

Media Release

Environment Protection Authority



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Thursday 20 December 2012

Residents advised not to use groundwater at Marleston

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has been advised by TAFE SA that the extent of the groundwater contamination originating from the TAFE SA Marleston Campus has changed.

Yesterday approximately 150 residential and commercial properties were letterbox dropped by TAFE SA to advise that groundwater sampling had determined the current extent of the groundwater contamination now extends to Richmond Road, Marleston and is moving in a northwesterly direction from the campus.

Residents and commercial property owners were also advised not to use bore water for any purpose until further notice. Mains water and rainwater tanks are not affected.

According to EPA Director of Science and Assessment Peter Dolan this is the latest round of notification for the Marleston Campus site.

“This is another historic site. TAFE SA has been undertaking environmental assessments at the Marleston Campus since 2010 to determine the extent of the impacted groundwater located on and off site.

“TAFE SA first informed properties within the vicinity of the known groundwater back in February 2011.

“Further work was undertaken by TAFE SA in August this year and an environmental engineering report provided to the EPA in November identified chemical substances in groundwater above the World Health Organization drinking water guideline value. It also identified that extent of the known groundwater contamination had changed.

“The letterbox drop yesterday was to provide an update to residents and commercial property owners, including those not included in the previous communication,” said Mr Dolan.

In their letter, TAFE SA also asked property owners if they have a bore, offering to arrange testing.

The chemicals identified are perchloroethene (PCE), trichloroethene (TCE), and dichloroethene (DCE). PCE and TCE are industrial solvents used widely as a metal cleaner and degreaser, and DCE is a breakdown product of PCE and TCE.

For further information please contact Ros Agate: 0434 609 394

“TAFE SA is fully cooperating with the EPA and undertaking all necessary steps to deal with the situation as quickly and effectively as possible and keep residents and the EPA fully informed,” said Mr Dolan.

For further information, Frequently Asked Questions are available on the EPA website under ‘What new’ or the EPA can be contacted on 1800 729 175 between 8 am to 8 pm.