

Media Release

Environment Protection Authority



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Groundwater contamination advice for Glenelg East

The Environment Protection Authority has advised residents of Glenelg East that groundwater contamination identified at a Cliff Street property has moved outside the site boundaries. This advice comes as a result of the review of historical site information held by the EPA.

This morning 280 residents, businesses and property owners within a 300m radius of the site at 37-41 Cliff Street have been advised to not use bore water for any purpose until further notice. Mains water and rainwater tanks are not affected.

The chemical substances that have been identified at levels above available potable/drinking water guidelines are light fraction petroleum hydrocarbons and chlorinated solvents: tetrachlorethene (PCE), trichloroethene (TCE) and cis-1,2-dichloroethene (DCE).

The EPA's Director Science and Assessment, Peter Dolan, said "If you do not use bore water your risk of exposure to the contaminants is very low."

"PCE and TCE are chemicals associated with historical dry cleaning activities.

"The site was historically used as dry cleaning premises dating back to the 1950's. However on site dry cleaning operations ceased in 2005. The current land use is commercial but the site is adjacent to residential dwellings.

"These chemicals can enter the soil through leaking equipment or poor disposal practices, migrating down to the watertable and contaminating groundwater."

There are three registered bores in the immediate area and owners have been contacted by the EPA and advised not to use the bore water until further notice. There may be several more bores in the area that were installed prior to the need for permits.

"The EPA is also asking property owners to advise if they have a bore on their property to ensure bore records in the area are up to date," said Peter Dolan.

The area under investigation is bounded by Young Street and Allen Terrace to the north, Kipling Avenue, Conrad Street, Meredith Avenue and Marryatt Street to the south, Buttrose Street directly through to Kipling Avenue to the east, and Diagonal Road to the west (see attached map).

The first priority is to determine the extent of the contamination. The testing program is also likely to include some vapour testing at selected locations to rule out any impact on air quality.

The EPA has recently met with the current owners who will be engaging consultants to carry out groundwater testing to determine the extent of the contamination. Following completion of this work, the EPA will oversee future assessment and remediation for the site.

For more information residents can contact the EPA on 1800 729 175.

Cliff Street, Glenelg East

