

THEBARTON ASSESSMENT AREA Community update #4

Issued 16 October 2018

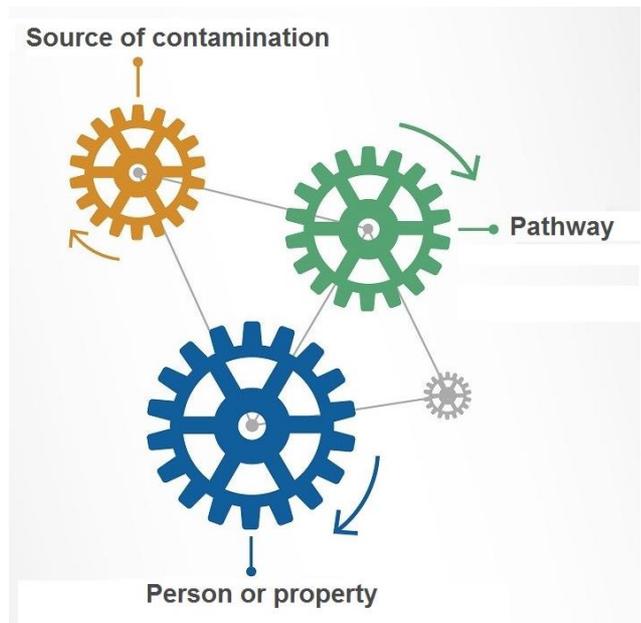
The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has been undertaking environmental assessment work in Thebarton where groundwater contaminated with [trichloroethene \(TCE\)](#) was found in the vicinity of a former metal processing site on George Street.

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 the majority of residential properties in the area are considered to be safe from vapour entering inside homes.

Maps showing the assessment 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 accessing contaminated groundwater to eliminate the remaining pathway to the contamination.



Protection from contaminated groundwater (bore water)

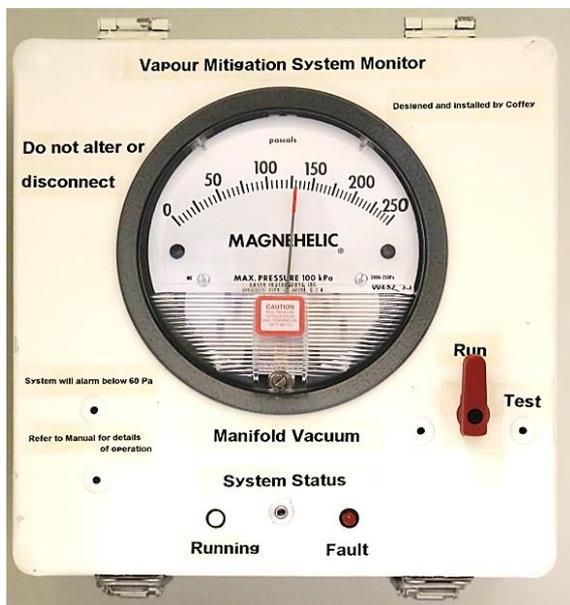
If contaminated groundwater is a risk to human health, the EPA has the ability under the *Environment Protection Act 1993* to establish a Groundwater Prohibition Area. The purpose of this initiative is to protect both current and future landholders from accessing the contaminated groundwater. Future 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.

Removing vapour from indoor air

Chemicals can enter the indoor air of homes as vapour through cracks in floorboards or concrete slabs. The vapour commonly rises from contaminated groundwater and is present in the ground as soil vapour. As part of a pilot trial and what is believed to be an Australian first, the EPA has successfully installed ventilation systems at several residential homes at Beverley. The systems have reduced TCE vapour in those home to safe health levels.

In Thebarton, TCE vapour has been found in indoor air at six homes. Ventilation systems have been installed to make these properties safe and testing to monitor the current TCE levels in indoor air is continuing.



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



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 is more likely to enter a home when a room is close to groundwater, such as a basement. If your home has a basement, please contact the EPA to find out if you are exposed to any increased risk.