

# Media Release

## Environment Protection Authority



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### **Further assessment planned for Beverley**

Further testing of known groundwater contamination at Beverley will commence next month around former and existing industrial sites.

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) testing will help determine whether the area becomes the State's second groundwater prohibition area.

The EPA has previously advised that chemical substances have been identified in groundwater at Beverley and surrounding suburbs and that groundwater should not be used for any purpose until further notice.

The testing focusses on the presence of trichloroethene (TCE), a commonly-used industrial solvent, which can pose a health risk when present in high concentrations. The existence of TCE in groundwater dates back to a time when the disposal practices for such chemicals were less regulated than they are today.

The EPA is currently informing all stakeholders, including residents and businesses in the assessment area, of the planned testing program via letter-box drop. Information sessions on the testing program will also be held in the coming weeks.

In addition, a Community Reference Group, made up of representatives from business, resident groups, local health and education bodies, Local Government and the EPA, will be established.

As part of investigations for declaring a groundwater prohibition area in Beverley - due to the known presence of groundwater contamination - the EPA has sought new advice from SA Health about risks associated with TCE in groundwater. The EPA and SA Health have agreed that further testing is warranted as a precaution.

The EPA's Operations Director Science, Assessment and Planning, Peter Dolan, says managing historic site contamination is something that regulators throughout the world are continually developing.

"We are relying on improved science and standards and we are applying that greater understanding to known areas of contamination," he said.

Under the Environment Protection Act, a groundwater prohibition area may be established to prohibit or restrict the taking of groundwater if site contamination exists and the EPA is satisfied that such action is warranted.

At Beverley, the original sources of TCE contamination have not been determined, due to the number of industries operating (or formerly operating) in the area. Therefore, the EPA is taking the lead role in testing work and analysis of results.

The testing will focus east and west of Pope St to determine the current status of groundwater and chemical vapours in soil. It will be undertaken in a staged approach, primarily on public land such as road reserves and footpaths.

A larger area surrounding the testing site (see attached map) is already subject to a notification from SA Health advising people not to use bore water.

The EPA will provide regular updates to residents and businesses in the area. The current letter reminds all landholders who have a bore, that borewater should not be used until further notice. Mains (tap) water provided by SA Water, and rainwater, is not affected.

Further information on the testing program, and previous site contamination assessments at Beverley, is available on the EPA website ([www.epa.sa.gov.au](http://www.epa.sa.gov.au)).

*The EPA's Operations Director Science, Assessment & Planning, Peter Dolan will be available for interview at the EPA (SA Water building, Victoria Square) at 2pm.*

**For further information please contact Ros Agate: 0434 609 394**