

EPA 05/17652

Dear Local Resident

Contamination investigations – Edwardstown, South Plympton

Hazardous chemicals have been found in groundwater bores in your area.

As a precaution the Department of Health and the EPA are advising people not to use borewater for any purpose until further notice. Mains water and rainwater tanks are not affected.

The chemicals which have been found are fuels and industrial solvents which were used widely in the past as a metal cleaner and degreaser. Experience worldwide has shown that solvents and fuels in the past were disposed of or leaked from storage tanks to underlying soils. Once in the soil, these chemicals can move down to the water table and contaminate groundwater.

The chemicals have been measured in some groundwater bores in your area at levels above the Australian Drinking Water Guideline values.

The extent of the contamination has not yet been determined and more testing needs to be done. The EPA and Department of Health are taking precautionary steps, such as advising that borewater not be used, while this testing takes place. The EPA will provide further updates as information becomes available.

The chemical substances include petroleum (petrol) hydrocarbons and chlorinated hydrocarbons. The chlorinated hydrocarbons are known as TCE (trichloroethene), PCE (perchloroethene), DCE (dichloroethene) and vinyl chloride. TCE and PCE are industrial solvents; DCE and vinyl chloride are breakdown products of TCE.

TCE has also been used historically for dry cleaning, decaffeinating coffee and anaesthetic gas in hospitals. Vinyl chloride is commonly used in the manufacture of PVC piping and other plastics.

A map of the area being tested 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.

The EPA is sending this letter to all residents who live in the area where contamination might exist.

You will find enclosed with this letter a Department of Health leaflet advising on the safe use of borewater.

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 <epainfo@epa.sa.gov.au>.

Yours sincerely

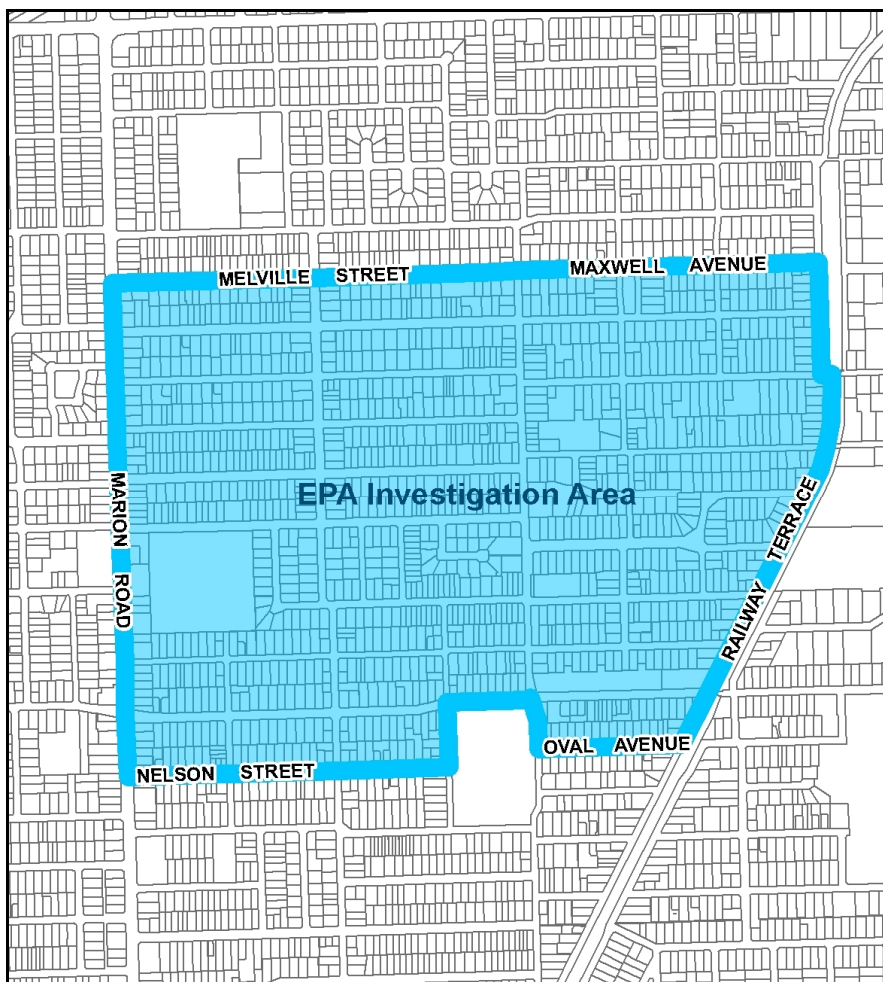


Helen Fulcher

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

Date: 23 February 2011



Edwardstown and South Plympton EPA investigation area