

Media Release

Environment Protection Authority



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Indoor air testing at Clovelly Park

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has been advised by Monroe Australia Pty Ltd that from tomorrow it will commence indoor air and soil vapour testing at nine residential properties within the Chestnut Court area at Clovelly Park.

The EPA has also been informed by Monroe and the independent auditor, that the results of recent testing (September 2012) found levels of trichloroethylene (TCE) in soil vapour on council land and road verges within the existing groundwater contamination area.

Monroe has engaged a site contamination consultant to undertake the soil vapour assessment at areas on and off the Monroe property. All environmental assessment work is being reviewed by an independent, EPA accredited site contamination auditor.

The solvents that are the cause of the contamination were used in many industries over a long period of time, including for cleaning metal parts and plastics. Investigations are continuing to identify the sources that may have contributed to this contamination.

The indoor air sampling will be undertaken by Monroe's site contamination consultant and involve sampling the air over three days. The samples will be collected on Monday 17 December and sent to a specialist laboratory for analysis. The results will be available in early January.

Yesterday, the nine residents were door knocked and advised of the work being undertaken by Monroe, with a further 40 homes in the area letterbox dropped for information only.

According to EPA Director Science and Assessment Peter Dolan, the EPA will continue to actively oversee the assessment and remediation of the chlorinated hydrocarbon plume that extends off the Monroe property.

"In September this year residents were advised that further testing would be undertaken involving existing vapour bores located on council property and road verges.

"Results of the soil vapour testing were reported to the independent site contamination auditor for review by Monroe's consultant in October, and the EPA received the auditor's review last week.

"The results showed that there were high levels of trichloroethylene (TCE) reported in the soil vapour and that further investigation was warranted to determine whether or not there is a vapour intrusion risk in any of the identified residences.

"Monroe is cooperating fully with the EPA and undertaking all necessary steps to deal with the situation as quickly and effectively as possible and to keep residents and the EPA fully informed," said Mr Dolan.

For further information please contact Ros Agate: 0434 609 394

In November 2008 Department of Health and Ageing and the EPA advised residents not to use bore water for any purpose after traces of the chemicals TCE and vinyl chloride were found in groundwater off the Monroe and former Mitsubishi properties.

At that time soil vapour sampling was undertaken at 60 locations across Clovelly Park, Mitchell Park, Bedford Park and St Marys. Indoor and outdoor air sampling was also carried out at 30 residences.

An independent auditor was first appointed to the site in 2009 and since then there has been significant environmental assessment work undertaken by the consultant on and off site.

“This is an historic site for which there is no quick fix. Monroe with their consultant and the auditor are working as quickly as possible to deal with the issues,” said Mr Dolan.

For further information, frequently asked questions are available on the EPA website or the EPA can be contacted on 1800 729 175 on weekdays between 8am to 8 pm.

This also confirms the EPA’s advice that bore owners anywhere should regularly test their bores to ensure they are fit for purpose.