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## Groundwater Prohibition Area for Edinburgh and surrounding suburbs

The Environment Protection Authority will establish a Groundwater Prohibition Area (GPA) for parts of Edinburgh, Direk, Burton, Salisbury North, Penfield, Paralowie and Waterloo Corner to prevent residents and workers from accessing contaminated groundwater.

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

The GPA will come into effect on 3 February and will be the eighth in South Australia. It will prohibit people from taking and using groundwater from aquifers up to 60 metres below ground.

The EPA has written to affected residents and landowners to advise them that the GPA will be established. This follows a period of community consultation.

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

They are a potential health risk if people use bore water in the affected area over a long period of time. Using bore water for drinking, showering, washing, filling swimming pools or watering lawns, or fruit and vegetables for consumption is therefore considered a health risk.

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 GPA.

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.

An [interactive map](#) of the area showing prohibition depths can be viewed on the Engage EPA website. It enables residents and property owners to view the area in relation to their property.