

MEDIA RELEASE

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Environmental assessment commencing at Thebarton

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) will commence an environmental assessment at Thebarton this month as part of a program of works to determine if soil vapour contamination is detected.

The assessment works are planned during May and June 2017 and are part of a program developed to investigate orphan sites where the EPA holds enough information to undertake further investigation to determine if there is a potential human health risk.

The South Australian Government committed \$7.8 million in the 2016 State Budget to manage the legacy of existing contaminated orphan sites.

EPA Director Science, Assessment and Planning, Peter Dolan, says South Australia has a significant manufacturing history and some chemical disposal and handling practices, considered appropriate at the time, are no longer acceptable by today's environmental standards.

"It has been long understood that some chemicals such as trichloroethene (TCE) can be transported in groundwater for several kilometres. More recently, it has been found that they can also be located in the air spaces between soil particles as vapour.

"This program of works will assist to determine if soil vapour and / or groundwater contamination exists in this area," he said.

The planned works will include the installation of up to 50 soil vapour bores and 20 groundwater monitoring wells.

"The data collected from this monitoring will provide the EPA with the concentrations of TCE that may be present in the area, and determine if any further work needs to be undertaken," he said.

The environmental assessment will cover an area including industrial and residential sections of Thebarton.

"We have written to residents in this area to advise them not to use their bore water for any purpose," Mr Dolan said.

The results from these assessments are expected to be finalised in the coming months.

For further information please contact EPA Media: 0439 137 641 or email epamedia@sa.gov.au