

EPA 05/19891

Dear Householder

GROUNDWATER AFFECTED BY SITE CONTAMINATION - ALLENBY GARDENS/FLINDERS PARK GROUNDWATER (BOREWATER) PROHIBITION AREA

The Allenby Gardens/Flinders Park Groundwater Prohibition Area

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is writing to advise that the EPA will establish a groundwater prohibition area within Allenby Gardens and Flinders Park. The groundwater prohibition will take effect from 23 May 2013. Your residence is situated within the groundwater prohibition area. The attached map identifies where the water prohibition area will be established.

Groundwater or bore water is water that occurs naturally under the ground and is brought to the surface for use. This is normally done with an electric pump or windmill. If you do not have a water bore or do not use ground/bore water, then the groundwater prohibition area will have no noticeable impact on you.

The use of mains water and rain water is not affected by the groundwater prohibition area.

The EPA will establish the groundwater prohibition area because it is satisfied that the groundwater, if used, might harm human health and that action is needed to prevent such use. The groundwater prohibition area includes the area of known groundwater contamination and a buffer zone surrounding the groundwater contamination.

Historical Background

Clay materials were historically excavated in the Allenby Gardens and Flinders Park area for brick making purposes. The resulting excavations (commonly referred to as pugholes) were subsequently filled with industrial and chemical waste until 1990. Over time chemical substances from these wastes have moved into the groundwater in the area, which has resulted in groundwater contamination. The chemical substances that have been detected in the groundwater are chlorinated solvents, including trichloroethene (TCE), dichloroethene (DCE) and vinyl chloride (VC).

For further information in relation to chlorinated solvents please refer to the attached Department of Health Fact Sheet: Chlorinated solvents in groundwater.

What does it mean for you?

The Department of Health has previously advised people in this area to not use groundwater. The EPA is now formalising this recommendation by establishing a groundwater prohibition area.

If you are a bore owner or if there is a bore on your property then from 23 May 2013 you will be prohibited from taking water from a bore (whether registered or unregistered) within the groundwater prohibition area. This prohibition only applies to wells that access the groundwater from 0 m – 25 m below the surface of the ground (Q1 or Q2 aquifer). If you have a bore and are unsure of the depth of the bore please contact the EPA.

You are not prohibited from taking water from a bore that accesses the deeper aquifers situated beneath the Q2 aquifer within the groundwater prohibition area.

Please note that it will be an offence to contravene the Prohibition (pursuant to section 103S of the *Environment Protection Act 1993*) and penalties do apply (up to an \$8000 fine).

Registered property owners are advised that the EPA must record the details of the groundwater prohibition area on the EPA's Public Register (pursuant to section 109(3)(id)(ii) of the *Environment Protection Act 1993*). Information will be made available to interested parties upon written enquiry to the Public Register Administrator of the EPA. Properties within the groundwater prohibition area will also be identified by the EPA when responding to enquiries under the *Land and Business (Sale & Conveyancing) Act 1994*.

For further information, please refer to the attached EPA Site Contamination: Groundwater prohibition notice and EPA: Frequently asked questions.

Further information and contacting the EPA

If you have any concerns or questions, or if you would like 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.

The EPA has also arranged two informal information sessions to be held at the Flinders Park Community Hall situated at 167 Grange Road, Beverley, between 9.30 and 11.00 am, on Saturday 16 February 2013 and between 6:00 – 8:00 pm, on Monday 18 February 2013. The sessions will be a drop-in style, anytime between the hours listed above where you will have the opportunity to meet with EPA staff and ask them any questions that you may have in relation to the groundwater prohibition area.

If you are interested in attending an information session could you please register your interest by leaving your name on the EPA toll free hotline on 1800 729 175 (8am to 8pm weekdays) or by email, EPASiteContam@epa.sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Peter Dolan

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

Date: 8 February 2013

Attachments:

- 1) EPA Map: Allenby Gardens and Flinders Park Prohibition Area
- 2) EPA Site Contamination: Groundwater prohibition notice
- 3) Department of Health Fact Sheet: Chlorinated solvents in groundwater
- 4) EPA: Frequently Asked Questions