

Media Release

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EPA tells Thebarton residents of preliminary results

The EPA has been in contact with 17 property owners in the Thebarton area following preliminary results from soil vapour testing conducted between May and August.

EPA Director Regulation Peter Dolan said preliminary data showed high concentrations of trichloroethene (TCE) in some areas.

The final report is yet to be compiled as more testing will be carried out.

The assessment works involved the installation of 37 temporary soil vapour bores, 13 permanent soil vapour bores and 25 groundwater monitoring wells.

“The preliminary results of the raw data indicates that high concentrations of TCE at 1m below ground level in the vicinity of a small number of properties, including commercial sites, within the assessment area boundary,” Mr Dolan said.

“To better understand the potential risk to residents, the EPA on Friday and Saturday has directly contacted those affected to seek permission to undertake testing of indoor air and subflooring.

“The testing is expected to take a couple of weeks and results will be provided to residents as soon as they are available,” he said.

Environmental assessment activities in the area are part of a program developed to investigate orphan sites where the EPA has enough information about previous land use to call for assessments to determine if there is a potential health risk.

The groundwater contamination in Thebarton is believed to be associated with past industrial practices that used the chemical TCE.

The final environmental assessment report is due to be completed by November 2017.

The EPA has advised residents in the environmental assessment area not to use their bore for any purpose.

Anyone in the assessment area who has concerns can contact the EPA on 1800 729 175 or for advice on health contact SA Health on 82267100.

For further information please contact EPA Media: 0439 137 641 or epamedia@sa.gov.au

Environment Protection Authority