

Dear Local Resident

**EPA Contamination Assessment – Solomontown, Port Pirie**

You may have noticed the EPA undertaking soil vapour sampling between December and January on footpaths and verges in the vicinity of the former South Australian Gas Company (SAGASCO) site. The area that was sampled is bounded by King Street, Alpha Terrace, Albert Street and Parks Street, Solomontown.

The EPA has received the results and these have been evaluated by SA Health. The results show chemical substances, toluene, xylene, ethylbenzene, isopropyl-benzene and other related volatile substances present within the soil airspace at some locations.

At this stage, the extent of the soil vapour contamination has not yet been determined and more testing is required.

As the above chemical substances in the soil airspace have the potential to migrate into houses, the EPA has determined that it is necessary to undertake indoor air sampling within residential properties in the immediate vicinity of the former gasworks site.

The EPA is currently doorknocking properties in the area and advising residents of the EPA's intentions to undertake indoor air sampling during the week commencing 7 March 2011.

As the testing is voluntary, the EPA is seeking your consent to allow it to collect indoor air sample(s) and to then send the sample(s) to a laboratory for testing of the above substances.

**There will be no cost to you for this work.**

At this stage, the exact location of the source of the soil vapour has not been determined and further investigation is underway. The EPA will provide further updates as information becomes available.

A map of the area that is being tested is attached for your information. For a more detailed map and more information about the EPA's Assessment, please visit the EPA website on [www.epa.sa.gov.au](http://www.epa.sa.gov.au). If you do not have internet access please call us and we can arrange to send further information to you.

In addition to this testing, the EPA is aware of groundwater contamination in the area associated with the former gasworks activities, and a groundwater exclusion zone has been in place for this polluted groundwater for a number of years.

As a precaution, the Department of Health and the EPA are reminding people not to use borewater for any purpose until further notice. Mains water and rainwater tanks are not affected from the volatile chemical substances identified in the groundwater.

The EPA is working closely with the Department for Health in conducting this assessment.

The EPA strongly encourages you to discuss this letter with an EPA Officer. Please call the EPA toll free on 1800 729 175 (8am to 8pm weekdays) or contact the EPA by email [epainfo@epa.sa.gov.au](mailto:epainfo@epa.sa.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

Peter Dolan  
**DIRECTOR, SCIENCE AND ASSESSMENT  
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY**

Date: 1 March 2011