



THEBARTON ASSESSMENT AREA Community update 2

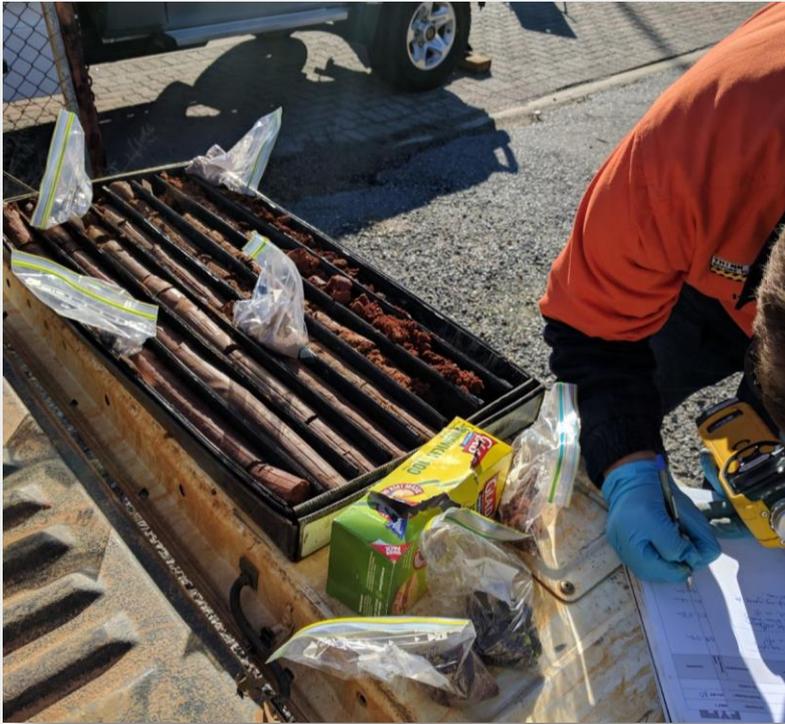
Issued Monday 27 November 2017



Progress of work – Stage One complete

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has now completed the first stage of groundwater and soil vapour assessments in Thebarton, and a report is available from the www.epa.sa.gov.au (follow the links to 'site contamination' then 'assessment areas'). The extent of the groundwater contamination has largely been determined. The next stage of work will be to further delineate the contamination in the north-western portion of the assessment area. Maps showing results from the soil vapour and groundwater sampling wells are available in the report.

The risk of vapour intrusion from [trichloroethene \(TCE\)](#) into residential indoor air has been assessed, with computer modelling predicting the majority of residential properties in the area to be safe. A number of properties in the immediate vicinity of the highest groundwater and soil vapour concentrations required site specific testing and these property owners have all been approached. Of those where landowner permission to test onsite was provided, several homes were found to have indoor air concentrations above that considered by SA Health to be safe. These owners are now being assisted with the installation of ventilation systems (mitigation systems) to reduce the indoor air TCE concentrations to safe levels. Mitigation systems have successfully been installed in homes in other areas of Adelaide with TCE vapour.



Bore water

Residents should not use bore water (groundwater) in this area for any purpose. Commercial operators accessing the much deeper Tertiary aquifer are required to test regularly.

Home grown vegetables safe

Contaminated groundwater generally does not contaminate the soil above it. Soil, rainwater, and mains water are not affected. Home grown vegetables are safe to consume, provided you are not watering them with bore water.

Basements

Soil vapour intrusion into indoor air is more likely to occur if a room is near groundwater. If your home has a basement in which you or a resident spends a lot of time, please contact the EPA to find out if you are exposed to any increased risk.

Assessment program timeline

May-August 2017: EPA commenced work to determine if there is a potential risk to human health from groundwater or soil vapour contaminated by [trichloroethene \(TCE\)](#).

September 2017: The EPA received preliminary data showing high concentrations of TCE in shallow soil vapour bores. The owners of potentially affected properties were contacted and permission sought to undertake testing of the indoor air and subfloor.

October 2017: Three properties measured no TCE in indoor air and are considered safe. Five properties within the 'Intervention' category of the [Indoor air level response range \(TCE\)](#) and negotiations underway to install systems to reduce the TCE vapour to safe levels.

November 2017: Report on the first stage of groundwater and soil vapour assessment complete and the vapour intrusion risk assessment predicted by computer modelling.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For **further information** please contact:

Site Contamination Branch
Environment Protection Authority
GPO Box 2607, Adelaide SA 5001
Telephone: (08) 8204 2004
Email: EPASiteContam@sa.gov.au
Website: www.epa.sa.gov.au
(Follow the link at the bottom to Site Contamination then to Assessment Areas to find the Thebarton page.)

For **health related information** please contact:

Scientific Services Branch
Public Health Services, SA Health
11 Hindmarsh Square, Adelaide SA 5000
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