

Media release



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Groundwater prohibition proposed for Glenelg East

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has begun community consultation on a proposal to establish a Groundwater Prohibition Area centred on Glenelg East.

EPA Director Regulation Peter Dolan said the consultation was the latest step in managing the chemical contamination found in the area's groundwater.

"We know there has been significant historical use of chemicals, including perchloroethene (PCE) and trichloroethene (TCE), in the Glenelg East area," Mr Dolan said.

"We have already asked residents in the past not to use their bore water for any purpose and now we have begun the process of formalising this.

"Everyone in the affected area has been invited to a drop-in session on 26 September, and residents can also contact the EPA to ask questions and discuss any concerns they might have."

While the groundwater contamination is currently limited to parts of Glenelg East and Glenelg, the proposed prohibition area also takes in sections of Glenelg South and Glengowrie (see attached map).

Chemicals found in the area include volatile chlorinated hydrocarbons such as TCE and PCE from a former dry cleaning business, as well as petroleum hydrocarbons from degraded underground storage tanks at a service station, and heavy metals and cyanide from a former blacksmith's forge.

These compounds can cause serious health problems if people are exposed to high enough concentrations over long periods of time.

Mr Dolan said following extensive testing, residents were notified in April that they were not at risk from hydrocarbon vapours in their homes.

"Basements may have an elevated risk from vapours because they are closer to the groundwater, so we are encouraging anyone with underground rooms to get in touch with the EPA," he said.

"There is no problem with eating home-grown produce, so long as it has not been irrigated with bore water.

"Mains water and rainwater are not affected, so both are safe options for watering backyard vegetable gardens."

The EPA has already established Groundwater Prohibition Areas in [Edwardstown and the surrounding suburbs](#), and the [Allenby Gardens/Flinders Park area](#).

In a prohibition area, it is illegal to use groundwater above certain depths for any purpose, and a maximum penalty of \$8,000 applies.

Councils and schools will continue to be able to use bore water for irrigation, as they access the much deeper tertiary aquifer, which is not affected by this contamination.

For further information, please visit

https://www.epa.sa.gov.au/data_and_publications/site_contamination_monitoring/assessment_area_s/glenelg_east, telephone 8204 2004 or email engage.epa@sa.gov.au.

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