

EPA 05/17652

Dear Resident,

**RE: Environmental assessment works – Edwardstown-South Plympton**

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has been overseeing an ongoing program of environmental assessment works at the former Hills Limited (Hills) vacant industrial site, bordered by Raglan Avenue, South Road and the rail line. These works have also extended into the adjacent residential area.

Novian Property Group, the owner of the former Hills site, has engaged two independent EPA accredited site contamination auditors. The auditors will review the assessment and remediation undertaken on the various land parcels formerly owned by Hills and will prepare site contamination audit reports at the completion of the process. The reports will include conditions and recommendations to guide further actions for development of the site, in order protect the health of residents and the local environment.

Hills has engaged environmental consultants, URS, to undertake an off site assessment program including groundwater, soil vapour and indoor air sampling, in order to protect the health of residents in the vicinity of the site. The results of this program have been reviewed by an independent EPA accredited site contamination auditor. All audit reports are anticipated to be received in the coming weeks and once accepted by the EPA, will be made publically available on the EPA website.

Given the information available about the extent of groundwater contamination in the area, it is likely that the audit report will be the first step in establishing a Groundwater Prohibition Area (GPA), in accordance with the *Environment Protection Act 1993*. The GPA will formally restrict access to groundwater in an identified area and depth for any purpose, as this is the most effective way to protect the health and safety of the community from groundwater contamination. The EPA will undertake a program of community engagement prior to implementing a GPA and property owners will be provided with further information about the process following the review of the audit report.

In the coming weeks, Hills will notify property owners in the immediate vicinity of the site about its role following the outcome of the audit.

As previously advised by the EPA, residents and commercial/industrial property owners should continue not to use bore water (groundwater) for any purpose. Mains water provided by SA Water and water from rainwater tanks are not affected by this issue.

If you would like to speak to the EPA regarding these assessment works, please contact the Stakeholder Engagement Team on 1800 729 175 or via email at [EPASiteContam@epa.sa.gov.au](mailto:EPASiteContam@epa.sa.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,



Tim Saul  
**MANAGER STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**  
**ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY**

Date: 1 July 2015