

Media Release

Environment Protection Authority



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Hendon environmental assessment report findings

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is continuing its ongoing environmental assessment of the Hendon area to identify the presence of historically-used chemicals in groundwater and soil vapour plumes.

The latest testing commenced in December 2015 and identified specific boundaries of the extent of contamination, with only minor concentrations of trichloroethene (TCE), of less than one microgram per litre found in the groundwater wells in the most north-western part of the assessment area.

EPA Operations Director Science, Assessment and Planning Peter Dolan, said the results were from tests on groundwater bores.

“The human health risk assessment is indicating that predicted levels of TCE vapour in indoor air would not be detectable or would have less than two micrograms per cubic metre,” Mr Dolan said.

He said these levels are considered safe and that testing will not be required in private homes.

“In two specific areas with a total of sixty-three properties, any of them with basements might need to ensure they are adequately ventilated if occupants spend any length of time in them,” Mr Dolan said.

The EPA has been doorknocking the area to identify those properties where this may apply.

“The EPA has also written to residents to advise them of the most recent environmental assessment results and to that it will soon undertake additional work to determine the boundaries for a potential Groundwater (bore water) Prohibition Area (GPA),” Mr Dolan said.

Hendon residents have previously been advised not to use groundwater for any purpose with this advice still current.

Mains water and water from rainwater tanks are not affected and home-grown fruit and vegetables are safe to consume, provided they have not been irrigated by bore water.

Local residents who have any concerns or would like more information should contact the EPA on 1800 729 175 or by email EPASiteContam@sa.gov.au

For further information please contact Chris Metevelis: 0439 137 641