

EPA 05/17652

Dear owner/occupier

### **Update on contamination in Edwardstown, South Plympton**

This letter is to update you on progress in the ongoing investigation of groundwater contamination in Edwardstown and South Plympton.

#### **Groundwater testing**

The EPA has been provided with the results of groundwater testing at a further ten monitoring wells, installed to determine the extent of the groundwater impacts associated with the former Hills Industries site.

An analysis of the results is being carried out as part of a detailed risk assessment in accordance with EPA guidelines. This report is expected to be provided to the independent site contamination auditor and the EPA by the end of July/early August.

As a precaution, the EPA and SA Health are continuing to advise people to not to use bore water for any purpose until further notice. Mains water and rainwater tanks are not affected.

#### **Indoor vapour testing**

Ongoing testing and investigation is required as there is a possibility that the levels of the chemicals in indoor air could vary over time. A sampling program to evaluate the long term risk associated with the identified indoor air concentrations is to be implemented in the area within the next 3 months. This time is required to develop an appropriate sampling plan which ensures the information required for the evaluation is provided.

We sincerely appreciate the patience and cooperation of residents who have assisted us with this indoor vapour testing process.

#### **Audit process**

The independent site contamination auditor will continue to review all assessment and remediation works undertaken in relation to this issue as part of the audit being carried out at the former Hills Industries site. The role of the EPA is to overview and administer the audit process.

#### **Recent media coverage**

You may have noticed recent media articles concerning groundwater contamination found in a domestic bore in southern Edwardstown. While the chemical substances that have been found are similar, this contamination appears unrelated to the former Hills Industries site. The EPA has prepared a letter to

ensure land owners and occupiers in this other area are aware of the information and will be advising people not to use bore water for any purpose until further notice.

### Next steps

We will continue to inform residents and other stakeholders to ensure they are kept updated and informed on the results of the groundwater contamination and indoor air sampling.

We will continue to publish updated frequently asked questions and answers on the EPA website ([www.epa.sa.gov.au](http://www.epa.sa.gov.au) via the What's New list on the home page) and you are always most welcome to call the EPA on 82042000 for any other questions you might have. We will also keep you informed via further letters when new information is available.

Yours sincerely



Helen Fulcher

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY**

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