

# Media Release

## Environment Protection Authority



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13 December 2013

### **EPA advises on Marleston groundwater contamination**

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has been advised by the Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology (DFEEST) that it will be undertaking further assessment in the Marleston area relating to historical groundwater contamination.

Yesterday, approximately 300 residential and commercial properties were letter box-dropped by DFEEST to advise that further testing that will take place during the summer months of 2014.

EPA Acting Operations Director Science, Assessment and Planning Andrew Pruszinski said that DFEEST is undertaking all necessary steps to deal with this situation and will keep residents well informed.

“Residents and property owners in the area were previously advised not to use their bore water, and that advice is being reaffirmed in the current letter box drop,” said Mr Pruszinski.

The purpose of the testing program is to determine, through sampling, whether the chemical substances in the groundwater are also present in the soil pore spaces.

The chemical substances in the groundwater have the potential to migrate from the groundwater through the soil as a gas (vapour).

TAFE SA has been undertaking environment assessments at the campus since 2010 to determine the extent of the impacted groundwater located on and off site.

“TAFE SA is no longer operating on the site, however DFEEST will continue to undertake further assessment. This work is being overseen by an independent site contamination auditor,” said Mr Pruszinski.

Residents were first informed of the groundwater contamination in February 2011. The chemicals identified were perchloroethene (PCE), trichloroethene (TCE) and dichloroethene (DCE). These industrial substances are typically associated with cleaning solvents, and it was suspected that the substances entered the groundwater through practices of previous tenants’ involving waste handling, storage and disposal.

“DFEEST is fully cooperating with the EPA and is undertaking all necessary steps to deal with the situation as quickly and as effectively as possible, and to inform residents of steps along the way,” said Mr Pruszinski.

For further information on the use of groundwater and contamination-related enquiries, please contact the EPA on 1800 729 175 during weekdays between 8 am to 6 pm.

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**For further information please contact Ros Agate: 0434 609 394**