate wastewater clean-up, signage and sampling was conducted. (See Water Corporation [media statement](#) and [Department media statement](#)).

At the same time the Perth Metropolitan area received approximately 35mm of rain with a fish kill experienced several days later and notable river water discolouration as stormwater flowed down from the catchment. Throughout this event the EHD worked with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and several local governments along the Swan and Canning Rivers to monitor the microbiological quality of the water. High microbiological levels were detected at several locations including the Avon River (Northam), and Boongarup, Purana and Walyunga Pools, Inglewood Main Drain, Riverside Gardens Bayswater.



Flooding in Northam

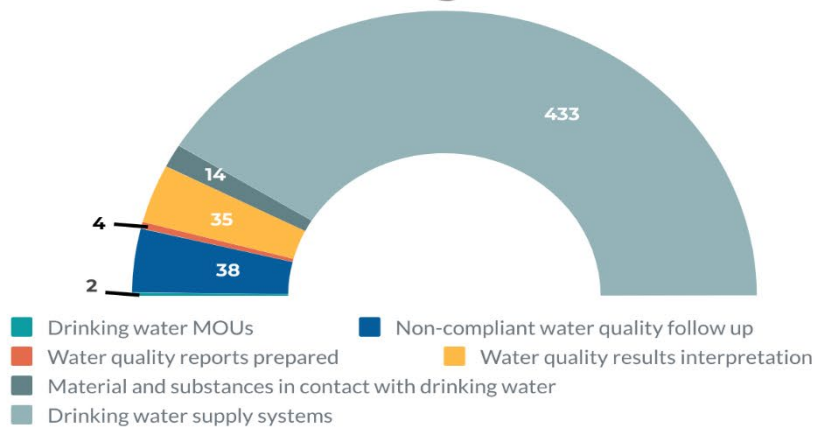


Water

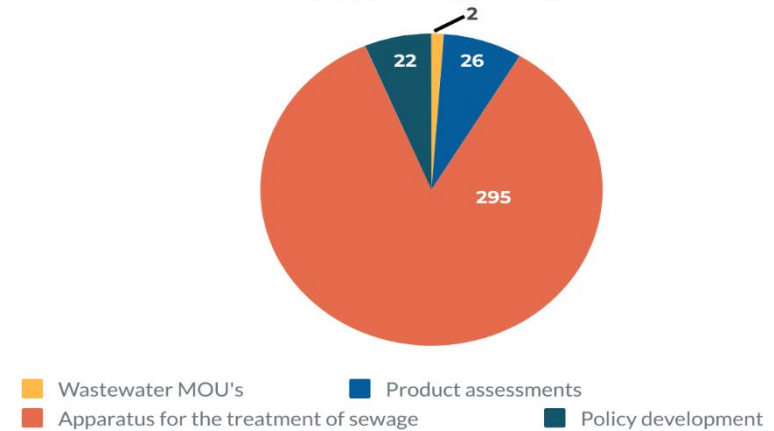
The Water team administer water regulatory requirements for all forms of water use of public health significance in WA.

Water related assessments and approvals

Drinking water

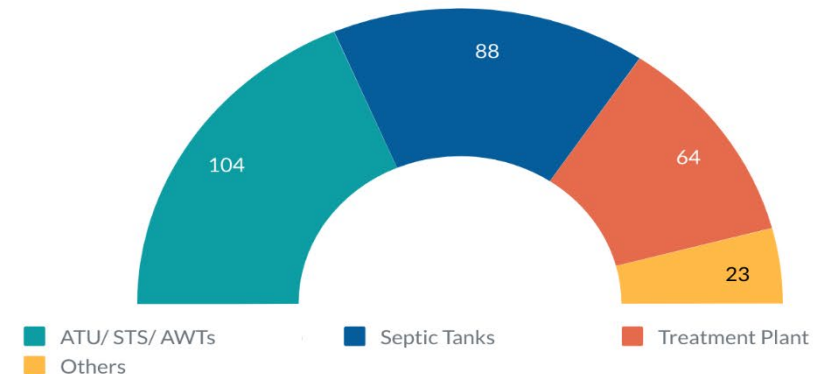


Wastewater



Aerobic treatment units must be approved before installation.

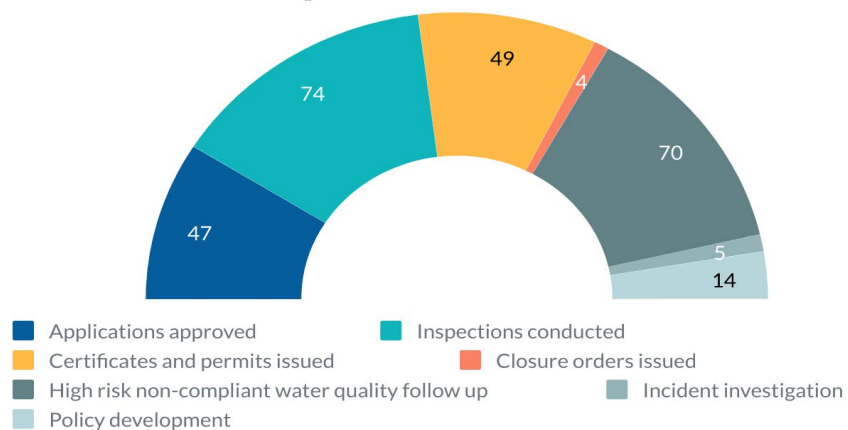
Types of wastewater installation applications approved



Water

Water related assessments and approvals

Aquatic facilities



Public aquatic facilities are monitored for physical, chemical and microbiological risks across WA.



2,648

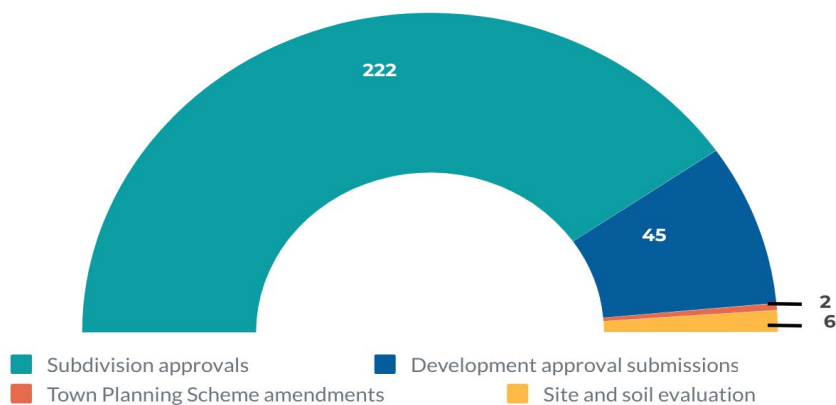
Customer service enquiries



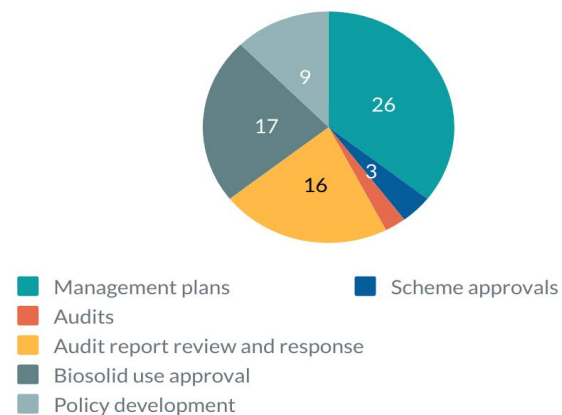
1,261

Total jobs logged with the Water team

Planning and development



Recycled water



18

High risk incident investigations



33

Major website updates

Water

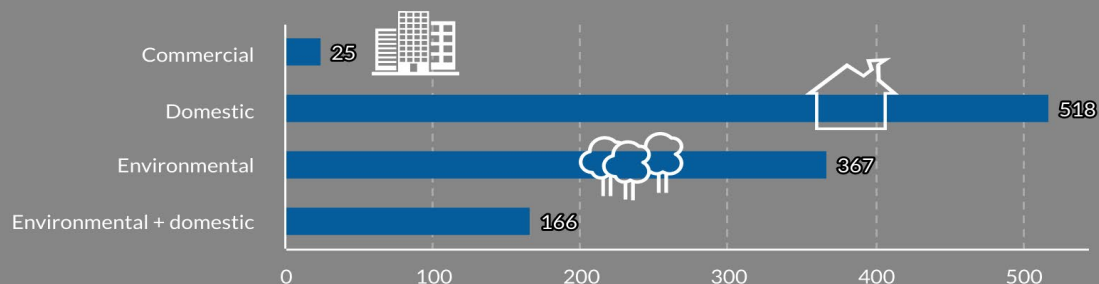
23,376

Water monitoring samples collected and analysed across WA

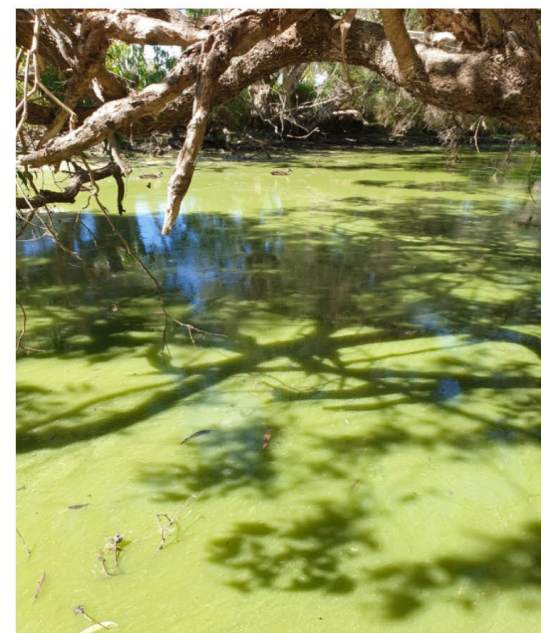
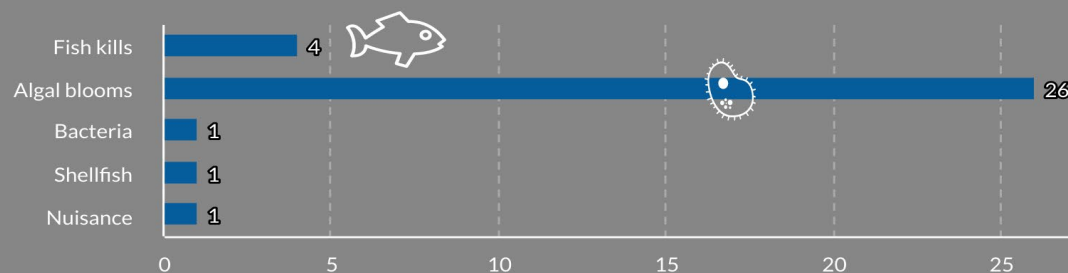
including:

15,585	2,391	122	3,860	1,108	21	159	100
Aquatic facilities	Drinking water	Aboriginal community drinking water	Environmental waters	Wastewater and recycling schemes	Abattoir and meat processors	Cooling towers (Legionella)	Recycling schemes (Water Corporation)

Wastewater overflow responses



Health responses to events in recreational water bodies

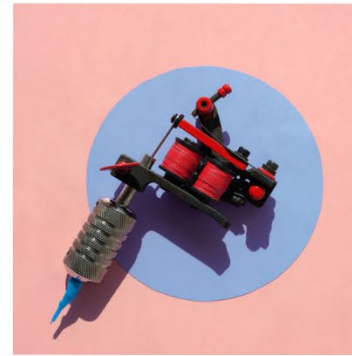
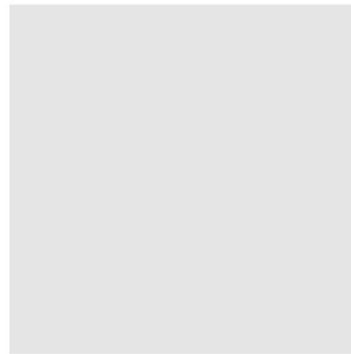


Toxic Blue Green Algae Lower Vasse River, Busselton

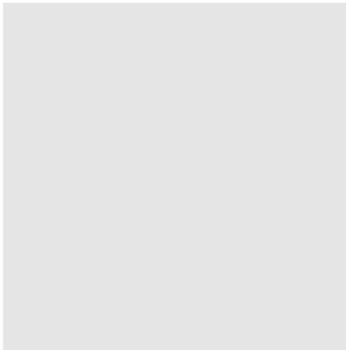
Healthy built environments and safer industries



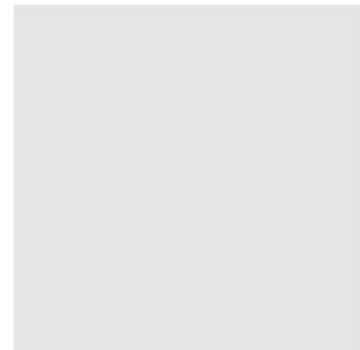
Control of pesticide use, tobacco, radiation and personal appearance industries



Safe public events, homes and public buildings



Improved environmental health conditions in remote Aboriginal communities



Improved environmental health conditions in remote Aboriginal communities



We are responsible for working closely with the many organisations and individuals that support a range of projects, programs and other initiatives to address improvements in environmental health conditions in remote and regional Aboriginal communities.

#EndingTrachoma project video

The EHD initiated and funded the [#endingtrachoma video](#) promoting six simple hygiene steps was developed to reduce the incidence of trachoma, featuring the EHD's very own Onike Williams. The video is a partnership project funded by the WA Country Health Services, the EHD, Indigenous Eye Health (University of Melbourne) and managed by the Public Health Advocacy Institute of WA. The video is free to use in clinic waiting rooms, as an educational resource or as part of a healthy housing project.



#EndingTrachoma video

Trachoma screening

Three of the EHD's Aboriginal Environmental Health Program staff and their contracted Service Providers travelled with and supported the Trachoma screening activities undertaken by various WACHS Population Health staff in the Goldfields, Midwest, Pilbara and Kimberley regions.

Launch of WA Trachoma Storybook

With Commonwealth trachoma prevention funding and in line with the national S.A.F.E. strategy, the EHD engaged PHAIWA and Curtin Uni to assist with delivering WA's EH Trachoma strategy. One of the very successful projects to come out of that partnership is the [WA Trachoma Storybook](#), which was launched in Geraldton. The Storybook is a collection of 13 stories that highlight some of the excellent work happening in communities across WA in the prevention of trachoma. The stories focus on environmental health or health promotion interventions in remote communities. The stories are all written using a strengths-based approach and celebrate the cultures of WA Indigenous people and communities.

The Storybook demonstrates that environmental health and health promotion offer multiple, engaging approaches to help increase awareness and skills around face and hand washing. Some stories tell of how health promotion has been successful in allowing community members to better understand how trachoma is caused and that it is simple to treat. Other stories reinforce the importance of clean faces and hands and the need to support communities to increase their hygiene practices to

Improved environmental health conditions in remote Aboriginal communities



enable them to be healthy and strong. Several stories discuss innovations around safe and functional bathroom and laundry facilities and health hardware to ensure people can wash. The importance of the local Aboriginal workforce and the higher level partnerships between Health and Housing are also showcased as critical success factors to reducing trachoma and ensuring healthy homes in remote Aboriginal communities.



Review of Aboriginal Environmental Health contracts

A comprehensive independent review of the WA Aboriginal Environmental Health Program was commenced in June 2021. It is expected that this review, the first formal evaluation and review of the program since its inception in the mid-1990s, will be completed by the end of 2021 and result in the program's services being better aligned with the Department's Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Framework and inform long term contract procurement for service providers.

A comprehensive independent review of the WA Aboriginal Environmental Health Program is now underway.

Consultation with all relevant stakeholders including all contracted Service Providers, Aboriginal Medical Services, remote communities and other government agencies will occur within the first few months of the new financial year (2021/22). Two groups of consultants have been engaged to conduct the review.

Housing and environmental health intensive maintenance and identification

A week-long housing and environmental health intensive maintenance identification and response program in Meekatharra and Wiluna was completed by our team.

Aboriginal environmental health

The Science and Policy team coordinates the delivery of the Aboriginal Environmental Health Program for regional and remote communities to ensure housing and essential services are maintained. The Program has been running for over 25 years.

\$8.12
million

in Aboriginal environmental
health expenditure

20

Aboriginal environmental health
service providers

45

FTE staff employed by service
providers to deliver programs

85

% of staff employed with a Certificate
II in Indigenous Environmental Health
qualifications or higher

5,040

Health hardware housing
inspections



36

Trachoma at-risk communities

Number of Aboriginal EH contract activities and hours spent managing Aboriginal EH contract activities



40,904

Total hours of service required
to provide Aboriginal EH
contract activities



Safe public events, homes and public buildings



We work closely with governments and industry to ensure safeguards are in place to minimise risks within public buildings such as entertainment centres and theatres, community events such as outdoor festivals or sporting events, and residential buildings.

COVID Event Plans

Following the extension of Phase 4 of WA's COVID restrictions in 2020, it was important to ensure events would be undertaken in a COVID safe manner. The EHD in collaboration with the Public Health Emergency Operations Centre (PHEOC), WA Police, State Solicitor's Office, Department of Premier and Cabinet and

Department of Local Government, Sports and Culture, developed a coordinated approach to the risk assessment and approval of events/mass gatherings under WA's Phase 4 COVID-19 restrictions.

The EHD led the development and implementation of the COVID Event Plan approval process. This involved the development of a range of supporting resources, including the COVID Event Guidelines, and saw Local government authorised officers being authorised under the *Emergency Management Act 2005* as part of the COVID-19 response for the first time, to assess low and medium risk events as part of the COVID Event Plan approval process.

Since the 25th September 2020, the EHD has reviewed and sought Chief Health Officer approval for approximately 200 high risk COVID Event Plans. Local governments have collectively reviewed over 1,000 low to medium risk COVID Event Plans. The requirement for a COVID Event Plan is likely to remain for the foreseeable future, due to the ongoing risk of COVID.

The EHD led the development and implementation of the COVID Event Plan approval process in partnership with local government Environmental Health Officers.



Safe public events, homes and public buildings



Weddings and funeral exemptions for COVID

On the 26th April, the Premier announced that in accordance with the *Safe Transition for Western Australia Directions*, all gatherings in the Perth and Peel regions would be limited to a maximum of 20 people. Weddings and funerals were permitted up to 100 people, through an exemption application process, administered by the Public Events team. Immediately following the announcement, a significant number of enquiries and applications were received regarding wedding and funeral exemptions. In less than 24 hours, the team successfully developed and implemented an exemption application process that integrated with the WA Government website.

Over the course of the following 5 days, a total of 235 enquiries and exemption applications were received and processed. The number of staff surged from three to ten to process all exemptions in time for their respective events.

COVID-19: Transition from lockdown for Perth and Peel

Private Weddings and Funerals Checklist

Please use the following checklist to apply for an exemption to the limit on the number of people permitted at private weddings and funerals (including wakes) only. As part of the transition from lockdown for Perth and Peel, this checklist must be completed if you wish to have more than 20 but less than 100 patrons attending the gathering. This excludes staff. By signing the below, you commit to adhering to the COVID safety measures outlined in this checklist.

A private wedding or funeral is one that is being held at a private residence, park or location where a COVID Safety Plan is not in place.

Applicant's name: _____

Event type: Wedding ☐ Funeral service ☐ Funeral wake/reception ☐

Has a maximum number: _____ patrons and agree to the following conditions:

- All attendees must wear a mask
- Carefully manage shared spaces to ensure physical distancing
- A strict limit of a minimum of 4sqm of publicly accessible space per person
- Maintain regular cleaning and hygiene standards
- Maintain attendance records for the purpose of contact tracing
- Ensure unwell people do not attend the gathering
- Provide adequate hand sanitiser and soap to maintain hand hygiene
- Avoid use of shared utensils and equipment

Please provide the following details:

Applicant's contact number: _____ Applicant's email address: _____ Names of deceased (for funerals only): _____

Duration of event(s) including services at one location and reception/ wake at another:

Date of event: _____ Start time: _____ End time: _____

Location name(s) and address(es) (noting there may be a service at one location and a reception/wake at another): _____

Sign below, acknowledging your commitment to adhering to the above safety checklist.

Applicant's signature: _____ Date: _____

Email your signed checklist to Public.Events@health.wa.gov.au

Once an application has been reviewed by the Department of Health a notification of approval to proceed will be provided by email.

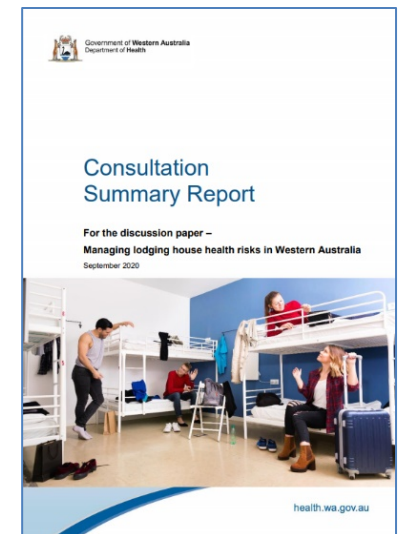
We're all in this together

Housing regulation review consultation summary

The [Managing housing risks in WA consultation summary paper](#) outlines feedback received following the review of the public health risks of WA residential housing. The review confirmed support for new regulations to be created under the framework provided by the Public Health Act. The Minister for Health approved the drafting of new regulations. Policy instructions have been submitted to the Department's legal services to progress to drafting instructions for the new regulations.

Lodging house consultation summary and policy instructions

The [Lodging House Consultation Summary Report](#) was published, summarising feedback received for the [Managing lodging house health risks in Western Australia](#) discussion paper. Respondents favored provisions for lodging house management under new housing regulations to be created under the Public Health Act. The Minister for Health approved the drafting of new regulations and policy instructions have been drafted and submitted to the DOH legal department to progress these to drafting instructions for the new regulations.



Safe public events, homes and public buildings



Legionnaires' disease investigations

Eighteen cases of Legionnaires' disease (*Legionella pneumophila*) were reported to the Department. Once a disease case is notified, the EHD plays a role in contacting the affected local government/s and overseeing the investigation. The reporting process for public health and local government was consolidated through the development of an inbox specifically for correspondence relevant to notified cases of *Legionella pneumophila*.

The EHD also established a tracking spreadsheet to record local government progress in undertaking Legionella investigations. This will assist in determining whether there are trends emerging between case locations over time.

Air-handling regulation review Part 2

The [Air-handling and water systems of commercial buildings review – Part 2](#) was released for consultation ending on the 31 August 2020. The key focus of Part 2 was to obtain feedback through the online survey on the proposed regulation content to manage the public health risks associated with commercial air-handling (e.g. cooling towers) and water systems. The Air Handling and Water Systems of Commercial Buildings



consultation summary combines the collective responses from Part 1 and Part 2 consultation periods. The consultation summary has identified policy issues which need to be resolved to determine a final recommended position. There is strong support for the development of regulations to manage this risk area.

There is strong support for the development of regulations to manage the public health risks of cooling towers and water distribution systems.

Public Health Assessments

The EHD worked with Infrastructure WA's (IWA) in the development of the [State Infrastructure Strategy](#) to include recommendations for Public Health Assessments for significant strategic planning and infrastructure proposals and land use planning and development proposals.

Public events

The Biological and Applied Environmental Health Hazards team plays an important role in supporting event organisers and local government with approving, planning and assessing events, as well as monitoring crowd incidents and event trends worldwide to improve WA policy interventions. The team played a significant role in reviewing COVID Event Plans for high risk events in 2020/21.



Image above - SOTA festival. Image below - SummerSalt festival



198

**High risk COVID Event Plans
reviewed and approved.**

253

COVID wedding / funeral
exemptions processed in
one week



Attended 13* events including:

- Castaway
- SummerSalt
- SNACK NYE
- Fringe Festival
- WA DAY / SOTA
- Perth Beerfest
- Wine Machine
- Pineapple Parklands
- AFL sport matches
- Telethon Xmas Festival
- Froth Town
- Freo Beerfest
- Red Hot Summer

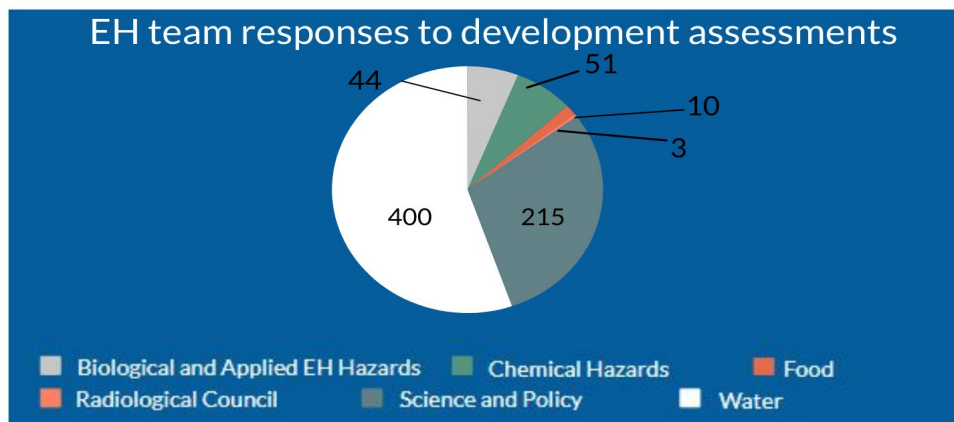
* Number of events impacted by COVID-19 cancellations and restrictions

Development assessment approvals

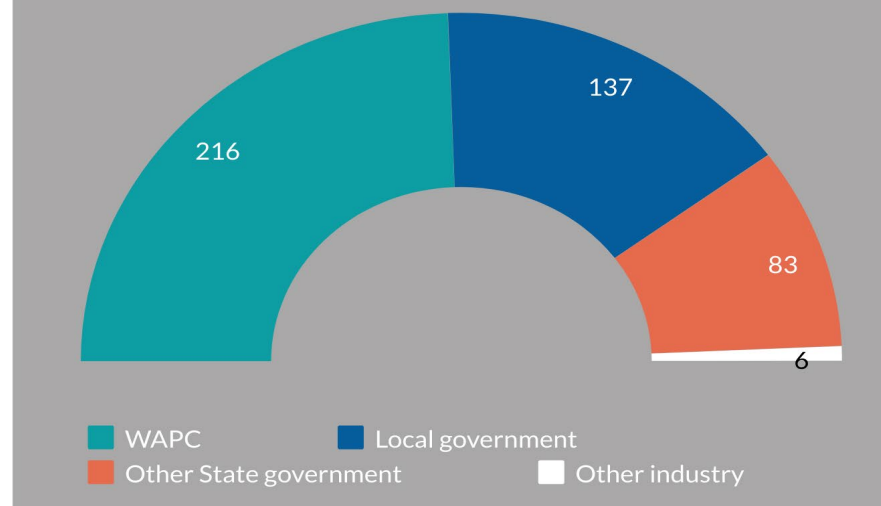
The Science and Policy and System Performance team coordinate the Development Assessment Approvals (DAP) process across the EHD, to manage the vast number of applications received that require environmental health input.

- 8** average number of development assessments received per week
- 36** average number of development assessments received per month
- 431** average number of development assessments received per year

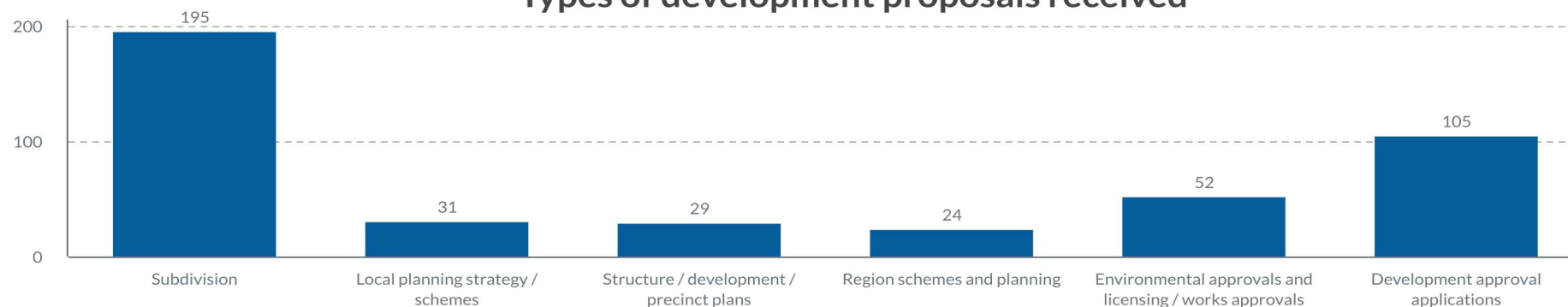
EH team responses to development assessments



Stakeholders requesting EH advice for development approvals



Types of development proposals received



Control of pesticide use, tobacco, radiation and personal appearance industries

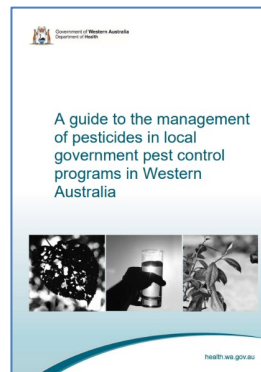


Pesticide consultation summary paper and policy instructions

The [Pesticides Consultation Summary Report](#) was published which summarises feedback received on the [Managing Public Health Risks Associated with Pesticides in WA Discussion Paper](#). A total of 234 responses were received during the consultation period, with overall support for new regulations to be developed. The Minister for Health approved the drafting of new regulations. Policy instructions have been submitted to the Department legal department to progress to drafting instructions for the new regulations.

Management of pesticides in local government pest control programs

The [Guide to the management of pesticides in local government pest control programs in WA](#) has been updated. The document is aimed at local government staff responsible for management of pest control programs within their local government who are interested in adopting better management practices for the use of pesticides. Further details are available on the [pesticide webpage](#).



Pesticide safety compliance

The EHD introduced a compliance and enforcement function to the pesticide safety program, which now consists of ad-hoc visits of pest management businesses and technicians across WA to ensure compliance with the *Health (Pesticide) Regulations 2011*.

MOU for joint investigations involving tobacco products

The MOU between the Department and the WA Police was completed and signed off by the Director General (Health) and the Assistant Commissioner State Crime (WA Police). The MOU defines roles and responsibilities of both parties for joint investigations involving tobacco products in WA.

Tobacco volume sales data project

The Tobacco Volume Sales Data Project was established to better understand the distribution of tobacco in WA to assist the Department in its role as regulatory authority for the Tobacco Products Control Act as well as to inform future policy decision related to tobacco control. Returns provided by wholesalers revealed valuable insights into the distribution of tobacco in WA.

EHD have worked with Data and Information Systems to create a dedicated server and database to streamline the importation of new data and create interactive reports using PowerBI.

Radiation health activities

The work of the Radiation Health team is in support of the Radiological Council who administers the Radiation Safety Act. The Radiological Council publishes an annual report which summarises the activities of the Radiological Council and can be found on the [Radiological Council website](#).

Chemical Hazards

The Chemical Hazards team, with support from System Performance, provide policy advice and manage the regulatory requirements associated with chemicals, pesticides, asbestos, contaminated sites and other common environmental hazards of public health significance in WA.

2,218

Pest management
technician licences renewed

34

Pest management
vehicle inspections
undertaken



68

Pesticide businesses
audits

670

New pest management
technician licences
issued

406

Pest management
business
registrations renewed

59

Pesticide related
complaints investigated

117

Contaminated sites
advice requests

1

Contaminated site
inspection



350

Contaminated sites
classification sign-off

68

Fumigation
sites assessed



29

Clandestine drug
laboratories reported



68

Cannabis grow
houses reported



14

Elevated lead
notification
investigation



1

Expert advice
provided to the State
Administration Tribunal

Tobacco

The System Performance team is responsible for coordinating state-wide administration and enforcement of tobacco legislation. This involves licensing and inspecting tobacco retailers and suppliers.

2,157*

Store visits and/or audits related to the Tobacco Products Control Act 2006

250

 Tobacco enquiries

266

 Education activities

98%

 Compliance rate

25*

 Complaints investigated

5

 Warnings issued

34

 Infringements written



Venues are assessed for compliance with the Tobacco Products Control Act 2006 which includes the display of no smoking signage

Tobacco licensing

3,082

Total tobacco licences

2,884

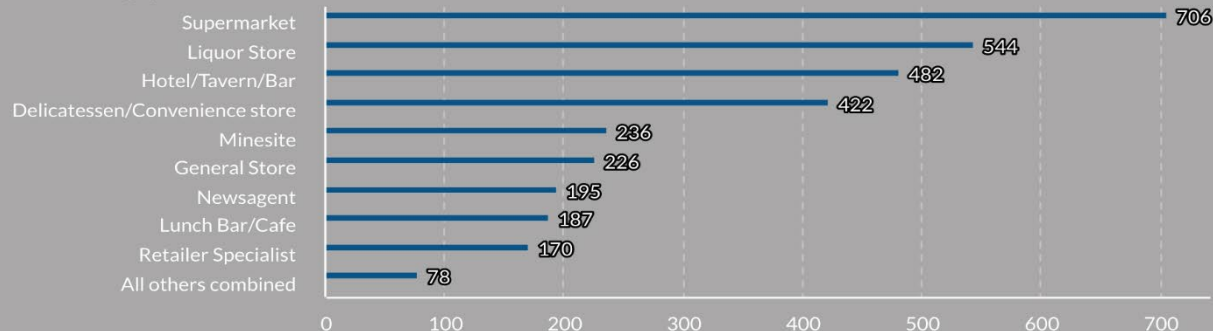
Tobacco licences renewed

198

New licences issued



Type of venues issued a tobacco license

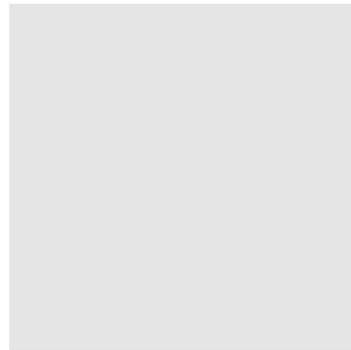


*Store visits and investigations were impacted by COVID-19 restrictions and lockdowns

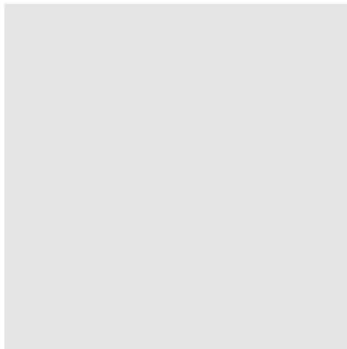
Managed community hazards



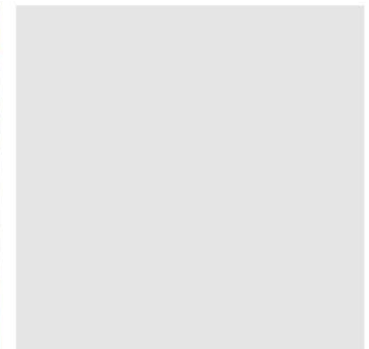
Mitigated
impacts of
environmental
health
emergencies
and emerging
risks



Reduced
exposure to
hazardous
substances



Minimised
mosquito-
borne disease
risks



Minimised mosquito-borne disease risks

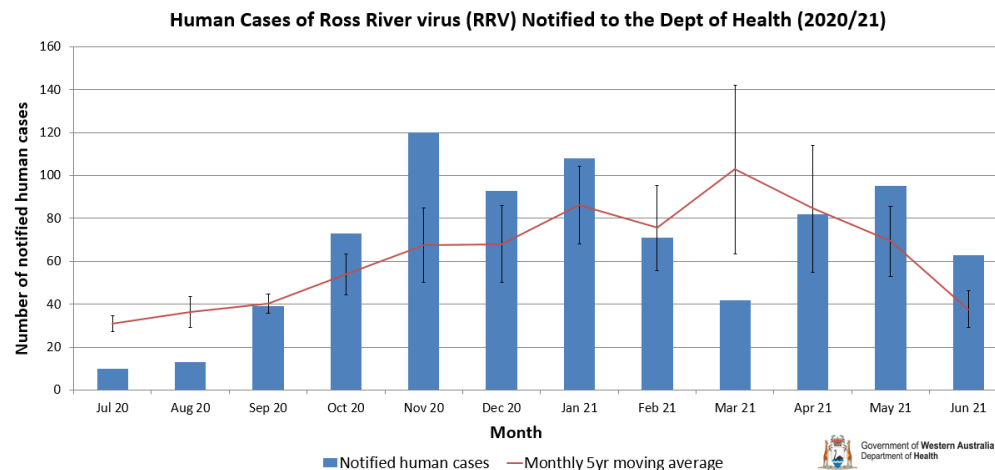


We undertake a range of surveillance activities and engage with local government to ensure integrated mosquito management strategies are implemented to reduce pest or vector (disease carrying) mosquitoes.

Managing Ross River virus activity

The 2020-21 season saw a significant increase in Ross River virus (RRV) human disease cases notified to the Department. This was predominantly due to the development of a *La Niña* event, resulting in increased rainfall across WA, an increased frequency in tidal inundation of breeding habitats and an overall rise in vector mosquito numbers.

From 1 July 2020 until 30 June 2021, a total of 808 RRV disease cases were notified to the Department. This figure was approximately 250% higher than the number notified at the same time last season. The months of October through until January 2020, as well as May and June 2021, recorded above average cases of RRV disease (Figure 1).

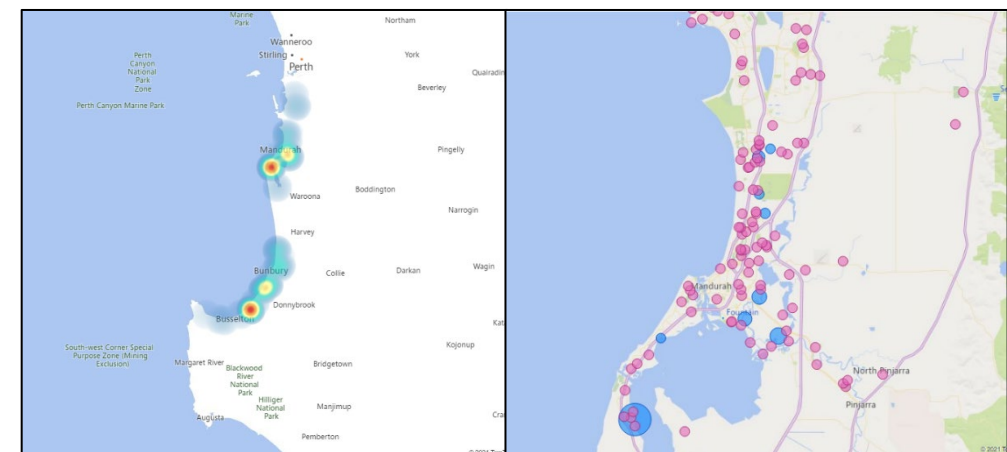


Regions that experienced well above average notifications included the Great Southern (310% above the 5-year average), Midwest (367%), the Geographe region of the South West, including Capel and Busselton (373%) and the Leschenault region of the South West, including Harvey, Bunbury and Dardanup (197%).

Power BI to visualise Ross River Virus activity

The EHD trialled the use of Power BI to map notified cases of RRV disease in people and RRV detections in mosquitoes. The spatial analysis software will assist the surveillance team to identify areas of increased RRV activity more readily, which will in turn inform risk communication.

Heat maps are also being generated to create a unique way of visualising high-risk regions throughout the State.



Data visualisation maps to identify high risk RRV regions

Minimised mosquito-borne disease risks



Broome regional mosquito training course

The EHD ran a 2½ day mosquito management course that was hosted by the Shire of Broome from 24 – 26 April 2021. The course included theoretical and practical components, providing participants with the knowledge and skills required to develop and implement a mosquito management program for their jurisdictions.

The course was well attended by local government, industry, Water Corporation and Aboriginal environmental health service providers.

Lectures were presented on topics such as mosquito biology, mosquito-borne diseases, mosquito control, and mosquito surveillance. Participants gained hands-on experience undertaking larval/mosquito surveillance and identification.

A survey of participants indicated they really enjoyed the course and felt the knowledge acquired would enable them to confidently develop mosquito management plans for their local areas.



Participants of the Broome mosquito management course.

Minimised mosquito-borne disease risks



Mosquito-borne disease quarterly reports

The EHD monitors human cases of mosquito-borne disease notified to the Department and recorded in the Western Australian Notifiable Infectious Disease Database (WANIDD). This data is used to identify patterns of disease throughout the State, inform mosquito management activities and ascertain the need to release a media statement regarding the risk to public health. [Quarterly reports](#) continue to be generated and published on the Department's website for each of the Public Health regions throughout WA.

CLAG funding

Funding requests from 19 Contiguous Local Authorities Groups (CLAGs) for health-related mosquito management programs were assessed by the Mosquito Control Advisory Committee (MCAC), in collaboration with the Department. The initial total funding request from the Department towards CLAG budget submissions amounted to \$232,809.48. Funding was approved for a range of eligible items including chemical control, public education, training and mosquito management related equipment. The favourable environmental conditions and the protracted mosquito season saw a number

of local governments exhaust their funding allocation for chemical control. As a result, out-of-session funding requests totalling \$70,000.00 were approved by the MCAC, bringing the total CLAG funding for 2020/21 to \$302,809.48.

CLAG forum

In June 2021, the EHD hosted the 9th Annual Combined CLAG forum in Mandurah, for those local governments actively involved in mosquito management. A total of 44 participants attended on the day, including personnel from 20 local governments, AgWest and the South Eastern Regional Centre for Urban Landcare. The "Back to Basics" theme focussed on the fundamentals of mosquito management, including chemical and cultural control strategies. CLAGs also presented a summary of mosquito management within their own jurisdiction over the past season, sharing both their challenges and successes. The forum was well received, providing an opportunity for local governments to reconnect with one another after the 2020 Forum was cancelled due to COVID restrictions.



Participants and guest speakers who attended the CLAG forum

Minimised mosquito-borne disease risks



Exotic larval detections

There were two detections of mosquito larvae in consignments of imported oversized tyres at Fremantle. Both were thought to be local infestations given the timelines of the tyre movements and the species involved, *Culex quinquefasciatus*.

Oversized tyres are subject to mandatory biosecurity inspection due to the high risk they pose for importing exotic mosquitoes. When mosquitoes are detected we work with the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (AWE) to identify the mosquito species involved; apply appropriate treatments and undertake enhanced surveillance to ensure exotic mosquitoes don't establish in WA.

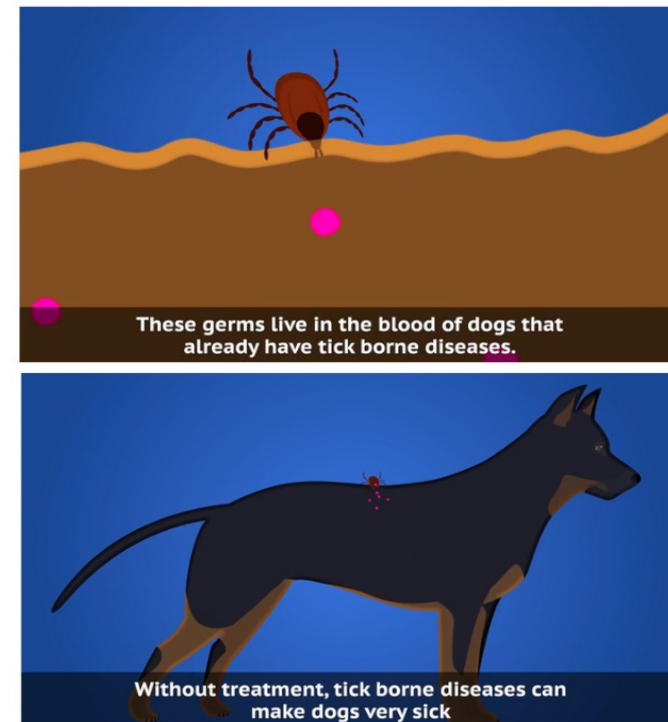
Historically, oversized tyres have been imported through major city ports. This year, however, the importation of oversized tyres was commenced into Dampier, with Pilbara ports expected to become the major Australian hub for oversized tyre importation in future. Medical Entomology is working with AWE to develop response procedures for the logistically challenging location.



Oversized tyres inspected at Fremantle

Tick sickness video

Tick-borne *Ehrlichia canis* was discovered in WA for the first time this year. *E. canis* infection can make dogs very sick and whilst rare, it may present a risk to public health. EHD partnered with AMMRIC to [develop an animation](#) to educate Aboriginal EH workers and individuals living in communities about recognising symptoms and simple ways to prevent infection.



Animations used in the tick sickness video

Minimised mosquito-borne disease risks



Fight the Bite on social media

A suite of new Fight the Bite social media infographics has been developed in consultation with environmental health officers. The resources target specific mosquito management related issues within individual local government jurisdictions. The resources are now available on the [Fight the Bite campaign page](#).



New social media infographics developed as part of the Fight the Bite campaign

Aerial larviciding contract review

The EHD has funded aerial larviciding for the control of mosquitoes and mosquito-borne diseases in the South West since the 1990's under contract with third parties. A procurement process was initiated with a significant revision of the specifications for the tender request, particularly with regards to the options for procuring specialised equipment necessary for the proposed work. Two submissions were received and evaluated by a panel, consisting of three EHD officers and a Procurement Manager from the Department of Finance. The Acting Director General approved the evaluation panel's recommendation that Ag West Pty Ltd be the preferred respondent and, following negotiations, the contract was awarded on 25 May 2021 for a 3-year term, with the possibility of two one-year extensions.



Helicopter used as part of the State's aerial larviciding program

Minimised mosquito-borne disease risks



March fly bite reactions

In February 2021, a [March fly warning](#) was issued after multiple severe allergic reactions to bites were reported in the Pilbara region, particularly around Roebourne and Ashburton. This timing coincided with favourable environmental conditions, including increased rainfall and warmer weather, conducive to March fly breeding. A [follow-up survey](#) was developed to obtain further information from individuals experiencing severe reactions and/or anaphylaxis to March fly bites. A request for specimens to be collected from affected regions resulted in numerous March flies being sent to the Department. All specimens were identified as *Pseudotabanus trypherus*. Specimen imaging is now underway to assist with accurate species identification in the future.

This work supports a recent study undertaken by CSIRO, in conjunction with the Department nt. The Department's March fly collection was sent to the CSIRO Australian National Insect Collection, Canberra, for species verification and screening for allergen protein coding regions. Twelve different species were

Bite mark reaction from march flies



identified from the Goldfields, Kimberley, Metro, Midwest, Pilbara and Southwest regions. The species most likely associated with anaphylaxis was *P. trypherus*. The genes associated with anaphylaxis were also identified in these specimens.

Kalbarri field investigation

Higher than average numbers of human cases of RRV were observed in Kalbarri in August to October 2020 following winter and spring rainfall. The EHD initiated a field investigation in conjunction with the Shire of Northampton and City of Greater Geraldton.

RRV vector mosquitoes *Aedes camptorhynchus* and *Aedes vigilax* were collected in mosquito traps throughout the residential areas of Kalbarri. High adult numbers and extensive breeding areas for both species were found near the town along the tidal areas of the Murchison River. Low level breeding of *Ae. camptorhynchus* was also found within the townsite at Grey's Spring and the Golf Course wastewater re-use ponds. RRV was detected in *Ae. vigilax* collected along the tidal areas of Murchison River.

A report was prepared for the Shire of Northampton including recommendations to develop a mosquito management plan for the town, areas requiring immediate mosquito control work and areas to monitor for mosquito breeding in the future.



High numbers of mosquito larvae breeding in a samphire pool along the tidal area of the Murchison River

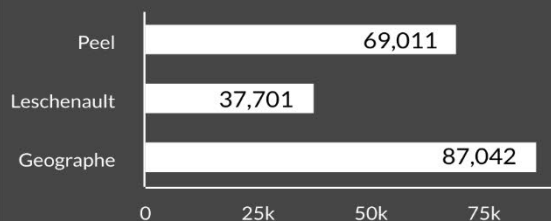
Medical Entomology

The Biological and Applied Environmental Health Hazards team manage the Medical Entomology program which provides technical advice, undertakes surveillance and coordinates the management of biting insects of public health significance. Surveillance efforts throughout WA are used to inform public health warnings and interventions.

193,754

Adult mosquitoes trapped over 25 nights in the South West of WA

Adult mosquitoes collected



146

Ross River virus detections

1

Barmah Forest virus detection



48 aerial larvicide applications totalling
9,253 ha



Sentinel chicken

flocks managed in WA for the surveillance of flaviviruses

2,618

Sentinel chicken blood samples tested

38

Mosquito-borne virus infections detected in chickens



Stakeholder Engagement

19

Local government funding applications assessed

7

Media statements issued related to mosquitoes

1

Mosquito management course conducted

Medical Entomology

*2019-20 data presented here as sample processing and reporting undertaken in 2020-21

2019-20 Northern WA Mosquito Trapping Data

114

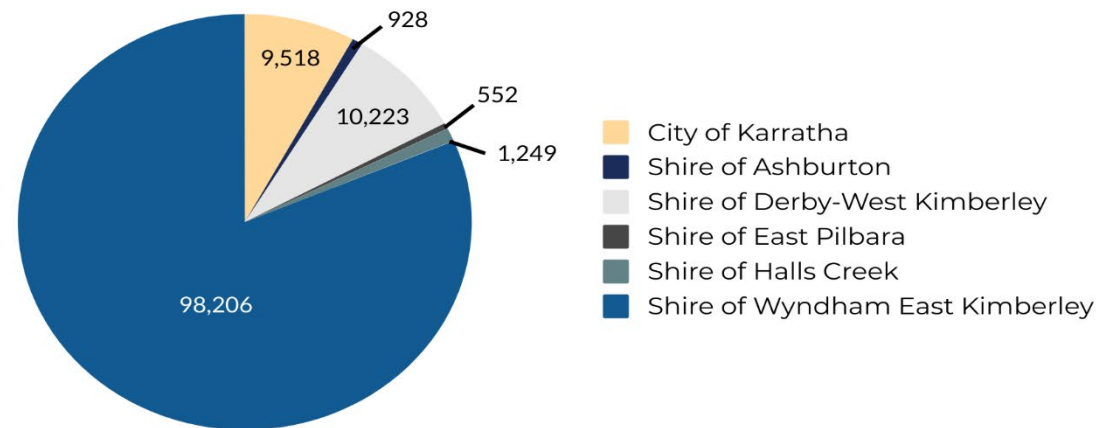
Mosquito traps set across the Kimberley, Pilbara and Gascoyne regions of WA.

120,676

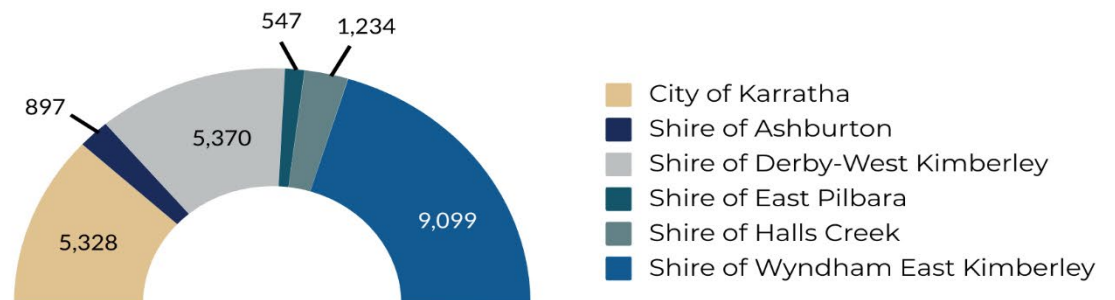
Adult mosquitoes collected



Total number of mosquitoes trapped per local government



Total number of mosquitoes processed per local government



Reduced exposure to hazardous substances

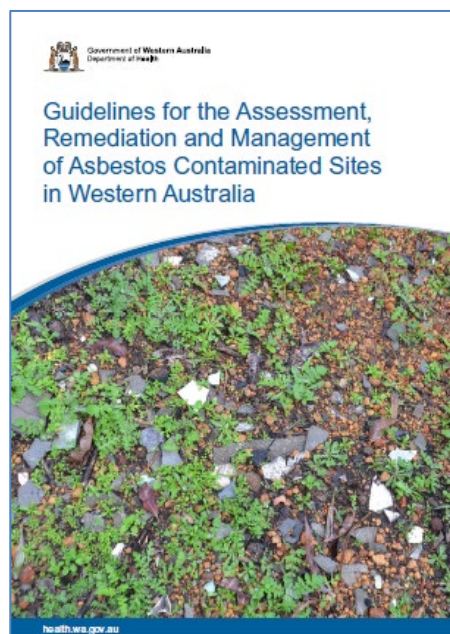


We make sure appropriate precautions are in place to reduce exposure to hazardous substances that may be present in the community and monitor emerging risks to ensure the community is protected from any undue harm.

Asbestos in soils guidelines

Fast forward 10 years from its original publication, and the anticipated update to the Guidelines for Assessment, Remediation and Management of Asbestos Contaminated Sites is now finalised. A discussion paper and substantial consultation including a series of workshops over the past year have informed improvements to the guide, with DWER also supporting the revised document.

The updated version will be published before the end of 2021 and workshops will be held to coincide with Asbestos Awareness Week. More information about the review process is available on our [website](#).



EnHealth public health warnings for bushfire smoke

The EHD is represented on a national working group which was established to develop nationally consistent Particulate Matter (PM2.5) categories and accompanying public health advice following the aftermath of the 2019-2020 bushfires. Both 1-hour near real-time and 24-hour forecast categories have been developed. The group is currently working on public health advice for prolonged (>3 days) smoke periods.

Cadmium on Christmas Island

The [Cadmium Advice for Christmas Island Factsheet](#) was produced to address health effects of cadmium and how to minimise the risk of exposure. The factsheet was available for members of the community, medical practitioners and environmental health practitioners following concerns about the potential for elevated cadmium levels to occur in humans following a study that had identified elevated cadmium levels in native bats on the island.

Micro-plastics and public health

With limited research into the nature, extent and effects of microplastics on public health, the EHD published the [Microplastics factsheet](#) which provides information about what the term means, how microplastics end up in the environment, exposure to micro-plastics and the effects on health.

Reduced exposure to hazardous substances



Glyphosate use in local government

The EHD published the [Glyphosate use in local government factsheet](#) that outlines the Department's position on glyphosate use. This follows local governments experiencing ongoing community concern about the safe use of glyphosate and its health effects.



Glyphosate signage displayed near a playground

Measuring heavy metals in human hair

The [Measuring heavy metal in human hair factsheet](#) was released following confusion in the community about the use of hair and hair follicle testing for determining levels of exposure to heavy metals and the subsequent possible health risks posed by these contaminants. The fact sheet explains how heavy metals enter the body, how they are measured, what hair testing is and its accuracy as well as the limitations of hair testing, including what to do when concerned.

Renovation dust guideline

Information on renovation dusts was prepared for the public and local government on both the [Corporate](#) and [HealthyWA](#) websites. Information is provided on dust generation during renovation activities, dusts of concern (e.g., asbestos, silica, lead), how to clean appropriately and how to protect yourself from exposure.

Technical paper on methylamphetamine smoke houses

The Methylamphetamine Smoke House paper reviews available information both in Australia and Internationally on the character and public health risks associated with methylamphetamine (meth) smoke contamination. The paper draws upon literature, fieldwork and input from relevant research and industry groups. The results provide a reliable basis for ongoing Departmental guidance on the management of this contamination, commensurate with the risk.

Ventilation risk review in quarantines hotels

The EHD coordinated the ventilation risk assessment for people working at quarantine hotels which involved engagement of a HVAC engineer and certified occupational hygienist, project management and completion of a final summary report for the Chief Health Officer.



Measuring air meth levels in a smoke house with a cupboard mounted pump

We coordinated the assessment of ventilation risks in COVID-19 quarantine hotels.

Reduced exposure to hazardous substances



Health effects of vaping

Information on the [Health effects of vaping](#) was published based on current public health research and following a spate of cases of vaping-related acute lung disease. The information highlights that vaping is not a safe alternative to smoking.

Clandestine laboratories reported

WA had declining numbers of detected illicit drugs clan labs, since 2014. This trend was primarily due to the easily available and a cheaper finished product being transported from Eastern Australian States and overseas clandestine drug labs. This trend reversed during the past year, with tighter controls on borders due to Covid-19 quarantines. Interestingly, there was a 20% increase in clan labs detected in the past financial year.

There was a 20% increase in clandestine laboratories detected in WA.

Production of drugs, other than methylamphetamine (meth), is also gaining importance in WA. Illicit drugs labs reported in 2021 included: 3 meth; 1 GHB; 1 THC; 2 DMT labs; 1AAS lab

- Gamma-hydroxybutyrate (GHB) is a liquid or powder from “party drug” or “date rape” drug often used to induce euphoria

- Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) cannabinoids extracted from plant materials as resins and concentrated oils has a psychoactive component
- N,N-Dimethyltryptamine (DMT) extracted from plant materials producing intense visual and auditory hallucinogenic experiences
- 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA) known as “ecstasy” may often contain other drugs such as ketamine, caffeine and ephedrine
- Anabolic-androgenic steroids (AAS) - synthetic versions of male hormones used to increase muscle mass (performance and image enhancing drugs)

Labs producing GHB, THC and DMT are not as contaminating as those associated with meth and MDMA.

The Department continues good working relationships with [WA Police Force](#), [ChemCentre](#), [Consumer Protection](#), [WALGA](#), and Local Governments in response to detected clandestine laboratories.

Mitigated impacts of environmental health emergencies and emerging risks



We ensure environmental health risk factors are considered in State emergency management planning and preparedness, systems are in place to respond to environmental health incidents, and the community are kept well informed about matters that may impact their health.

WA Health Port Protection Plan

Staff assisted in the planning cell of the PHEOC to support the completion the port protection plan, which was formulated to prevent the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 from maritime arrivals non-commercial vessels in WA ports, to port workers and the WA community. The focus of this plan was on improving infection prevention and control practices at ports and making maritime crew attendances at health facilities as safe as possible.

SARs-CoV-2 wastewater testing project

The EHD as a foundation member of the national and international ColoSSoS (Collaboration on Sewage Surveillance of SARS-CoV-2) project introduced wastewater surveillance for SARS-CoV-2 in WA. Wastewater surveillance for SARS-CoV-2 is a new and evolving field designed to complement information collected from clinical testing.

The wastewater testing project team in WA is comprised of the Water Corporation, PathWest, Western Australia Country Health Services (WACHS) and EHD under the direction of PHEOC.

The role of the EHD in the project is to:

- i.ensure wastewater testing follows required procedures and standards
- ii.provide guidance on the establishment of additional wastewater testing sites (sub-catchment locations)
- iii.provide input into sampling collection methods and other wastewater surveillance related activities and
- iv.participate in regular SARS-CoV 2 steering committee and ColoSSoS meetings.

During the 2020-2021 financial year the EHD has:

- i.provided guidance on and tested passive samplers as a cost-effective alternative to the more complex 24 hour sampling system.
- ii.identified options for the implementation of a sampling strategy for WA
- iii.assisted in the site selection for targeted (sub-catchment) testing to complement clinical testing.

Each week wastewater is sampled from six Perth metropolitan and 10 regional Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTPs) with the results published on the [Covid-19 wastewater testing](#) web page.

Samples collected as part of the SARS CoV-2 testing



Mitigated impacts of environmental health emergencies and emerging risks



Wooroloo bushfires

In response to the Wooroloo bushfire which burnt through nearly 11,000 hectares of land and destroyed 86 properties, the EHD updated resources available for the general public and EHOs; [After a bushfire – hazards on your property](#) on the Healthy WA website, and [Environmental health risks during and after a bushfire](#), and supported local governments impacted by the fires as requested.

Cyclone Seroja

Two staff from the EHD were deployed to Northampton to assist with managing asbestos and other hazards on the ground, particularly in the heavily impacted town of Kalbarri following cyclone Seroja. The EHD provided technical support and partnered with DFES and DWER on the analysis and communication of asbestos air monitoring undertaken in both Northampton and

Kalbarri, as well as assisted in general environmental health queries from residents.

Information on [hazards after cyclones](#) was updated for the public on our Healthy WA website and more detailed information on [environmental health risks following cyclones and floods](#) was updated on the Department of Health website aimed at local government EHOs.

Damage to asbestos cement roofs by fire, storms and cyclones leads to extensive contamination and associated assessment and clean-up costs, often spreading well beyond the source site. The EHD strongly supports [early prioritised removal](#) of now decades old asbestos cement roofs over cleaning and encapsulation or maintenance.



Broken asbestos following Cyclone Seroja



Response teams flying to Kalbarri

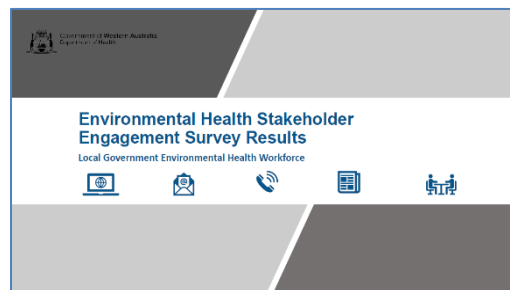
Organisational supports

We undertake a range of projects to enhance our business operations that aim to deliver effective services to our staff and stakeholders.

Results of the local government stakeholder engagement survey

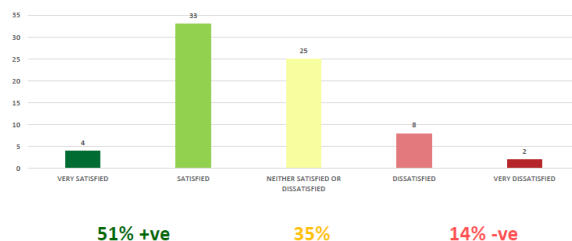
The results of the EHD Stakeholder Engagement survey for the local government environmental health workforce were published and disseminated. The survey aimed to:

- Measure the effectiveness and quality of our services provided to the local government EH workforce
- Develop strategies to improve the delivery of our services
- Identify emerging issues amongst the environmental health workforce



The survey findings are being used to improve our service delivery to local government EHOs, a critical workforce to maintaining high environmental health standards across WA. Another survey is planned for November 2021.

Overall, how satisfied were you with how the Environmental Health Directorate communicated with your organisation during 2019?



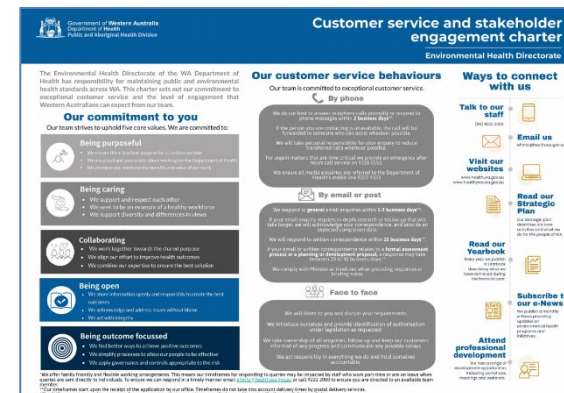
Strategic Plan released

The [Environmental Health Directorate Strategic Plan 2020-2023](#) was published, setting the direction of the EHD for the three years, helping to explain why we exist and what we do for the people of WA. The Plan ([summarised into one page](#)) outlines three core strategic outcomes eight objectives, and six organisational supporting priorities that aim to improve the delivery of our services to staff and our stakeholders. An action plan is submitted by the seven program areas each year outlining projects necessary to meet our strategic outcomes.



Customer service and stakeholder engagement charter published

The EHD published a [Customer Service and Stakeholder Engagement Charter](#) that sets out our team's commitment to exceptional customer service and the level of engagement that Western Australians can expect from our team. This includes timeframes for responding to queries, licences and other applications, and formal environmental health advice.



Organisational supports

WA food vendors online register

The [WA Mobile Food Vendor Register website](#) was finalised which will enable participating local government enforcement agencies to both search and update a single, centralised register to support local governments to manage the administration and compliance matters for mobile food businesses that travel across jurisdictions, including temporary food premises, mobile food vans, markets stalls and caterers. The register was trailed with representatives from local government and further refined based on user feedback.



Only local governments that sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) can access the register. Details were circulated to the CEO's all local governments to promote participation including:

- [Mobile Food Vendor Centralised Register - Information for Authorised Officers \(PDF 95KB\)](#)
- [Mobile Food Vendor Infographic \(PDF 225KB\)](#)
- [Temporary Mobile Food Business Centralised Register Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\) \(PDF 1MB\)](#)

It is anticipated the register will be live from the 1 August 2021.

Environmental Health metropolitan and regional meetings

Staff from the EHD attended local government EH meetings in both the regions and the metropolitan area to provide updates on the activities of the EHD and discuss matters relevant to the activities of local governments.

Environmental Health Association conference

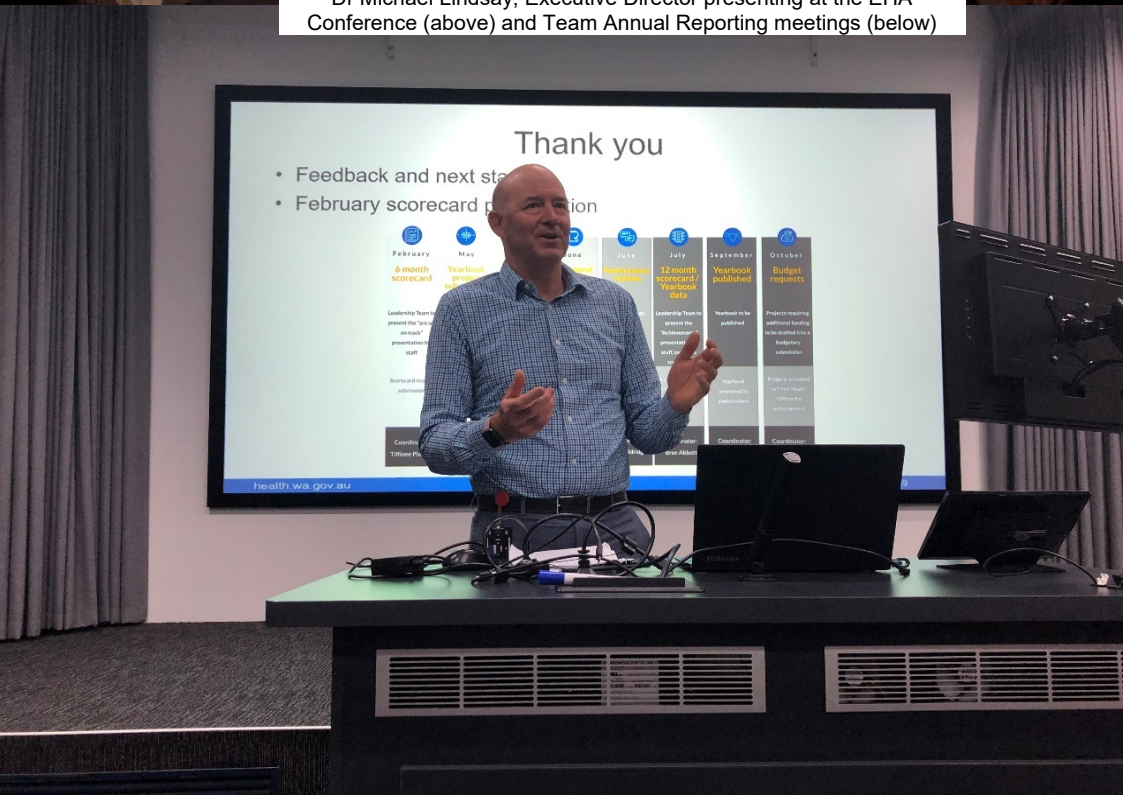
The EHD is a long standing gold sponsor of the EHA conference, held from the 24-26 February 2021. Twelve staff from the EHD presented at the conference, along with an opening address by Dr Andrew Robertson, Chief Health Officer, Dr Michael Lindsay, Executive Director of the EHD and Elaine Clucas from the PHEOC. The EHD's exhibition promoted a range of health promotional materials now on offer to support local governments and other stakeholders to increase awareness about key environmental health risks in WA.

Relocation of Public Health Act web content

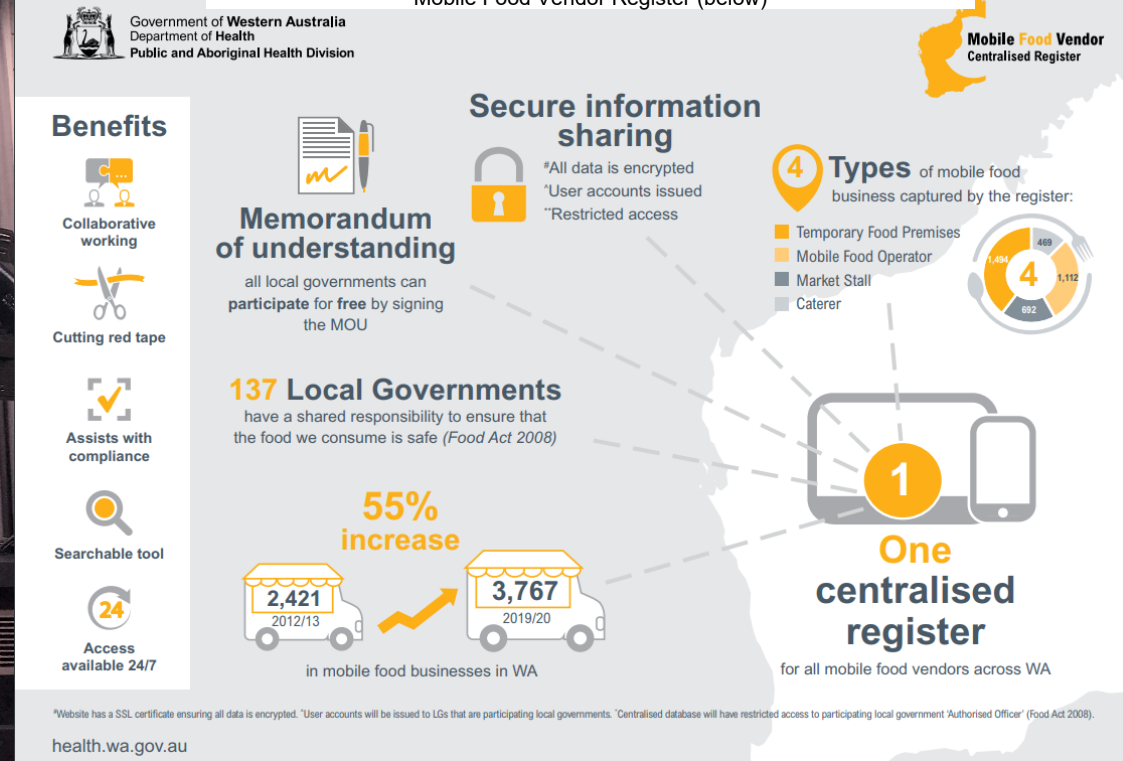
Information on the *Public Health Act 2016*, public health assessments, public health planning, regulation review projects and local government reporting was redesigned and relocated under the new [planning and legislation](#) webpage.



Dr Michael Lindsay, Executive Director presenting at the EHA Conference (above) and Team Annual Reporting meetings (below)



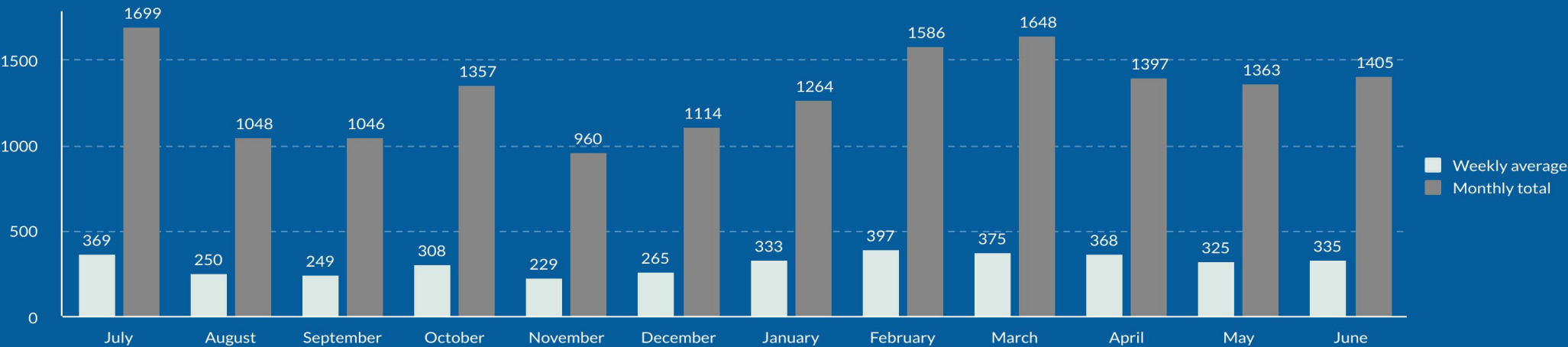
Environmental Health stall at the EHA Conference (above) and Communications provided to support local government participation in using the Centralised Mobile Food Vendor Register (below)



Communication activities

Volume of incoming phone calls to the EHD customer service desk

Total calls: 15,887
weekly average: 317



Media releases issued

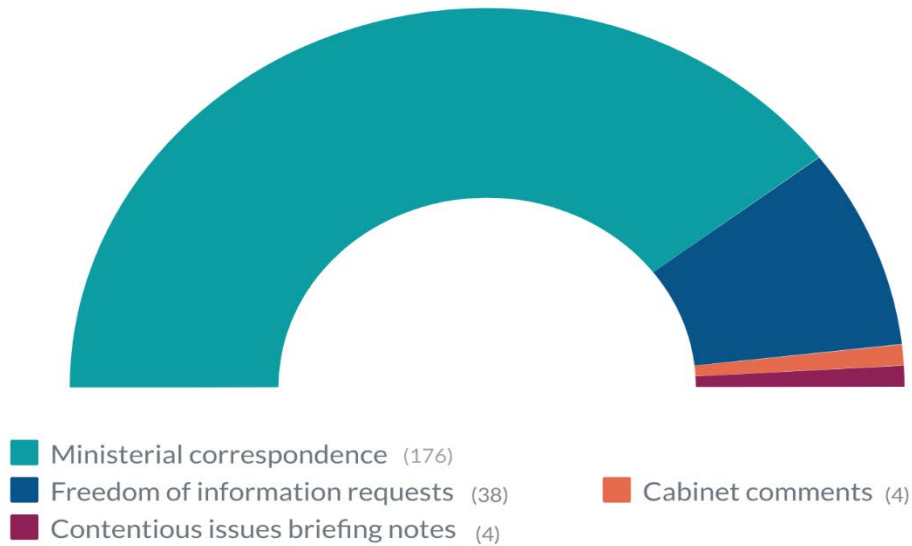
14



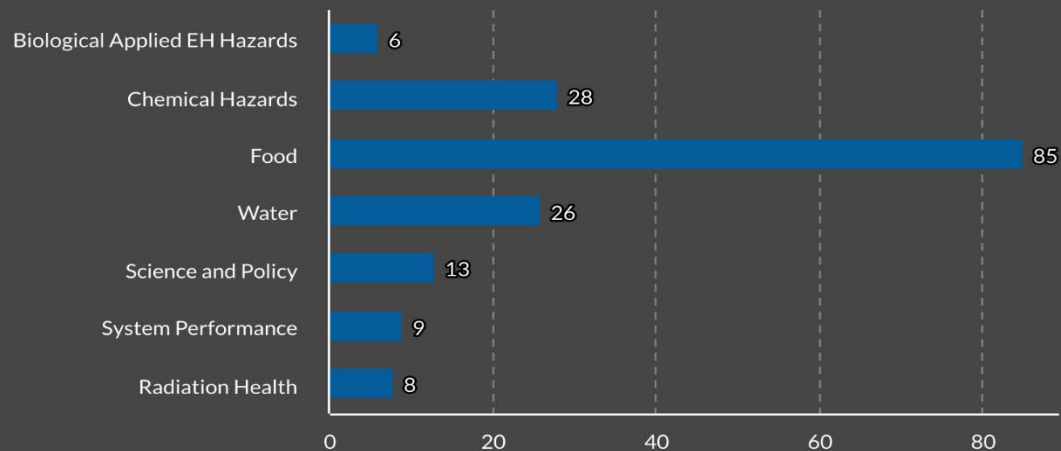
23/09/2020	Ross River virus warning for South West	24/02/2021	March fly warning for the Pilbara and Gascoyne regions
23/11/2020	Asbestos legacy lurks in WA homes	24/02/2021	March fly warning for the Pilbara and Gascoyne regions
18/11/2020	Ross River virus risk expands from South West to the Midwest and Gascoyne	15/02/2021	Mosquito-borne disease risk following flooding and heavy rainfall
22/12/2020	Fight the bite this festive season	06/03/2021	Warning to avoid swimming and fishing in parts of Avon and Swan Rivers
02/12/2020	Algal bloom warning for Molloy Island near Augusta	28/04/2021	Take care in smoke haze, Department of Health urges
05/01/2021	Recreational water users warned of disease risk	19/04/2021	Department of Health urges care in smoke haze
06/01/2021	Fluoridation roll out for South-West communities	28/04/2021	Pilbara and Kimberley warned of increased mosquito-borne disease risk

Communication activities

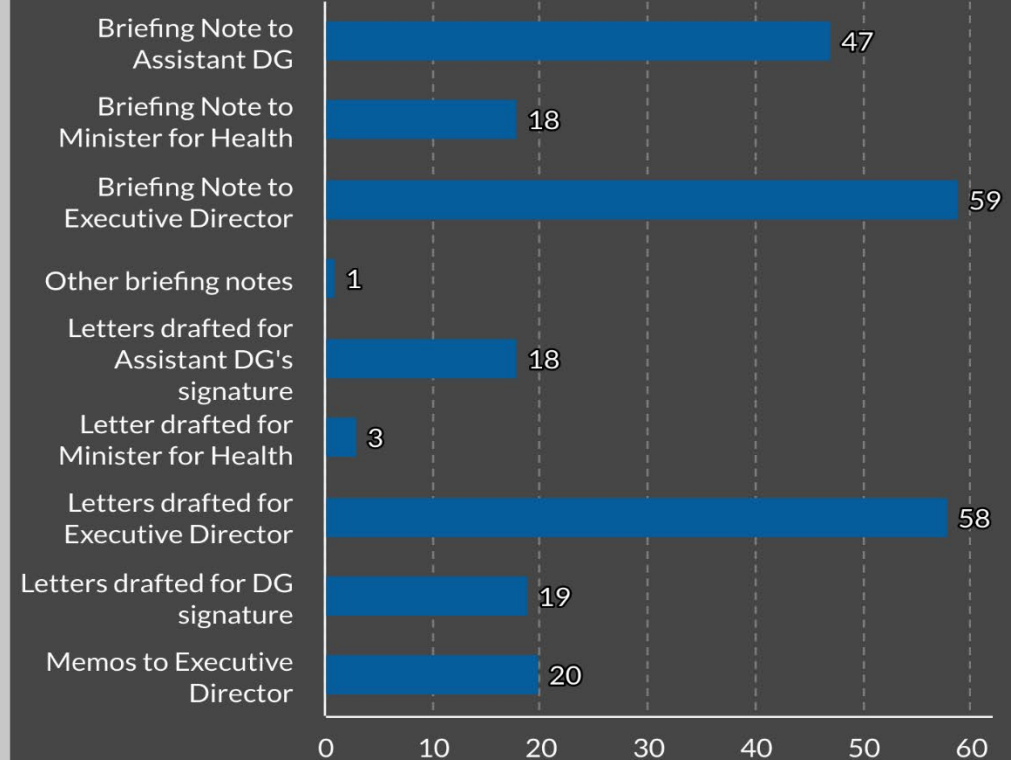
Ministerial activities



Ministerial activities by EHD teams



General communication activities



Common ministerial topics



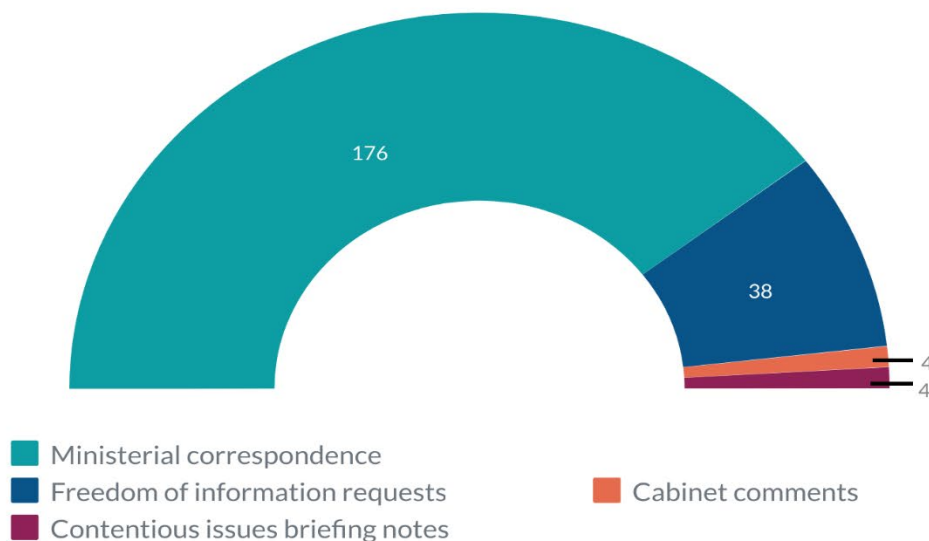
Pregnancy warning labels on alcohol products



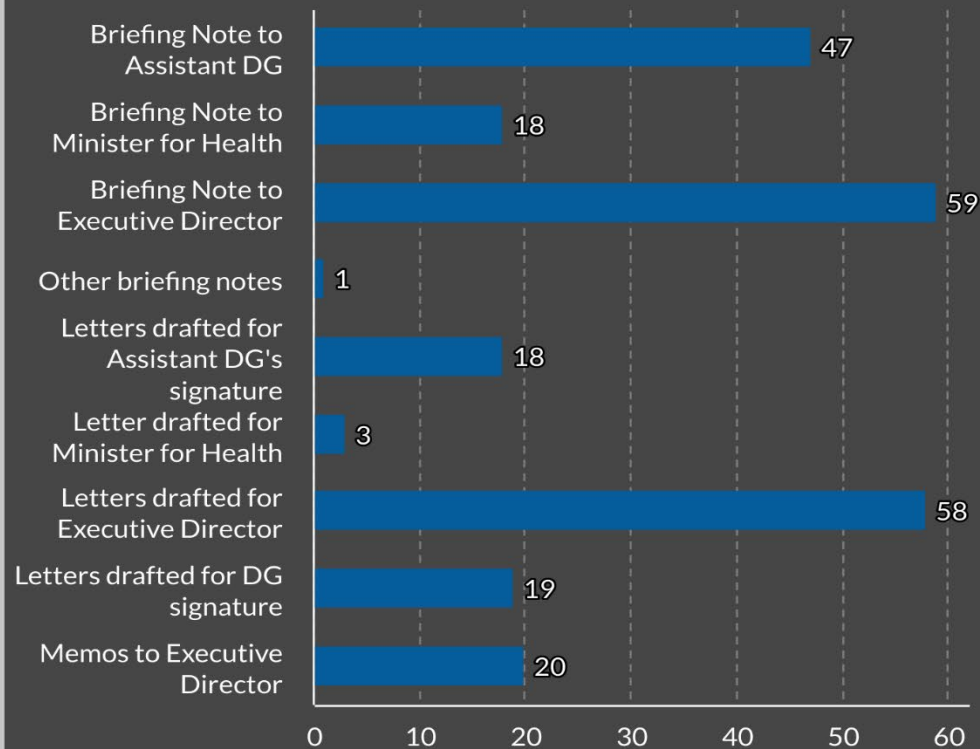
Air quality and prescribed burns

Communication activities

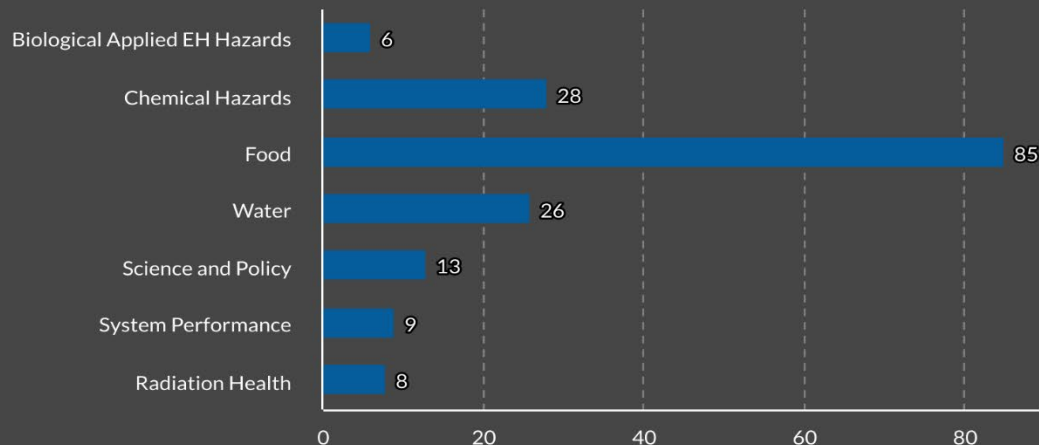
Ministerial activities



General communication activities



Ministerial activities by EHD teams



Common ministerial topics



Pregnancy warning labels on alcohol products



Air quality and prescribed burns

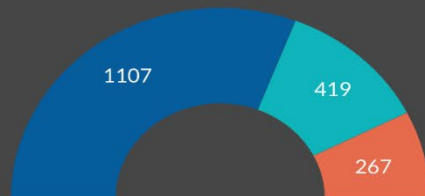
Communication activities

Number of updates provided



- Environmental Health news
- COVID-19 EH Updates
- COVID-19 Events Industry Updates

Number of recipients



- Environmental Health news
- COVID-19 EH Updates
- COVID-19 Events Industry Updates

EH e-news

Public and Aboriginal Health Division
Government of Western Australia
Department of Health
Public and Aboriginal Health Division

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH e-NEWS
(Produced by the Environmental Health Directorate (EHD))
July 2021

IN THIS ISSUE

- Mobile food business centralised register
- Commencement of local government annual reporting
- Performance review and simplified environmental checklist
- Updated non-foods food safety advice documents
- Endgame of the fast and sustainable checklist monitoring sector
- New food waste collection guidelines
- Keeping backyard chickens localised
- Test your knowledge - Eco safety quiz
- Case online always learning for food businesses
- International COVID restrictions to affect Perth and Peel
- Confined spaces compliance checks by RHPs
- Public health services support to local governments
- Revisions to food safety data to support local government health profiles
- Provision of site and soil analysis
- Updated Part 100 water forms
- Development of environmental crime response guidelines - public version
- Subsidence Health Division website
- National Debris Community of Practice website
- COVID vaccination clinic for Aboriginal people

Visit the RHP video for City of Cockburn
City of Mandurah successful prosecution following unauthorised food business
Town of Busselton a success with the community
Surveillance - notable release from Health and Wellbeing Plan 2020-2024
State of Mandurah Public Health Plan

CONTACT US
RHP email contact list
City of Mandurah
(08) 9222 2000
ehd@health.wa.gov.au

UPDATES
Public events calendar
Events and training
Media releases
Contact us

One centralised register
for all mobile food vendors across WA

Mobile food business centralised register
The mobile food business centralised register is nearing finalisation. The register is designed to support local governments to manage the administration and compliance matters for mobile food businesses that travel across jurisdictions, including temporary food premises, mobile food vans, markets stalls and caterers. Only local governments that sign and submit a Memorandum of Understanding can access the register. Details have been circulated to the CEOs of all local governments to promote participation. [Read more here](#). It is anticipated the register will be live from the 1 August 2021. RHPs are encouraged to provide

COVID-19 EH Updates

Public and Aboriginal Health Division
Government of Western Australia
Department of Health
Public and Aboriginal Health Division

COVID-19: Environmental Health Update
(Produced by the Environmental Health Directorate (EHD))
Circular 55: 23 June 2021

This email is current as of **23 June 2021**. Please ensure that you refer to the latest COVID-19: EH Update for the most current information.

COVID-19 Update

COVID-19 Lockdown: Perth and Peel

Until 12.01am Saturday 3 July, you may only leave home for essential reasons:

- Work for essential services and providers
- Essential shopping
- Important medical services
- Compassionate reasons - care for a person who requires support
- 2 adults must accompany members (no more than 2 adults together)
- Attend a COVID-19 vaccination appointment

If you leave home you must wear a mask at all times, including:

- Outside your home
- When working outdoors
- Travelling on public transport or in private vehicles

Other restrictions:

- No visitors at home unless for essential care
- No visitors at hospitals, aged care or disability service facilities
- Weddings: maximum 5 people capacity
- Funerals: maximum 10 people capacity
- Restaurants, cafes and pubs to provide takeaway service only
- Cinema, entertainment venues and the sector are closed
- Universities, TAFE and training colleges
- Community sport not permitted

Please continue to practise healthy hygiene to help keep WA safe:

- Follow health advice provided
- Register for your COVID-19 vaccination
- Practise physical distancing
- Get tested if symptomatic
- Clean or disinfect shared registers

The following updates apply to the Perth and Peel regions.

- [Approved protocols for click and deliver and click and collect services under Outbreak Restrictions \(Level 3\) Lockdown - Level 3 Directions](#)
- [Outbreak Restrictions \(Level 3\) Directions](#) - The purpose of these directions is to require all persons in the affected area to stay at home during the stay at home period other than for one or more of the reasons specified in these directions, to close certain places and to prohibit certain gatherings and activities in order to prevent, control or abate the risks associated with the emergency presented by the pandemic caused by COVID-19, and to otherwise limit the spread of COVID-19.
- [Visitors to Residential Aged Care Facilities \(Outbreak Restrictions \(Level 3\) Directions\)](#) - The purpose of these directions is to limit the spread of

COVID-19 Events Industry Updates

Public and Aboriginal Health Division
Government of Western Australia
Department of Health
Public and Aboriginal Health Division

COVID-19: EVENTS INDUSTRY UPDATE
(Produced by the Environmental Health Directorate (EHD))
Circular 12: 23 June 2021

This email is current as of **23 June 2021**. Please ensure that you refer to the latest COVID-19: Events Update for the most current information.

COVID EVENTS INDUSTRY UPDATE

EASING OF RESTRICTIONS

The WA Government is committed to continuing to help businesses and the community enjoy vibrant and safe events. Several COVID-19 related restrictions that previously applied to events, are now being relaxed under Phase 5.

From today, 23 June 2021, the following restrictions have been lifted:

- no patron cap on events
- removal of the 2sqm rule
- all event formats permitted

However, the following requirements will remain mandatory:

- simplified COVID Event Plan/Checklist requirement
- event registration with the Department of Health
- contact registration of all patrons, staff and volunteers at events

Updated resources

- [Contact Register Directions \(pg. 2\)](#) - The purpose of these directions is to require the provision of a person's entry registration information when entering certain places in order to prevent, control or abate the risks associated with the emergency presented by the pandemic caused by COVID-19, by limiting the spread of COVID-19, and for those purposes to specify certain information under

Communication activities

Our team provides a range of training to support environmental health professionals from various organisations. Some of the training provided during the financial year included:

Date	Subject	Organising Team(s)	Partner agencies	Length	Location	Approx. number of attendees
29/6/2020	Managing events in the COVID-19 era	Biological and Applied Environmental Health Hazards (BAEHH)	Events Industry Association	1 hour	Perth	100
03/12/2020	COVID webinar - Events	BAEHH	WA Police	2 hours	Online	180
24/02/2021	Assessment of site and soil evaluation reports: wastewater	Water	Environmental Health Australia (EHA)	Half day	Upper Swan, Perth	140
25/02/2021	The 'new' Environmental Health	Environmental Health Directorate	EHA	20 minutes	Upper Swan, Perth	140
25/02/2021	Mosquito-borne disease in 2020 – the influence of La Niña	BAEHH	EHA	20 minutes	Upper Swan, Perth	40
25/02/2021	Regulating the unregulated - meth and illicit drugs	System Performance	EHA	20 minutes	Upper Swan, Perth	40
26/02/2021	Cracking the case on salmonellosis and campylobacteriosis	Food	EHA	20 minutes	Upper Swan, Perth	40
26/02/2021	Assessment of non-traditional foods: A cricket powder case study from WA	Food	EHA	20 minutes	Upper Swan, Perth	40
26/02/2021	WA Centralised mobile food vendor online register	System Performance	EHA	20 minutes	Upper Swan, Perth	40
26/02/2021	Strategies for communicating with the environmental health workforce	Science and Policy	EHA	10 minutes	Upper Swan, Perth	140
26/02/2021	COVID-19 and public events	BAEHH	EHA	20 minutes	Upper Swan, Perth	140
16/03/2021	EH Webinar Series: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Health Act 2016 Food Safety Culture 	Science and Policy, Food	n/a	2.5 hours	State-wide	75
23/03/2021	North West Environmental Health Regional Group – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment of site and soil evaluation reports: wastewater [4 hours] and Managing asbestos risks in local government [2 hours] 	Water, Chemical Hazards	North-West Environmental Health Regional Group	1 day	Broome	15

Communication activities

Date	Subject	Organising Team(s)	Partner agencies	Length	Location	Approx. number of attendees
24/2/21 - 26/2/2021	North-West Mosquito management course (3 days)	BAEHH	North-West Environmental Health Regional Group	3 day	Broome	25
24/03/2021	WA Centralised mobile food vendor online register	System Performance	Metropolitan EH Managers Group	20 minutes	Belmont	40
25/03/2021	WA Centralised mobile food vendor online register	System Performance	Peel Environmental Health Regional Group	20 minutes	Mandurah	40
19/4/2021	Public Health and Cyanobacterial Blooms on the Lower Vasse River	Water	Lower Vasse Management Advisory Group	45 min	Busselton	30
15/04/2021	Webinar on the on 'Managing Public Health Risks from Wastewater Conveyance, Treatment and Disposal in WA'	Water, Science and Policy	WALGA	1 hour	Online	40
20/04/2021	Removing drama from food recalls	Food	Metropolitan Food Group	1 hour	Perth	40
19/5/2021	Overview of the proposed Wastewater regulatory framework	Water, Science and Policy	Australian Water Association	1 hour	Perth	40
28/5/2021	Overview of the proposed Wastewater regulatory framework	Water	Water Corporation	1 hour	Perth	30
15/6/2021	CLAG Forum (1 day)	BAEHH	City of Mandurah	1 day	Mandurah	70
25/06/2021	Assessment of site and soil evaluation reports: wastewater workshop	Water	South-West Environmental Health Regional Group	half day	Busselton	50



Presenting at the Events Industry Association on COVID-19 Event Plan requirements (above) and Broome mosquito management course (below)



Webinar on asbestos management provided to the Broome EH Regional Group meeting (above) and wastewater management workshop presented in Busselton (below)



Committee representation

Our team represent the Department on a range of National, State, regional, metropolitan or local committees which aim to steer the agenda of numerous environmental health issues relevant to WA. Below is a selection of some of these ongoing committees.

Committee name	National / State / Local / Regional / Metropolitan	Purpose
Environmental Health general		
Environmental Health Standing Committee (enHealth)	National	To provide technical advice to AHPPC regarding environmental health matters in Australia including emerging risks and identified and management of risk.
Biological and Applied Environmental Health Hazards		
Mosquito Control Advisory Committee (MCAC)	State	The MCAC plays a key role in evaluating local government funding applications through the Contiguous Local Authorities Group (CLAG) scheme to enhance mosquito management within their jurisdiction.
Mosquito Control Association of Australia (MCAA)	National	The MCAA aims to foster and adopt policies for rational and responsible approaches to mosquito control, assist in ongoing training for control managers and technicians and provide advice and new technical advances/products relevant to mosquito control in Australia.
National Arbovirus and Malaria Advisory Committee (NAMAC)	National	NAMAC makes recommendations on arbovirus and malaria surveillance, strategic arbovirus and malaria disease management and vector control in Australia. It provides expert technical advice to AHPPC on arboviruses and malaria and assists in the detection, management and control of real or potential outbreaks of arboviral and malarial disease
Arbovirus Surveillance Committee	State	Discusses current arbovirus surveillance issues, research, funding between EHD, PathWest and UWA
Mosquito and Arbovirus Research Committee	National	Access to researchers and research project findings across Australia for the advancement of mosquito management
Chemical Hazards		
Environmental Health Committee - Expert Reference Panel on Environmental Health	National	Collaborate on environmental issues of national importance and develop and publish documents, guidance and fact sheets.
Pesticides Advisory Committee	State	Review changes to Health (Pesticides) Regulations 2011; manage issues regarding Code of Practice for safe use and management of 1080, strychnine and PAPP; provide advice under Section 246B Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1911; administration of decisions under Public Sector Circular 1988 Use of herbicides in water catchment areas

Committee representation

Committee name	National / State / Local / Regional / Metropolitan	Purpose
Local Health Authorities Analytical Committee	State	LHAAC provides a structured approach to the sampling and analysis of food products available in WA through Local Government Environmental Health Services.
Across Agency Asbestos Group	State	To co-ordinate the provision of Western Australian advice to achieve the objectives of the National Plan for Asbestos Management and Awareness (National Plan), and ii) To facilitate inter-agency collaboration and communication to achieve agreed AAAG objectives
Air Quality Coordinating Committee	State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. Oversee and monitor the implementation of the Perth Air Quality Management Plan, ii) Consult and guide finalisation of initiatives, programs or actions and consider new initiatives, programs or actions for inclusion under the AQMP iii. Encourage engagement from and between Government, industry and community members on air quality issues, and iv. Report annually to the Government through the Minister for Environment on the progress in achieving performance targets set in the AQMP
Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency (ASEA)	National	Develop nationally consistent risk communication terminology for asbestos
Food		
Food Regulation Standing Committee	National	Develops high level policy and principles for a consistent approach to food law across Australia and New Zealand. Supports the COAG Legislative and Governance Forum on Food Regulation. Provides advice to forum on food regulation on policy matters.
Implementation Subcommittee for Food Regulation	National	Develops national implementation and enforcement processes for the administration of food laws/standards across Australia and New Zealand.
Australian Meat Regulators Working Group	National	Implementation and review of the Primary Production and Processing Standard for Meat and Meat Products.
Food Export Regulators Steering Committee	National	Implementation of export - domestic requirements in primary production and processing of food businesses.
Food Incident Response Protocol Working Group	National	Review, maintenance, refinement and operation (engagement) of the Food Incident Response Protocol (a protocol for dealing with serious national food incidents).
Food-Medicine Interface Working Group	National	Considers products falling within the "grey area" between food and therapeutic good. Developing a process for resolving food-medicine classification issues.
Food Allergy and Intolerance Scientific Advisory Group	National	The FAISAG provides expert advice to FSANZ on a range of matters related to food allergy and intolerance, which FSANZ uses to assess and manage risk to allergic consumers.
Front of Pack Labelling	National	To develop a front of pack labelling system for use in Australia and New Zealand.

Committee representation

Committee name	National / State / Local / Regional / Metropolitan	Purpose
Jurisdictional Nutrition Food Regulation Group	National	Discussion on key nutrition related policy issues currently under consideration of the food regulation system.
Jurisdictional Recall Committee	National	Review, maintenance, refinement and operation (engagement) of the Recall Protocol.
Jurisdictional Technical Forum	National	Convened by Food Standards Australia New Zealand to consider proposed food standards amendments. Provides State and Territory enforcement agencies to input into standards during the development process.
Advisory Committee on Novel Foods	National	Technical committee to decide on whether food is non-traditional or novel and requires standardisation in the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code.
Policy Guideline on Food Labelling in relation to the Dietary Guidelines Working Group	National	Develop a Policy Guideline which outlines how food labels can assist consumers to apply the recommendations in the Dietary Guidelines.
Surveillance, Evidence and Analysis Working Group	National	Achieve strategic collection and analysis of data, information and intelligence through coordinated surveillance and monitoring activities, to support objectives and priorities of the food regulatory system.
Metropolitan Food Group	Metropolitan	The MFG is a group of local government EHOs that meet to discuss and share information relating to food safety, compliance, enforcement and monitoring activities.
Australian Shellfish Quality Assurance Advisory Committee	National	Technical committee that plays an important role as the coordinator and technical advisory group in developing the application of the Australian Shellfish Quality Assurance Program (ASQAP)
Local Health Authorities Analytical Committee	State	Contribute to the development and implementation of food monitoring activities and for Local Government.
Radiation		
enHealth Radiation Health Expert Reference Panel of enHealth	National	The role of the Radiation Health Expert Reference Panel is to provide expert advice on specific issues as directed by enHealth
Radiation Regulators Network	National	To discuss radiation safety and protection issues with a view of progressing national uniformity.
Radiation Health Committee	State	The role of the Radiation Health Committee is to advise the CEO of the Australian Radiation Protection Agency (ARPANSA) and the Radiation Health & Safety Advisory Council on matters relating to radiation protection, including formulating draft national policies, codes and standards for consideration by the Commonwealth, States and Territories.
Science and Policy		
Expert Reference Panel for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health (one of two enHealth subcommittees)	National	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advises enHealth Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander environmental health issues and priorities. 2. Develops coordinated national policy & strategic direction specific to Indigenous communities and environmental health practices, services and needs. 3. Organises a biennial national conference to bring together Indigenous environmental health practitioners and provide a forum for informing high level policy and strategic direction.

Committee representation

Committee name	National / State / Local / Regional / Metropolitan	Purpose
Pilbara Aboriginal Health Planning Forum	Regional	Regional planning and review of the provision of health services and priority health needs for the Pilbara Aboriginal population
Goldfields Region Aboriginal Environmental Health Forum	Regional	Review regional activities and environmental health needs, share program successes, provide environmental health workforce training and report to the regional Aboriginal health planning forum
Midwest Region Aboriginal Environmental Health Forum	Regional	Review regional activities and environmental health needs, share program successes, provide environmental health workforce training and report to the regional Aboriginal health planning forum
Pilbara Aboriginal Environmental Health Forum	Regional	Review regional activities and environmental health needs, share program successes, provide environmental health workforce training and report to the regional Aboriginal health planning forum
System Performance		
enHealth - Environmental Health Workforce Working Group	National	Develops national policy to strengthen the environmental health workforce and address shortages of qualified professionals in the field of environmental health.
Sustainable Communities and Waste Hub	National	The hub will also drive coordinated research across all 4 new hubs under NESP's 'waste impact management' cross-cutting mission. This research will support policy development, program management and regulatory processes in both marine and terrestrial environments
Water		
enHealth Aquatic Facilities Working Group	National	To provide consistent regulation of aquatic facilities.
enHealth National Recycled Water Regulators' Forum	National	To provide advice and technical expertise for the regulation of recycled water and provide a forum for a consistent implementation of the national guidelines.
Water Quality Expert Reference Panel	National	Develops national public health policy regarding all forms of water (drinking, waste, recycling, recreational, aquatic etc.)
National On-site Regulators Forum	National	To provide consistent regulation of on-site wastewater systems
Advisory Committee for the Purity of Water	State	To provide health-related advice pertaining to the quality of drinking water to both the Minister for Health and the Minister for Water.
Results subcommittee of the Advisory Committee for the Purity of Water	State	Monitors drinking water quality results from state-wide sampling and reports to main ACPOW committee
Drinking Water Source Protection subcommittee of the Advisory Committee for the Purity of Water	State	Monitors drinking water catchment areas within the State and reports to main ACPOW committee

Committee representation

Committee name	National / State / Local / Regional / Metropolitan	Purpose
Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Advisory Committee	State	To consider, advise and make written recommendations to the Minister for Health relating to fluoridation of drinking water supplies
Remote Essential Municipal Services	Regional	Monitors aboriginal community drinking water supply quality and reticulated waste water disposal systems
Cockburn Sound Management Council	State	To advice to the Minister for Environment on the environmental management of Cockburn Sound, in particular the protection and maintenance of water quality and associated environmental values of the Cockburn Sound marine area
Lower Vasse River Management Advisory Group	Local	Monitors water quality of the Lower Vass River and estuary
Collaboration on Sewage Surveillance of SARS-CoV-2	National	Sewage monitoring to track and monitor COVID-19 virus
Australian Standards Committee WS-027 Domestic Water Treatment Appliances	National	To review and modify current domestic water treatment and filtration appliances.
Australian Standards Committee CH-034 Materials in Contact With Drinking Water	National	To review and update water testing procedures of materials in contact with drinking water
Local Government Environmental Health Groups		
Metropolitan EH Managers Group	Metropolitan	Provide environmental health related updates and networking for Managers of Environmental Health Services within the Perth metropolitan area.
Eastern Goldfields EH Regional Group	Regional	Provide environmental health related updates and networking for Environmental Health Officers within the Eastern Goldfields region.
Great Southern EH Regional Group	Regional	Provide environmental health related updates and networking for Environmental Health Officers within the Great Southern region.
Mid-west EH Regional Group	Regional	Provide environmental health related updates and networking for Environmental Health Officers within the Mid-west region.
North West EH Regional Group	Regional	Provide environmental health related updates and networking for Environmental Health Officers within the North-West region.
Peel EH Regional Group	Regional	Provide environmental health related updates and networking for Environmental Health Officers within the Peel region.
South-West EH Regional Group	Regional	Provide environmental health related updates and networking for Environmental Health Officers within the South-West region.

Publications

We understand the importance of sharing knowledge locally, nationally and internationally. We do this by encouraging staff to submit project outcomes to environmental health related journals, enabling other health professionals to benefit from our research. This year we had the following published articles.

Evaluating the impact of a pilot safe food-handling media campaign among consumers in Western Australia: Implications for public health messaging

Jessica Charlesworth, Barbara Mullan, Joel Howell, Henry Tan, Bree Abbott, Abbey Potter, Food Control, Volume 126, 2021. Available from [Science Direct](#).

Abstract:

Over 4.1 million Australians are affected by food poisoning each year. Recent reports indicate that food poisoning is increasing, particularly in Queensland and Western Australia. Foodborne illness is preventable through simple household behaviours such as cleaning hands and surfaces when preparing food, separating raw and ready-to-eat foods, cooking food thoroughly, and keeping food at the correct temperature. Several interventions have been developed to raise awareness of these safe food-handling practices; however, the efficacy of large-scale interventions has not been evaluated. The aim of the present study was to evaluate the impact of a pilot safe food-handling media campaign that aimed to increase consumer safe food-handling knowledge and behaviour. Five-hundred and forty-six participants completed measures of safe food-handling knowledge and behaviour prior to and following a pilot safe food-handling media campaign that ran for four months in The City of Busselton, Western Australia. A generalised linear mixed model analysis revealed that the pilot media campaign had an effect on consumer engagement in half of the target safe food-handling behaviours. The pilot safe food-handling media campaign also had a statistically significant effect (albeit not clinically significant) on consumer safe food-handling knowledge in the opposite direction to that hypothesised. Findings are discussed in relation to the implications for the design and implementation of future public health messages related to safe food-handling.

Financial overview

Some of the key projects we funded include:



\$8.12 million

for the provision of environmental health services in Aboriginal communities



\$2.3 million

for testing of water and food samples through PathWest



\$670,000

used for helicopter larviciding contract to control mosquito breeding in WA



\$433,000

invested in the Food-borne Illness Reduction Strategy including the roll out of the Play it Food Safe campaign

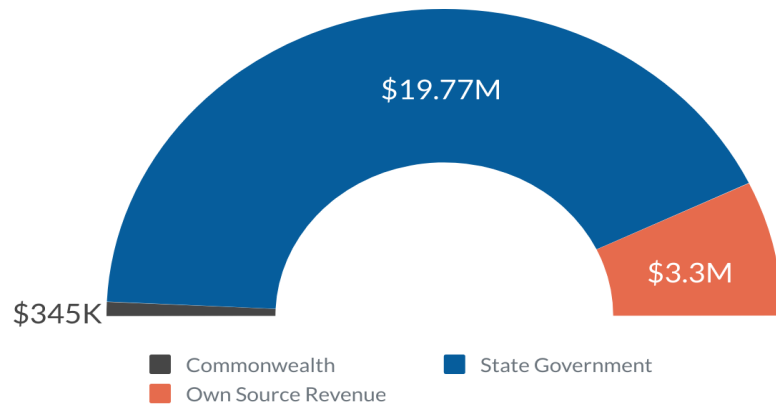


\$297,000

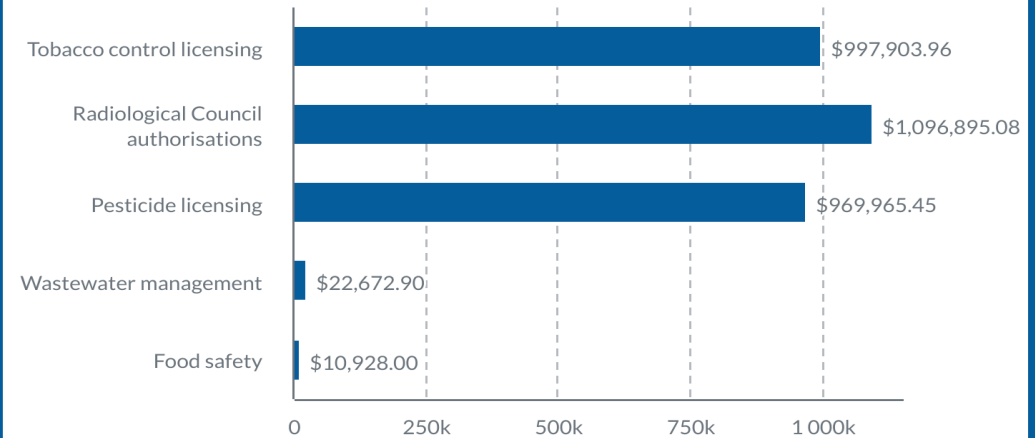
provided for CLAG funding to certain local governments to manage mosquito impacts

Financial overview

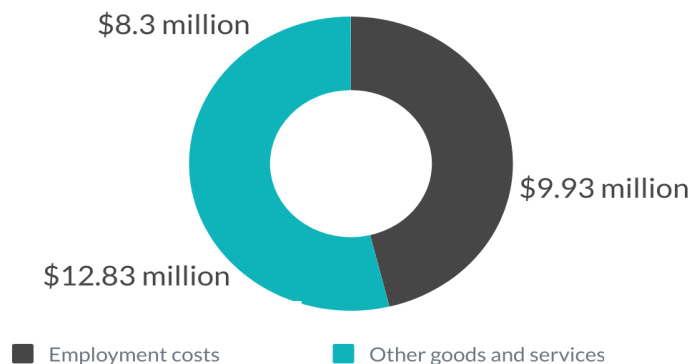
Total funding \$22.7 million



Own sourced revenue breakdown

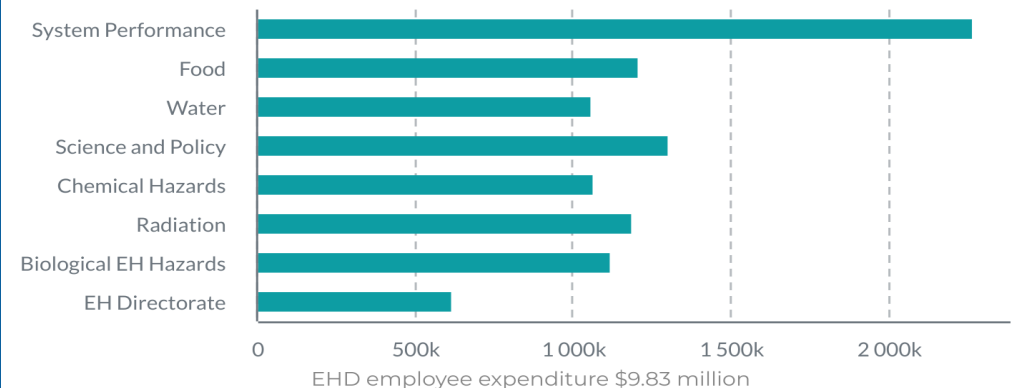


Total expenditure \$22.7 million



Workforce distribution costs by teams

82 full time equivalent positions*



*Select staff from System Performance moved to the Food and Water Unit in March 2021

Glossary

CLAG	Contiguous Local Authorities Groups
Department	Department of Health
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
DWER	Departments of Water and Environmental Regulation
EH	Environmental Health
EHD	Environmental Health Directorate
EHO	Environmental Health Officer
FBIRS	Foodborne Illness Reduction Strategy
Food Act	Food Act 2008
FTE	Full time equivalent
PHEOC	Public Health Emergency Operations Centre
Public Health Act	Public Health Act 2016
RRV	Ross River virus
SHICC	State Health Incident Coordinators Centre
WASQAP	WA Shellfish Quality Assurance Program
WAPC	Western Australian Planning Commission
WALGA	Western Australian Local Government Association

Thank you to the team at the
Environmental Health Directorate and our
many partners in environmental health.

Contact us



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