



Government of South Australia

Department of Health

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 16th January, 2008

FURTHER WARNINGS AGAINST CONSUMPTION OF BORE WATER

The SA Department of Health is today expanding its warning to residents in the western suburbs against drinking groundwater or using bore-water for other domestic purposes such as swimming pools.

Tests have been carried out on bore-water samples taken from the Beverley and Woodville South area on December 19 last year, following the detection of levels of a chemical, trichloroethylene (TCE).

The Department of Health has organised ground water sample collection for seven residential bores in Woodville South. Five of those contained TCE at concentrations higher than the safety requirement.

Those residents have been alerted and advised to take appropriate precautions, and the Health Department has also written to more than one thousand residents in the general area to ensure they are informed.

The area of concern is bounded by Findon Road to the west; to the north, a line joining Gleneira St, Short St, Elford St and the beginning of Charles Road; along Port Road to Price Weir Ave; to the south, a line joining Price Weir Ave, Willsmore St, Alfred Ave, Godson St, Rollands St, Amanda Ave and Crittenden Road to Findon Road.

Health Department Acting Chief Medical Officer, Professor Paddy Phillips, said it's a good time to remind all residents to take care when using bore water.

"The SA Health Department recommends that bore water not be used for drinking water as a precaution," Professor Phillips said.

"TCE is an industrial chemical used widely as a metal cleaner and degreaser with potential links to cancer following long-term exposure."

"TCE is a widespread contaminant of ground water around the world. The level of toxicity we are seeing in the testing, however, is not believed to be at levels that are acutely dangerous to people. It is important though, that all residents in the area take appropriate precautions.

"People in the vicinity should not under any circumstance drink the groundwater. It is also unacceptable for irrigation and other domestic uses until further notice."

Professor Phillips said further groundwater testing will be carried out to assess the extent of contamination further north and east.

Enquiries: SA Health Media Line: (08) 822-66-488