

Media Release

Environment Protection Authority



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Glenelg East groundwater contamination update

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) yesterday letterboxed approximately 280 residential and commercial properties in the Glenelg East area to provide an update to the community on the ongoing investigations of groundwater contamination in the area.

In September 2011, the EPA notified property owners in Glenelg East that they **should not use groundwater for any use until further notice. This advice remains in place.** Tap water and rainwater tanks are not affected.

Groundwater investigations undertaken during 2013 have identified that further assessment is required to delineate the groundwater contamination. As part of this additional assessment work, the EPA has engaged a site contamination consultant to undertake groundwater and soil vapour assessments in order to determine the current nature and extent of the contamination (the Glenelg East Assessment Area).

The chemical substances detected in groundwater include petroleum hydrocarbons and chlorinated hydrocarbons that have historically been associated with petroleum storage and dry cleaning activities undertaken in the area.

The EPA expects that reporting of the further assessment work will be completed by the end of August 2014. The EPA and Department for Health and Ageing (DHA) will review the report and determine whether any risk associated with the contamination exists. A further update to the community will be provided at this time.

EPA Operations Director Peter Dolan said the assessment is to determine the current extent of the contamination in the area, which will inform the DHA's risk assessment.

Mr Dolan added: "Residents within the affected area who have an underground structure on their property, such as a basement or cellar, should contact the EPA when convenient as this knowledge would be helpful to the risk assessment work".

Additional information including frequently asked questions (FAQs) have been updated on the EPA website (www.epa.sa.gov.au).

For further information on the use of groundwater and any contamination related enquiries, please contact the EPA on 1800 729 175 (8 am to 8 pm weekdays) or via email epasitecontam@epa.sa.gov.au.

For further information please contact Ros Agate: 0434 609 394