

# Beverley and surrounding suburbs

## Environmental assessment program

### What is the environmental assessment program?

An environmental assessment program is planned in the Beverley area and surrounding suburbs to better understand the nature and extent of contamination to the east and west of Pope Street, Beverley. Contamination in this industrial area occurred historically when the chemical trichloroethene (TCE) was used in manufacturing as a metal cleaner and degreaser. At this time, the recommended method of disposal for TCE was to pour it on the soil to evaporate.

Previous assessment programs in this area have identified contamination in the groundwater. In 2008 the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) advised residents and businesses that bore water (groundwater) should not be used. As part of plans to formalise this advice through the implementation of a Groundwater Prohibition Area, the EPA has initiated some further assessment works to better understand the nature and extent of the contamination and inform the next steps in this process.

### What does the assessment process involve?

There are several stages to the assessment process, outlined in the diagram below:



### What work needs to be done?



*Small caps will be placed over each testing location*

The assessment works require the installation of a number of groundwater monitoring wells and soil vapour bores on public and industrial land within the assessment area. These locations have been identified based on the EPA's understanding of the local geography and groundwater movement in the area.

Locations will be finalised with the specialist environmental consultants who will be delivering the assessment program on behalf of the EPA, and may change depending on the location of other services in the area (such as water and sewer pipes), site access and ground conditions. The planned assessment works will include installation of approximately:

- 7 groundwater wells, approximately 8 and 10 metres deep
- Up to 20 soil vapour bores, between 1 and 4 metres deep
- Up to 20 soil bores, between 1 and 4 metres deep

Existing well locations in the area will also be sampled as part of this process.

### **What will I see in my street?**

Work to install the different types of wells will happen over 2 to 3 weeks. Different teams install the different types of wells, so you may see people coming and going from your street intermittently during this time.

The groundwater wells will be installed using a drill mounted on a large truck. The soil and soil vapour wells will be installed using smaller 4WD vehicles with drills mounted on the back. You can expect to see small teams of 2 to 3 people drilling each well. Team members will be wearing standard safety equipment including high visibility clothing, steel cap boots, safety glasses and gloves.



*A soil vapour bore being drilled on a road verge*

Sampling will occur a few weeks later, once the wells have settled. It usually takes between 2 and 4 hours to collect each sample and the work will be completed by small teams of 1 or 2 people.

There may be some local traffic management in place when teams are working in the street, however streets will remain open for local access. In addition you may also notice surveyors in local streets observing property construction types to inform the assessment process. No access to private properties will be required.

### **Will I be able to see the results?**

Yes, all results will be made available to the public on the EPA website and EPA Public Register.

Results are provided in a two-stage process. The first stage is the raw data produced through the laboratory analysis. This information will be posted online as it becomes available, however will not include any interpretation.

The second stage of results will be a full report and human health risk assessment. The full report is prepared by the specialist environmental consultant and provided to the EPA as the regulator for consideration and determination of next steps. Residents in the assessment area will be notified when the full report and human health risk assessment is available and provided with a written summary of the main findings along with information about how to access the reports online.

### **When will the assessment program start?**

The assessment program, including drilling and sampling is due to start the week commencing Monday 13 April 2015. The full report and human health risk assessment are expected to be available in July 2015. Residents and property owners within the assessment area will be notified when the reports are available.

### **Can I drink water and grow fruit and vegetables?**

Mains water provided by SA Water and water from rainwater tanks is not affected and is safe to use as normal. Previous advice to residents from the EPA to not use groundwater remains in place while these works are occurring. SA Health has advised that home grown fruit and vegetables are safe, provided they are not watered using contaminated groundwater.

### **More information**

If you would like more information about the environmental assessment program please contact the EPA Stakeholder Engagement Team on 1800 770 174 or at [EPASiteContam@epa.sa.gov.au](mailto:EPASiteContam@epa.sa.gov.au).