

EPA 05/19639; 60624

Dear Local Resident

Groundwater Contamination Investigations – Hendon, Seaton, Royal Park, Albert Park

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is writing to you in relation to possible groundwater contamination in the Hendon area. On 2 May 2012 the EPA was provided a report detailing groundwater contamination in the Hendon area. This report was prepared in late 1992. The historic information identified chemical substances in groundwater (bore water) in concentrations above the Australian Drinking Water Guideline values.

The information held by the EPA is historic in nature. However the EPA will be undertaking further environmental investigations to determine the current status of groundwater in the Hendon area.

As a precaution, the EPA and the Department of Health are advising you to not use bore water for any purpose until further notice. Mains water and rainwater tanks are not affected.

The historic report details per-chloroethene (PCE), tri-chloroethene (TCE) and di-chloroethene (DCE) in groundwater.

PCE & TCE are industrial solvents, and DCE is a breakdown product of both PCE and TCE.

TCE has been used historically for numerous uses including dry cleaning, decaffeinating coffee and anaesthetic gas in hospitals.

Experience worldwide has shown that solvents were disposed of or leaked from storage tanks to underlying soils. Once in the soil, these chemicals can move down to the water table and contaminate groundwater.

The area of the groundwater contamination has not yet been determined and more investigation is required. As it is not yet clear who caused this contamination, the EPA will be undertaking environmental investigations. This work will be completed in a staged approach and the EPA will provide further updates as information becomes available.

A map of the area being investigated by the EPA is provided on page 2. For a more detailed map and more information about the EPA's investigation, please visit the EPA website at www.epa.sa.gov.au. If you do not have internet access, please call us and we can arrange to send further information to you. This information is being sent to all residents within the EPA investigation area.

If there is a groundwater bore on your property, can you please contact the EPA on the toll free number provided below as the EPA would like to sample your bore as part of its environmental investigation.

Also if you have an underground structure such as a basement or a cellar, can you please contact the EPA as this might also be helpful for later stages of the EPA environmental investigation.

If you have any concerns of 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.

Yours sincerely



Peter Dolan

DIRECTOR, SCIENCE & ASSESSMENT DIVISION
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

Date: 14 May 2012

Hendon EPA Investigation Area

