



Media release



Environment Protection Authority
GPO Box 2607 Adelaide SA 5001
211 Victoria Square Adelaide SA 5000
T (08) 8204 2004
Country areas 1800 623 445

17 October 2019

Test results in for Port Rd, Woodville

Groundwater near the site of a former Woodville electroplating factory has been confirmed as being contaminated with chemicals including hexavalent chromium (Cr6).

The Environment Protection Authority has recently received results for the first stage of testing for an area in the vicinity of the corner of Port and Woodville roads, and will now undertake further work to determine how far the contamination has spread.

EPA Director, Regulation, Peter Dolan, said testing began in May this year, and residents were asked then not to use their bore water for any purpose.

“Cr6 is a known carcinogen and skin irritant, but people are not at risk if they’re not using their bore water,” Mr Dolan said.

“There used to be an electroplating business operating from this site and it used Cr6 in its chroming baths between 1950 and 1990.

“The groundwater has also been found to contain PFAS, which is commonly found in firefighting foams and fire retardants, and was often used as a mister for chroming baths.

“Western Adelaide has a long history of manufacturing and industry, but unfortunately contamination like this has been left behind from times when chemical handling and disposal did not meet the current stringent standards.”

The assessment area originally finished at Port Rd, but has now been expanded to Church St, Cedar Ave and Edward St in the south-west, and in the south-east to include more of Bower St, finishing at Park St.

It now takes in about 200 homes and 40 commercial premises. Three of the properties have registered bores.

Soil, indoor air, rain water and mains water are not affected, and home-grown produce is safe to consume so long as it has not been irrigated with bore water.

For more information, including the complete test results, please visit

https://www.epa.sa.gov.au/data_and_publications/site_contamination_monitoring/assessment_area/s/woodville