



Media release



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Environmental assessment to commence in Woodville North, Athol Park and Pennington

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is today letterboxing approximately 900 homes in Woodville North, Athol Park and Pennington to advise that it is commencing a program of environmental assessment work in the area.

The work is to determine whether chemicals used in historical industrial practices have impacted the groundwater (bore water), presenting a risk to human health – either from using bore water or from vapour coming up through the soil.

The EPA will engage an environmental consultant to undertake the work, which will involve drilling groundwater bores in road verges and footpaths (not on private properties) to allow the sampling of groundwater to test for chemicals and vapour coming up through the soil. This work is expected to commence in September after a consultant has been engaged.

The assessment will be undertaken around an area formerly known as the 'Finsbury Factory' and now known as the Woodville North Industrial Complex, north of Torrens Road to Grand Junction road.

This is part of an ongoing program developed to investigate orphan sites to determine if there is a potential human health risk. The EPA conducts assessments where the original polluter no longer exists or cannot be identified.

As well as writing to residents, the EPA is conducting a community information session in September and has translated information into Vietnamese, with a Vietnamese interpreter available at the session.

EPA Director Regulation Peter Dolan said that past industrial activities and practices have the potential to contaminate groundwater.

"The majority of the Woodville North industrial complex was used to manufacture munitions during World War II, and a number of other larger manufacturing companies have continued operations in the industrial complex since that time," Mr Dolan said.

The assessment relates to groundwater (bore water) only and mains water and rainwater are safe to use. Home grown vegetables are safe to eat, provided they are not being watered with bore water.

The EPA provides information about areas under assessment or with confirmed bore water contamination on its website at www.epa.sa.gov.au (follow the link under 'environmental info' to 'site contamination' then 'assessment areas').

<https://vimeo.com/285201392>

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