

Media Release

Environment Protection Authority



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Hendon – groundwater contamination update

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) yesterday letterboxed approximately 220 residents in the Hendon area advising them of the commencement of a groundwater and soil vapour testing program.

This recent communication follows a letterbox drop of 2,900 residents in May this year advising them of groundwater contamination in the Hendon area.

The solvents [including trichloroethene (TCE) and perchloroethene (PCE)] that have been identified in groundwater were formerly used in many industries which previously occupied this site over a long period of time.

Residents and property owners in the surrounding area were advised in May not to use bore water for any purpose until further notice..

As the current land use on the site is not the cause of the site contamination the EPA is undertaking the work and will install groundwater monitoring wells and soil vapour bores in this area. The purpose of this work is to better understand the groundwater contamination in the area.

The EPA has engaged a site contamination consultant to undertake these assessments.

According to EPA Director Science and Assessment Peter Dolan, the letterbox drop is to inform residents that the drilling program will occur over the coming fortnight. The drillers will be undertaking works on the council road verges.

“It is expected that the assessment and review of the findings will take a couple of months to complete. The results will be reviewed by the EPA in conjunction with the Department of Health and Ageing.

“The EPA will continue to advise and keep local residents informed of the outcomes of the assessment.

“As informed earlier this year, the EPA and the Department of Health and Ageing are continuing to advise people that bore water should not be used for any purpose until further notice”, said Mr Dolan.

For further information please contact Ros Agate: 0434 609 394

The EPA has published information as Frequently Asked Questions and Answers on TCE and PCE on the EPA website (www.epa.sa.gov.au via the What's New list on the home page).

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