



## **SITE CONTAMINATION**

**Community information session  
Thebarton assessment area**

**23 May 2017**



## Summary

This report summarises the community information session held on 23 May 2017, for residents within the Thebarton assessment area. The purpose of the session was to inform residents about the site contamination work the EPA is undertaking at this orphan site.



*Attendees talk to staff at the Torrensville Bowling Club, 88 South Road Torrensville*

## Thebarton – ‘orphan site’ under assessment by the EPA

An ‘orphan’ site is a term used to describe a situation where there is site contamination and the original polluter no longer exists, cannot be found or identified, or is unable to carry out or pay the costs of the assessment or remediation that is required.

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has a prioritised works programme to investigate contaminated sites where it holds enough information to warrant further investigation into whether there is a potential human health risk.

The EPA holds information on two sites in the Thebarton assessment area. The first site, located on George Street, was a former metal processing site and there is significant groundwater contamination (trichloroethene, TCE) in the vicinity of this site. TCE contamination in groundwater has also been identified at the second site, located on Smith Street, however the EPA does not consider the Smith Street site to be a source site.

There are likely to be multiple source sites in the Thebarton assessment area. Assessment work is required to confirm source locations, and where possible determine liable persons.

## Community engagement approach

The Environment Protection Authority embarked on a community information approach that involved the following:

- A tailored letter to residents in the assessment area (369 residents) advising that the EPA is planning on undertaking environmental assessment works in Thebarton. The letter included contact details for the Principal Adviser, Community Engagement, a map of the assessment area and an invite to the community information session.
- The community information session for residents and interested parties provided the opportunity for the community to meet with representatives from the Site Contamination team of the EPA.

- Emailing and meeting with Renewal SA to provide a list of Certificates of Titles that were owned by community housing associations such as Housing SA and are affected by the assessment area - notifying them of the groundwater restrictions.
- Responding to incoming emails and phone calls from stakeholders, which were received directly to the Principal Adviser, Community Engagement, via the site contamination inbox and indirectly via CARES.
- Three fact sheets were provided on the following topics:
  - a Site contamination – general information and role of the EPA
  - b Thebarton key messages
  - c Thebarton fact sheet
- Soil vapour and groundwater contamination cross section diagrams.
- A further fact sheet was provided to those who wanted more information on 'Trichloroethene (TCE)' produced by SA Health.
- Maps were provided that showed the estimated locations of the 37 temporary soil vapour bores, additional 15 soil vapour bores and 20 groundwater monitoring wells.
- Website update.



*Site contamination banners were on display, featuring diagrams of groundwater and soil vapour contamination*

## Community engagement objectives

The purpose of the community information session was to:

- Explain to residents that the EPA has developed a works programme to determine whether soil vapour contamination exists in this area.
- To communicate with residents in the EPA assessment area that the results will be communicated once they have been analysed.
- Explain that the auditor is a specialist expert that is accredited by the EPA, and that the EPA has completed an administrative review of his report and is satisfied that it meets the criteria for a site contamination assessment report.

- Advise those living within the assessment area boundary not use groundwater (bore water) for any purpose.
- To establish trusting relationships with members of the community that are genuinely interested in finding out more about site contamination in Thebarton. This involves the EPA being a friendly host and welcoming members of the community to make them feel comfortable and reassured, and providing follow up requests for information that continue to establish confidence and trust.

## Community information session

A total of 10 people attended the community information session held on Tuesday 23 May 2017 from 6–9 pm at the Torrensville Bowling Club. Attendees sat at one of the six tables to talk with EPA staff and spent around 15-30 minutes at the session on average.

The atmosphere was very positive and there were no aggressive or agitated participants. No media announced their presence or appeared to attend the event.

Attendees from the EPA Site Contamination team were Dale McGill (A/Principal Adviser Site Contamination), Shannon Thompson (A/Adviser, Site Contamination), Mitchell Talbot (Site Contamination Officer), Taryn Collation (Adviser Site Contamination), Heidi Hessling (Site Contamination Officer), Gaby Wigley (Senior Adviser Hydrology), Lisa Lalic (Media and Communications Officer), Peter Dolan (Director Regulation) and Sarah Verdonk (Community Engagement Officer).

The people who attended were genuinely interested in hearing about the works and what the residual contamination meant for them living within the EPA assessment area.

## Next steps

Next steps will be to undertake the assessment works and report them back to residents in the assessment area.

## Further information

*For further information please contact:*

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