

# Media Release

## Environment Protection Authority



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### **Hendon groundwater contamination update**

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) yesterday letterbox-dropped approximately 3,000 residential and commercial property owners in Hendon and the surrounding areas to update the local community regarding recent testing for site contamination in the vicinity.

This forms part of the EPA's ongoing community engagement programme in relation to site contamination investigations at Hendon. It follows a similar letterbox-drop to local residents in May 2013, advising them of initial groundwater assessment results, and that a six-month assessment program would be carried out.

This subsequent assessment program has now been completed and a report submitted by site contamination consultants, specifically engaged for investigation and assessment purposes by the EPA, confirms that contamination of groundwater and soil vapour has occurred in the Hendon assessment area.

According to EPA Acting Operations Director Science, Assessment and Planning Andrew Pruszinski, this letterbox drop was to also notify residents and property owners of further assessment works starting in January 2014.

"This latest report has confirmed the presence of chemical substances in groundwater and soil vapour throughout the Hendon investigation area, primarily, perchloroethene (PCE), trichloroethene (TCE) and dichloroethene (DCE), as identified in the initial assessment.

"The presence of these chemicals is most likely to have occurred as a result of historical activities undertaken at the Hendon industrial precinct," said Mr Pruszinski.

The EPA is working with site contamination consultants to better characterise the current nature and extent of the contamination, and to ascertain potential risks.

"I encourage residents and property owners in the vicinity to be mindful of the advice previously provided by the EPA in relation to this matter, namely, not to use bore water for any purpose until further notice," said Mr Pruszinski.

The EPA will continue to advise and keep local residents informed about the outcomes from the additional assessment works.

A copy of the applicable [assessment reports](#) on the EPA website for public reference.

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

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