

Media Release

Environment Protection Authority



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Allenby Gardens/Flinders Park – Groundwater Prohibition Area update

On 3 June 2013, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) informed approximately 650 residents in the Allenby Gardens/Flinders Park area that a water prohibition area was to be established by notice in the Government Gazette. This water prohibition area was determined on 13 June 2013 and is the first since amendments to the Environment Protection Act 1993 commenced in July 2009.

Residents were first advised in February 2013 of the proposal to prohibit the taking of groundwater. The contamination was a result of the historic excavation of clay material for brick-making, with subsequent uncontrolled backfilling of the excavation with industrial waste material. Chemicals in the waste materials had contaminated the groundwater.

The establishment of the prohibition area follows a three-month community information period undertaken by the EPA.

EPA Director of Science and Assessment Peter Dolan said that the information recently provided to residents in the area addressed questions and comments raised during the consultation period. Residents were also reminded of their responsibilities now that the prohibition is in effect.

“We have listened to the community and has decided that the establishment of a groundwater prohibition area remains the best approach to protect current and future residents from contaminated groundwater in the Allenby Gardens/Flinders Park area.

“The EPA will notify residents within the water prohibition area if there is a substantial change in the groundwater contamination and/or where a modification of the established area is warranted,” he added.

Under the Environment Protection Act 1993, it is now an offence to use groundwater for any purpose in the prohibition area with a maximum penalty of \$8,000.

For further information, frequently asked questions are available on the [EPA website](#) or the EPA can be contacted on 1800 729 175 on weekdays between 8 am to 5 pm.

For further information please contact Ros Agate: 0434 609 394