

Beverley and surrounding suburbs

Community Working Group meeting notes

Tuesday 16 June 2015, Maltese Cultural Centre 6 Jeanes Street, Beverley

Attendees

Name	Representation	Name	Representation
Tim Saul	EPA	John Moore	Resident
Laura Otradjian	EPA	Jayne Willcocks	Resident
Andrew Pruszinski	EPA	Mat Way	Resident
Mark Hassam	EPA	Tina Meakin	Resident
Adam Filipi	Charles Sturt Council	Julie O'Leary	Resident
Debra Harding	Charles Sturt Council	Susan Ovenden	Resident
Cr Edgar Agius OAM	Councillor, Charles Sturt	Stephen Prisco	Resident
Cr Mick Harley OAM	Councillor, Charles Sturt	Doug Scotney	Resident
		Tony Kyriacou	Resident

Apologies

- Lee-Anne Bails
- Ian Simcock

Discussion

A summary of the key questions and answers raised during the meeting are captured below.

▪ How was the EPA assessment area determined?

The current assessment area was determined based on data collected from the 2007/08 groundwater assessments. The area includes where high concentrations of groundwater contamination were identified at the time and groundwater assessment work was undertaken in 2015 to begin to understand where the boundaries of the contamination may be.

▪ Did you use information from industrial sites to understand what is happening in the area?

When groundwater contamination is found it must be reported to the EPA. This data reported for the industrial sites is certainly considered by the EPA in identifying potential areas of interest, and building our understanding of what is happening in the area.

- **Who are the major polluters?**

At this stage, the EPA does not have enough information to determine who the responsible parties may be. A number of companies who previously used TCE have operated in the Beverley industrial precinct over a long period of time, and it may be difficult to determine who contributed to the groundwater contamination and to what extent. The EPA is therefore undertaking the assessment program to better understand the nature and extent of contamination in order to protect the health and safety of the local community.

- **Does vapour move in a continuous mass or in pulses?**

Generally the vapour is always moving upwards from groundwater towards the ground surface. Many factors affect its movement including the depth to groundwater, contaminant concentration, soil types, soil moisture content and contaminant type.

- **Does vapour leave the soil?**

Vapour moves through soil finding the path of least resistance. Vapour dissipates in open air, but can become trapped in confined spaces. For this reason, the current assessment program focuses on understanding if soil vapour is present, if there is the potential for it to be entering homes and if so, if this is happening at safe levels.

- **When did the EPA become aware that soil vapour was a problem?**

The current assessment program is the first time soil vapour testing has been completed in Beverley. This type of testing was not a common part of standard assessment programs when the first round of groundwater assessment was completed in 2007/8. Based on advances in the science of measuring vapour, and the EPA's experience with soil vapour at other sites, it is becoming a more common part of environmental assessments. The EPA measured vapour in this area for the first time in 2015. The data from this work resulted in the EPA determining that further assessment is required.

- **Should we open windows?**

At this stage we have no information to suggest there is a risk to human health. A Human Health Risk Assessment will be undertaken based on the data we are currently collecting. Until we have this information we are not asking residents to take any action or make any changes to how they use their properties.

- **Can the soil be remediated?**

Soil vapour remediation is a developing science and typically requires groundwater remediation. Currently known methods of removing TCE from groundwater have varying levels of success and at this stage are prohibitively expensive. The EPA currently focuses on possible mitigation treatments for properties as a more effective method for managing any risk of indoor soil vapour.

- **How far down is the groundwater?**

Groundwater levels vary slightly across the area, but generally between 7m – 8m below ground.

- **Are fruit trees affected by soil vapour?**

SA Health has advised that home grown fruit and vegetables are safe to consume, provided they are not watered using contaminated groundwater.

- **How do the results for Beverley compare to Clovelly Park? Do we need to be relocated?**

At this stage, the EPA does not have enough information to determine predicted indoor air levels for the assessment area at Beverley. It is very rare to recommend relocation. The circumstances at Clovelly Park were unique as there was a number of years of data available to understand what may be happening in the area. Additionally, at Clovelly Park, site history in conjunction with this data suggested to the EPA that the properties may have been built on top of land where TCE was disposed of directly to the soil, which required further action.

- **How will you manage private properties if the predicted indoor air levels are high?**

Any next steps will be guided by the predicted indoor air levels framework. It is likely that one of the next steps will require further assessment to enable the EPA to better focus on areas of interest. Once we have received the report, the EPA will engage with any residents regarding individual next steps required, but at this stage we do not know what they will be.

Actions

- Tim Saul committed to emailing a copy of the proposed draft Terms of Reference to group for comments to finalise at the next meeting of the CWG.
- The group requested further information on the following topics at the next meeting:
 - Comparison of the groundwater data from the 2008 assessment with current raw data
 - Any available information regarding TCE exposure and health, recognising much of the information available is based on occupational exposures
 - General mitigation measures and what may be relevant to Beverley.
- A copy of the presentation provided and draft meeting notes summarising key questions will be sent to CWG members. The final notes will be uploaded on to the website once agreed by the group.

Next meeting

- The CWG indicated they would like to meet again before the second report stage is available, and confirmed Tuesday 7 July 2015.
- Tim Saul indicated meeting notes summarising key questions and actions would be prepared and distributed to the group. The group was encouraged to share notes with interested neighbours in the area, however are asked to advise the EPA if additional members will be attending the next meeting.
- The Group were invited to send through any further questions they would like answered at the next meeting.

More information

Community Information line 1800 770 174

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