

Media Release

Environment Protection Authority



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Fire impact on wetlands expected to be temporary

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The Environment Protection Authority says the impact of contaminated water from the Wingfield factory fire on the Barker Wetlands is expected to be temporary.

Water used to put out the blaze ran into the stormwater system and has been contained in the wetlands. The contaminated water is expected to contain organic compounds and some chemicals.

“We are keeping a close watch on the situation, but the wetlands are designed to receive and assimilate polluted water – which they do all the time when they receive stormwater runoff,” EPA Senior Scientific Officer Clive Jenkins said.

“This is a similar situation to last September following a fire in a Kilburn factory. The impact was temporary and the wetlands recovered.

“The contaminated water will be left in the wetlands to allow the wetlands to do their job, and break down the pollutants, before the water is allowed to be released.”

The EPA will continue to liaise with the MFS and Council and monitor the situation.

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