

Monday, 29 June 2020

Keswick area Groundwater Prohibition Area proposed

A 90-day consultation period has begun for the proposed introduction of a groundwater prohibition area in Keswick and surrounding areas.

Over the years the area has hosted manufacturing and industry activities, including white goods and vehicles manufacturing, electroplating, concrete and asphalt production, and printing.

Past disposal methods for chemical by-products produced by these industries meant harmful chemicals often seeped into groundwater aquifers.

As a result, sections of groundwater in the Keswick, Forestville, Ashford, Everard Park, Wayville and Mile End South is contaminated.

Chemicals found in the groundwater in these areas include petroleum and chlorinated hydrocarbons, such as tetrachloroethene (PCE), trichloroethene (TCE), metals and nitrates.

Environment Protection Authority Director Regulation, Peter Dolan said groundwater prohibition is a way to ensure public safety in this area for current and future residents.

“Groundwater with this level of contamination is not suitable for any human-associated use, including drinking, washing, watering edible produce and lawns or even filling swimming pools,” Mr Dolan said.

“Extended consumption of water with this range of contaminants in it can be detrimental.”

Residents in this area with vegetable gardens or fruit trees should only use rainwater or mains water for irrigation.

The 90-day consultation period will end 1 October 2020.

Subject to the consultation outcome, a groundwater prohibition area may be established, with all pumping from affected bores to cease.

Persons found sourcing water from contaminated bores may be prosecuted, with a maximum fine of \$8,000.

Residents can find more information about the proposal by phoning 8463 4799, emailing engage.epa@sa.gov.au or visiting engage.epa.sa.gov.au/Keswick