



KESWICK ASSESSMENT AREA Community update

Issued 15 October 2018

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has been undertaking environmental assessment work in Keswick where groundwater contaminated with [trichloroethene \(TCE\)](#) was found to be coming from the former Kelvinator sites in Everard Avenue, Keswick.

Results of Stage 2

The boundary of the contaminated groundwater plume has now been determined. Computer modelling, using soil vapour results obtained during different seasons, has now been completed. This work has determined that all residential properties in the area are considered to be safe from vapour entering inside homes.

Maps showing sampling results and the soil vapour and groundwater plumes are available on the EPA website www.epa.sa.gov.au (follow the links to 'site contamination' then 'assessment areas').

Further work is now required to protect residents from contaminated groundwater, to eliminate the remaining pathway to the contamination.

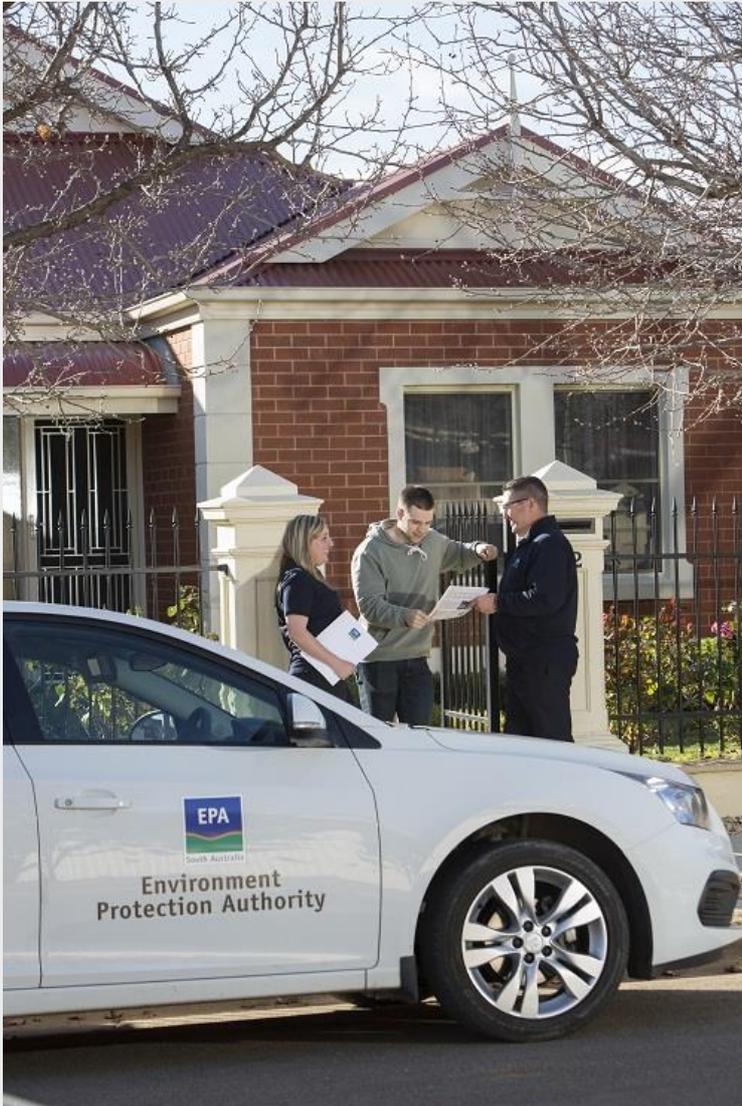


Kelvinator domestic refrigerator assembly line in Keswick, 1940 – photo courtesy State Library SA

Protection from contaminated groundwater (bore water)

If contaminated groundwater is a risk to human health, the EPA has the ability under the *Environment Protection Act 1993* to establish a Groundwater Prohibition Area. The purpose of this initiative is to protect both current and future landholders from accessing the contaminated groundwater. Future purchasers of properties within this area are made aware via sale documentation on the Form 1 statement which is provided to a prospective buyer.

The EPA is now preparing a determination report to propose the establishment of a Groundwater Prohibition Area. Residents will have a 90-day consultation period in which they can speak to members of staff, have questions answered, and raise any concerns. Subject to the outcome of this consultation a notification will then be made in the SA Government Gazette and a maximum fine of \$8,000 may be issued to persons using bore water at their property.



Bore water

The EPA reminds residents that groundwater (bore water) in this area is contaminated and should not be used 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, please contact the EPA to find out if you are exposed to any increased risk.

Community engagement

The EPA has a dedicated community engagement team that always welcomes the opportunity to hear from local residents in person or via phone, letter and email. Please contact the EPA via any of the methods below if you have any queries or topics you would like to discuss.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For **further information** please contact:

Site Contamination Branch
Environment Protection Authority
GPO Box 2607, Adelaide SA 5001
Telephone: (08) 8204 2004
Email: engage.epa@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
Telephone: (08) 8226 7100
Email: public.health@health.sa.gov.au
Website: www.sahealth.sa.gov.au

