

17 September 2021

## Groundwater Prohibition Area proposed for Edinburgh and surrounding suburbs

The Environment Protection Authority is proposing to establish a Groundwater Prohibition Area (GPA) for parts of Edinburgh, Direk, Burton, Salisbury North, Penfield, Paralowie and Waterloo Corner to protect residents from groundwater contamination.

Environmental assessments undertaken by the Australian Government's Department of Defence have determined that groundwater in shallow aquifers in these areas has been contaminated by per- and-poly fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

Residents in the area shown on the attached map should not use water from bores to a depth of 60 metres for any purpose.

EPA Acting Director Regulation Andrew Pruszinski said PFAS was a potential health risk if people used bore water over a long period of time.

"This means using bore water for drinking, showering, washing, filling swimming pools or watering lawns, or fruit and vegetables for consumption, is considered a health risk," he said.

"We are now undertaking consultation in relation to establishing a GPA that will include groundwater to a depth of 60 metres, which is the known extent of the contamination."

PFAS are manufactured chemicals that were used in a range of industrial and consumer products from the 1950s, including some types of firefighting foam.

Defence's environmental investigation looked at the presence of PFAS on and near RAAF Base Edinburgh. There are about 4000 residential, commercial and other properties in the proposed GPA.

Groundwater from bores in deeper tertiary aquifers, such as those used by schools and councils, is not known to be affected. Soil, mains water and rainwater are not affected. Home-grown vegetables are safe to consume provided they are not being watered by water from bores to a depth of 60 metres.

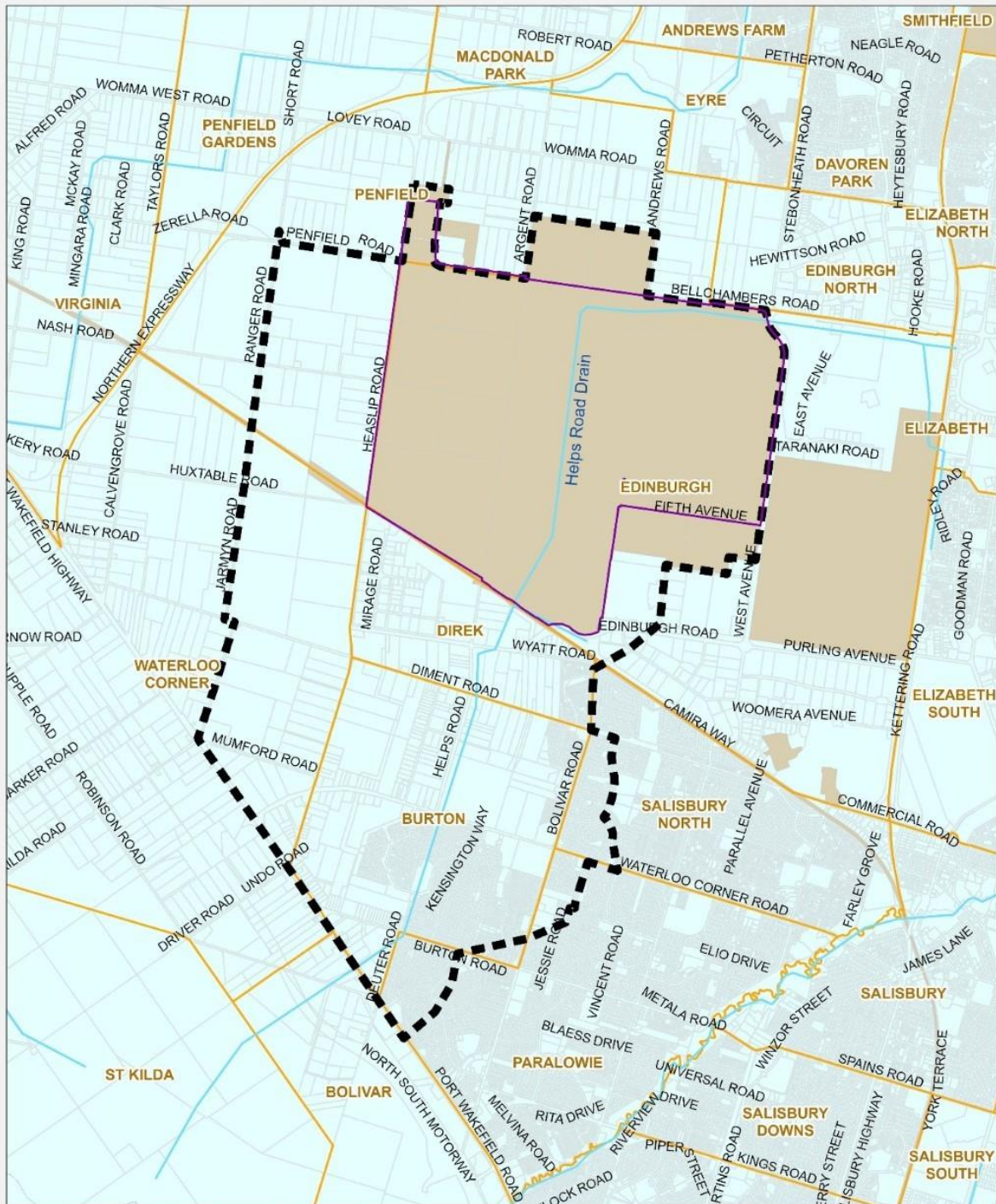
Mr Pruszinski said not all properties with bores were registered or known, so the proposed prohibition covered the area of known contamination.

Subject to any new COVID restrictions, there will be a community information session on Thursday 14 October where staff from Defence, EPA and SA Health will be available to answer questions. Registration is essential. Community consultation will remain open until 16 November.

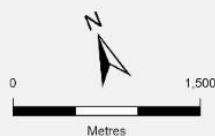
After further engagement the area included in the proposed GPA could increase.

Anyone with queries or concerns can contact the EPA community engagement team on (08) 8429 7245, via email [engage.epa@sa.gov.au](mailto:engage.epa@sa.gov.au) or visit [www.engage.epa.sa.gov.au](http://www.engage.epa.sa.gov.au)

## Proposed Groundwater Prohibition Area



- Watercourses
- RAAF Boundary
- Stage 1 proposed GPA boundary
- Suburb
- Commonwealth Land



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