

Media Release

Environment Protection Authority



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Update on environmental testing at Marleston

The Department of State Development has today letterbox dropped approximately 300 residential and commercial properties to the north, northwest and west of the former Marleston TAFE campus, to advise of the results of soil vapour sampling undertaken in September 2014.

Today's letterbox drop follows communication in July by DSD to residents and commercial properties in the assessment area of the results of the initial soil vapour sampling undertaken in residential areas during February this year.

The Environment Protection Authority's Operations Director Science, Assessment and Planning, Peter Dolan said the EPA has been informed that DSD has received advice from the independent site contamination auditor in relation to the results of the soil vapour sampling undertaken in residential areas in September 2014.

"The site contamination auditor's advice is that 'based on the most recent soil vapour sampling event undertaken in September 2014, there are no unacceptable risks to residential properties in this area'," Mr Dolan said.

"The auditor has indicated that these conclusions are consistent with previous advice regarding risks posed to offsite residential properties.

"The auditor noted that further sampling will be undertaken in the future to verify these findings and provide additional assurance regarding these conclusions."

The testing, in parts of Marleston, Netley, Richmond and West Richmond, aims to better understand the risks posed from the identified groundwater and soil-vapour contamination that is a result of historic industrial activities – particularly the presence of the industrial solvents, including trichloroethene (TCE).

Further assessment will be undertaken in the near future on the commercial property neighbouring the former TAFE site, on the north western boundary.

The latest findings confirm the results from earlier this year - which were communicated to residents and businesses in July.

Mr Dolan said DSD was undertaking the steps required by the EPA to manage the situation and was keeping residents informed.

"Residents and property owners in the area have previously been advised not to use bore water and this advice remains in place."

For further information please contact Ros Agate : 0434 609 394