

**Environmental Fact Sheet
Bridgestone Australia**



Edwardstown Plant, S.A.

History in the Edwardstown Community

Bridgestone Australia has been a proud member of the Edwardstown community, in various forms, since 1939. SA *Rubber Mills*, as it was then known, started as a small rubber manufacturing business.

Today, Bridgestone is one of Australia's leading tyre businesses – highly regarded not just for its product, but also as an industry leader in environmental care and protection.



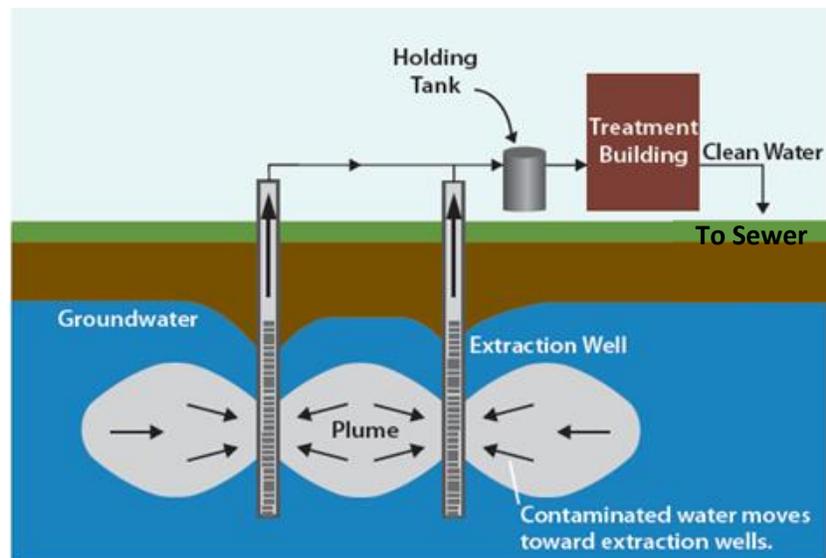
Waste Management

We now know that some common industrial waste management practices from the early days of Australian manufacturing resulted in companies unknowingly introducing chemical contaminants into the local ground water. While Bridgestone has always rigorously complied with its environmental obligations, during these early years some incidents did occur.

In 1994 a leak was detected in an underground storage tank. Bridgestone immediately removed and replaced the leaking tanks. Unfortunately, the replacement tanks were incorrectly labeled by the manufacturer resulting in a chemical being placed in the wrong tank, which dissolved the tank.

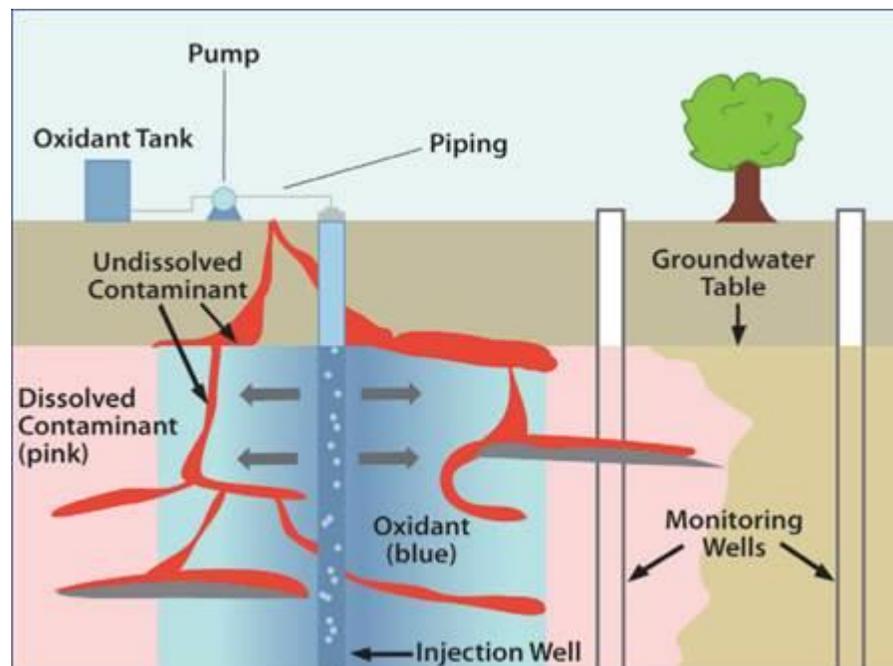
Due to this further leaks occurred in 1996. Bridgestone carried out extensive work to minimize the damage.

Much of the leaked materials were recovered using a pump and treat process. In this process, contaminated groundwater is pumped up out of the ground for treatment and disposal. However, this activity while removing most, can never remove all of the lost chemicals.



Example of a Pump and Treat System with Two Extraction Wells.

Bridgestone wanted to do more to further reduce the level of groundwater contaminants. Determined to remove as many chemicals as possible, Bridgestone started working with a specialist environmental consultancy - pioneering a new treatment process, in-situ oxidation. Strong but short-lived chemical oxidizers were directly injected into the contaminated soil and groundwater. These oxidisers react with the chemical contaminants leaving behind only water, carbon dioxide and salt— further reducing, but not completely removing the groundwater contaminant level.



While no level of groundwater contamination is desirable, Bridgestone’s ongoing groundwater monitoring over the past 20 years shows that this treatment process has worked and the groundwater due to these events does not pose a risk to residents if it’s left in the ground and *not* pumped through bores for use in gardens or homes.