

23 April 2018

EPA advises Glenelg East residents of assessment results

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has notified residents in Glenelg East that all homes in its environmental assessment area are considered to be safe from the risk of TCE vapour migrating into indoor air.

EPA's Chief Executive Tony Circelli says assessments in the area have been ongoing and the latest results are reassuring.

"We know there has been significant historical use of chemicals including trichloroethene (TCE) in the Glenelg East assessment area and this has required sufficient testing to be undertaken.

"Environmental assessments of groundwater and soil vapour by the EPA's contractors have been ongoing in the area since 2014," he said.

"A prolonged program of assessments has occurred to ensure human health is not impacted. This has included five stages of assessment across different seasons," he said.

"Although results are considered to be safe from TCE vapour, we are still advising residents in the area not to use groundwater for any purpose.

"We remind residents in the assessment area not to use their bore water for any purpose. Mains water and water from a rainwater tank is not affected by this issue, and home grown vegetables are safe to consume provided they aren't watered with contaminated bore water," he said.

The EPA is now working on a determination report and will embark on a comprehensive community consultation in the coming months for residents in the assessment area for the purpose of establishing a groundwater prohibition area. This will remove the final exposure pathway by preventing access to bore water.

"If groundwater is affected by contamination and there is a likelihood that it may be used for domestic or irrigation purposes, the EPA has powers to establish a groundwater prohibition area to protect both future and current landholders.

"The EPA has already established groundwater prohibition areas in [Allenby Gardens–Flinders Park](#) and [Edwardstown and surrounding suburbs](#) after community consultation," Mr Circelli said.

Groundwater use to certain depths is prohibited to be used for any purpose and a maximum penalty of \$8,000 applies.

Councils and schools typically use much deeper groundwater from the Tertiary aquifer, which is not affected by the contamination.