



Government
of South Australia

Department of
State Development

30 April 2015

Dear Resident / Landowner

April 2015: TAFE SA Marleston Campus - site contamination update

The Department of State Development (DSD) is writing to you in relation to groundwater contamination originating from the former TAFE SA Marleston Campus on Richmond Road. The Department has been undertaking environmental assessments at Marleston Campus since 2010 to determine the extent of the impacted groundwater located on site and off site of the Marleston Campus. An independent site contamination auditor is overseeing this process.

As groundwater naturally moves in a north-west direction, residents to the north and north-west of the site (refer attached map) have been kept informed of testing that has been undertaken and the outcome of those tests. The auditor has confirmed the most recent testing which occurred in January-March this year: **“indicates that there remains no unacceptable risks to residential properties in the vicinity of the TAFE site.”**

While there remains no unacceptable risk to residential properties, we are writing to provide you with information on this process as our precautionary testing programme overseen by our independent auditor will continue in this area. We will ensure to keep you informed.

As a precaution, the South Australia Environment Protection Authority (EPA), advises residents should not use bore water for any purpose. Mains water (from SA Water pipes) and rainwater tanks are not affected.

This precautionary testing is being undertaken as a part of DSD’s ongoing operations to assess groundwater contaminated with trichloroethene (TCE), perchloroethene (PCE) and dichloroethene (DCE).

Neither TAFE SA, nor the current site owner, the Government of South Australia, were the original polluters. These substances were historically used in manufacturing as a common industrial cleaning solvent. It is suspected that these substances entered the groundwater many years ago through historical practices involving waste handling, storage and disposal.

Further testing will be undertaken mid-year during the cooler winter months to again confirm that there is no unacceptable risk, these results will be communicated to you when they are available. Ongoing assessment is also being undertaken in the commercial areas adjacent the TAFE campus.

Office of the Chief Executive

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The preliminary assessment reports and auditor's advice have been provided to both the EPA and SA Health to ensure they are kept informed of the latest developments.

The Department of State Development will continue to work with the EPA in regard to this matter. We take these findings seriously and will continue to undertake regular testing of groundwater and soil vapour to ensure potential risks to human health are managed appropriately.

Please refer to the enclosed fact sheet from SA Health for further information.

Should you have any further enquiries please contact Peter Klar, Executive Director, Skills and Employment on 8226 3292 or the Environment Protection Authority on 08 8204 2004 or epasitecontam@epa.sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Don Russell'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'D' and 'R'.

Dr Don Russell
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Area of Interest - Figure 1

- Area of Interest
- - Approximate extent of groundwater contamination based on ground water sampling
- TAFE SA Marlestone Campus
- - Approximate groundwater flow direction

