

# Media Release

## Environment Protection Authority



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## Preliminary results lead to more tests in Beverley

The EPA has received a preliminary report consolidating the various stages of ongoing work in the Beverley assessment area, to identify the presence of *trichloroethene* (TCE) on private and commercial properties.

The results are based on scientific modelling of accumulated data from outdoor soil tests that have taken place during the year.

EPA Director Science, Assessment and Planning, Peter Dolan said the data is analysed through a conservative modelling process, which is designed to over-predict potential TCE levels, in order to ensure that no properties are missed. The most recent results identify properties in the Beverley area requiring more attention.

“We are now in the process of personally visiting approximately 40 properties to advise its residents that individual assessments will be required, including some indoor sampling to determine with greater accuracy the air quality inside these homes,” he said.

“Once we’ve determined a better understanding of the air quality in these homes we will be able to work out appropriate solutions to reduce TCE vapour levels,” Mr Dolan said.

In April, the EPA began an environmental assessment program in the Beverley area and surrounding suburbs to pinpoint the nature and extent of TCE contamination while also attempting to identify its source to determine whether liability can be attributed to a polluter.

“There have been a number of companies that operated in the Beverley industrial precinct over a long period of time, although most are now no longer there, so it is difficult to determine who has contributed to the groundwater contamination and to what extent,” Mr Dolan said.

Previous assessment work in this area identified TCE contamination in groundwater and in soil vapour.

Assessment works during the year have involved the installation of a number of sampling points on public and private land within the assessment area, including:

- Groundwater sampling at seven new and five existing locations,
- Soil vapour sampling at various depths across more than 80 public locations,
- Soil vapour sampling in the yards of 15 privately owned residential and commercial properties, and;
- Indoor air testing at four properties.

During this process the EPA has maintained regular contact with local residents through personal home visits, letters and emails.

Environmental and human health risk assessment reports from the Beverley assessment area are being finalised and will be published on the EPA website next week.

**NOTE: Peter Dolan will be available to the media in the foyer of SA Water House - 250 Victoria Square at 2pm today**

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**For further information please contact Chris Metevelis: 0439 137 641**