

Media Release

Environment Protection Authority



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Landfill gas testing results: residential properties in Seacliff area

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No gas has been detected in any homes which have been tested for landfill gas in the Seacliff area.

The Environment Protection Authority, MFS, Holdfast Bay and Marion Councils conducted testing in an area of 138 homes last week after the Authority received information about the presence of landfill gas.

Tests conducted early on Thursday at the Seacliff Primary School cleared the school of any risk from gas.

EPA Chief Executive Helen Fulcher said that more than half the homes had been tested and this had provided the EPA with enough data to be confident that homes were not at risk from landfill gas.

"We were aware that the likelihood of any risk to homes or the school was extremely low, but we nevertheless wanted to take a precautionary approach to rule out any risk to residents," Ms Fulcher said.

Landfill gas was detected underground on the site of a former landfill which operated between the 1950s and 1970s, located near Scholefield Drive.

Landfill gas can migrate through soils and has the potential to accumulate in confined spaces such as service trenches, basements and isolated rooms. In extreme cases, it can pose a risk of explosion if ignited.

The EPA will now work with councils to conduct further investigations of the landfill and determine what actions need to be put in place to manage gas at the site.

Residents who were not home when tests were being conducted have been left a letter inviting them to contact the EPA and arrange for a time to have their home tested. While the EPA has concluded that the area is safe, residents in the sampling area can continue to contact the EPA's information line on 1800 729 175.

The sampling area was approximately 1 km² bordered by Pine Avenue, Brighton Road, Sherlock Road, and extending south along Angas Crescent and Keith Crescent to North Street.