

Media release



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EPA informs Unley residents of further environmental assessments

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has written to residents in the Unley assessment area advising of the second stage of work due to begin next week.

This further work has been extended beyond the initial environmental assessment area and will determine the extent of the groundwater contamination and soil vapour contamination further to the east and west of the original zone.

The newly expanded assessment area is bounded by Hughes St, King William Road, Austell Street and Unley Road.

The EPA informed selected Unley residents last year of the need for environmental assessment to determine if historically used chemicals, such as trichloroethene (TCE) were entering residential indoor air.

Residents were advised in July 2017 that all properties in the Unley assessment area were safe from soil vapour intrusion.

Historical land use in the Unley assessment area is believed to include refrigeration manufacturing, furniture manufacturing, cabinet making, boot making and drapery.

EPA Manager Site Contamination Andrew Pruszinski says the initial testing identified soil vapour contamination has originated from the contaminated groundwater.

“We now need to do further work to determine the extent of this contamination. This will mean further groundwater and soil vapour assessments.

“This will not be disruptive to residents however they may notice contractors in their area as they install additional groundwater wells and soil vapour bores in footpaths and roadways,” Mr Pruszinski said.

“We expect to receive the results from this testing in October 2018 and will provide this information to the residents and property owners once this has been provided,” he said.

This Stage 2 environmental assessment work will begin on Monday 11 June.

The EPA reminds all residents that groundwater (bore water) in this area is contaminated and should not be used for any purpose.

Mains water and water from rainwater tanks are not affected by this issue. Home grown fruit and vegetables are safe to consume, provided they are not watered with contaminated bore water.

Further information, including Stage One report, maps and fact sheets is available from the EPA website www.epa.sa.gov.au. Follow the links to ‘site contamination’ then ‘assessment areas’.