

EPA 05/19572

Dear owner/occupier

Contamination investigation – southern Edwardstown

Recent information received by the EPA suggests that chemicals may be present in groundwater bores in your area at levels above drinking water guidelines. As a precaution, the EPA and SA Health are advising people not to use bore water for any purpose until further notice. Mains water and rainwater tanks are not affected.

The EPA is sending this letter to all residents who live in the area who are potentially impacted by this contamination. You will find enclosed with this letter an SA Health leaflet advising on the safe use of bore water.

The chemicals are likely to be associated with known contamination arising from the former Bridgestone facility at Edwardstown, first identified in the 1990s. Bridgestone Australia Ltd implemented extensive assessment and remediation works as well as community consultation at the time. Bridgestone Australia Ltd have since carried out ongoing groundwater monitoring and provided the results to the EPA.

The chemicals which have been found are fuels and industrial solvents which were used widely in the past as a metal cleaner and degreaser. The chemicals are chlorinated hydrocarbons known as trichloroethene (TCE) and dichloroethene (DCE). TCE is an industrial solvent; and DCE is a product occurring from the break down of trichloroethene in the environment.

Experience worldwide has shown that solvents and fuels have, in the past, been disposed of to underlying soils or have leaked from storage tanks. Once in the soil, these chemicals can move down to the water table and contaminate groundwater.

Further investigation is underway to determine the extent of this groundwater contamination. The EPA and SA Health are taking the immediate precautionary step of providing information to the local community, such as advising that borewater not be used, while investigations take place. The EPA will provide further updates as information becomes available.

The area includes a section where the issuing of permits for new groundwater wells has been restricted since 2007. This was in response to groundwater contamination issues at the former Bridgestone facility located at Edwardstown.

A map of the area being investigated is over the page. For a more detailed map and more information about the EPA's investigation, please visit the EPA website on <www.epa.sa.gov.au>. If you do not have

internet access please call us and we can arrange to send further information to you.

If you have any concerns or questions, or if you would like to discuss this letter with an EPA officer, please call the EPA toll free on 1800 729 175 (8 am to 8 pm weekdays) or contact the EPA by email <EPA:sitecontam@epa.sa.gov.au>.

Yours sincerely



Helen Fulcher

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

Date: 6 July 2011

Southern Edwardstown investigation area

