

# Media Release

## Environment Protection Authority



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## Auditor's report for former Hills Industries site

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has recently received the site contamination auditor's report for the northern part of the former Hills Industries site.

This report marks the final stage in an assessment process which the EPA has been overseeing since 2009, after chemicals were detected in groundwater at levels above the [Australian Drinking Water Guideline values](#).

The chemicals found were fuels and industrial solvents, primarily tetrachloroethene (or perchloroethene, PCE) and some trichloroethene (TCE) which were commonly used in the past by industry as metal cleaners and degreasers.

Residents and property owners in the Edwardstown-South Plympton area were first advised by the EPA in February 2011 not to use bore water (underground water) for any purpose until further notice.

This advice still applies to the [area](#) – which is bounded by Marion Road to the west, Oval Terrace and Nelson Street to the south, Railway Terrace to the east and Maxwell Avenue and Melville Street to the north.

Mains water supplied by SA Water and water from rainwater tanks are not affected by this issue.

In 2011, the EPA also undertook indoor air sampling of some houses, to investigate whether there were any potential risks from vapour intrusion, with PCE levels found to have been below the appropriate health guideline value and posed no health risks.

In 2012, Hills Industries engaged an environmental consultant for further assessment of groundwater contamination that has now been reviewed by an auditor.

The auditor reports there is no unacceptable health risks but that consideration be given to establishing a Groundwater Prohibition Area (GPA) to formalise previous advice to not use groundwater.

The auditor also made recommendations for future developments and the management of the former Hills Industries site.

The EPA has now written to local residents advising them that the audit report will likely be the first step in establishing a Groundwater Prohibition Area (GPA).

Residents are invited to meet with EPA staff at forthcoming community information sessions by phoning 1800 729 175 or email [epasitecontam@sa.gov.au](mailto:epasitecontam@sa.gov.au) for further information.

These sessions will be held on Saturday 2 April, at Forbes Primary School, 80 Thomas Street, South Plympton between 10am and 12 noon and on Tuesday 5 April at Active Elders Hall, 27A Charles Street, Ascot Park between 7pm and 9pm.

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