

Media Release

Environment Protection Authority



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Tuesday 26 July 2011

No benzene found in Klemzig backyards

EPA tests have found there is no evidence of a risk to residents in the Klemzig area from contaminated groundwater found on the site of a former smallgoods factory.

Benzene has only been found in groundwater at the former smallgoods factory site.

Following receipt of data relating to the potential groundwater contamination in late July, the EPA conducted a doorknock of properties with registered wells within a 500-metre radius of the site on 17 August 2010.

Of the 17 registered wells identified, four were sampled on 17 and 18 August to determine if a risk to residents was likely to exist.

While the majority of the 17 wells no longer existed, could no longer be accessed or were not in use by the residents, the potential for groundwater risk was addressed with all of these home owners/occupants.

The EPA tested the four groundwater wells that were in active use by residents for total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH), BTEX, lead and methyl t-butyl ether (mtbe).

Results showed that in three of the four tested wells, groundwater contaminants that were being looked for were not found.

In one property, the laboratory reported some TPH fractions, that were indicative of hydrocarbons associated with diesel, were found. This groundwater well was subsequently re-tested on both the 22 August 2010 and 17 November 2010 and analysed for the petroleum hydrocarbons described above. No contaminants were found.

All the residential properties sampled were advised of the testing results by phone and writing on 20 October 2010. The fourth property also received a further letter from the EPA on 20 December.

The EPA will continue to investigate this matter to determine the source of the contamination identified at the former smallgoods factory site.

As per usual advice provided, the EPA reinforced to groundwater bore owners that they must carry out regular testing of water quality to ensure the water is fit for purpose.

In mid-April this year, following the Edwardstown contamination announcement, the EPA enhanced its approach to public communication on these issues, which includes placing a notice in the local paper regarding the receipt of a groundwater contamination report. A copy of the public communications statement is available on the [EPA website](#).

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