

Thursday 19 July 2018

EPA approves licences for SA Water sites

The Environment Protection Authority has approved an application(s) from SA Water for the temporary storage of asbestos cement pipes at 21 sites across the State.

The licences have been issued following extensive community consultation and will enable short-term storage of pipes, removed during repair work, at a nearby local secure facility until they can be transferred to an appropriate EPA-licensed waste facility.

The licences are for SA Water sites including depots and waste water treatment plants.

EPA Manager Investigations and Waste Compliance Stephen Barry said there had been a high level of community interest and concern and that the EPA took community feedback into account when determining licence conditions.

“As part of the review of the licence application, the EPA inspected all sites. SA Water has reviewed its storage procedures and made further improvements to ensure the asbestos would be stored in secure, lockable storage bins and that these were located in secure areas,” Mr Barry said.

“The EPA licences will contain conditions outlining the appropriate receipt, handling and temporary storage of the material. The material will be required to be securely wrapped, signposted, and stored in a covered locked bin or compound.

“These licence conditions, and SafeWork SA safe handling and storage practices, are designed to ensure that the short-term storage is safe for SA Water workers, the public and the environment.”

SA Water was provided with copies of community submissions – with names removed – so that they could consider the issues raised; SA Water’s response to those submissions is publicly available on the SA Water website at <https://www.sawater.com.au/community-and-environment/environmental-commitments/response-to-public-submissions>

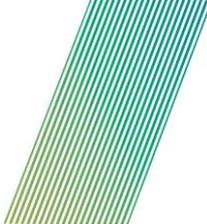
“SA Water advised the EPA that it has conducted extensive additional engagement with the community, including doorknocking and speaking direct with residents, and offering tours of their sites to demonstrate how the materials will be safely stored,” Mr Barry said.

The EPA licences are for the short-term storage of asbestos only and do not allow for any treatment or processing and recycling of asbestos.

SA Water originally proposed 31 sites across the State but has withdrawn a number of applications. SA Water advised the EPA that it was withdrawing 10 sites as it found opportunities to amalgamate some regions’ storage to another of its remote sites.

The EPA received 165 public submissions. Copies of the EPA licences, including licence conditions, are available on the EPA website at https://www.epa.sa.gov.au/data_and_publications.

A list of sites is attached.



Media release



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SA Water depots granted an EPA licence for the temporary storage of asbestos:

Kadina
Kingscote
Port Elliot
Roseworthy
Woodside
Ceduna
Streaky Bay
Wudinna
Cleve
Port Lincoln
Clare
Crystal Brook
Jamestown
Morgan (Wastewater Treatment Plant)
Quorn
Bordertown
Loxton
Mount Gambier
Murray Bridge
Happy Valley
Hope Valley

Sites withdrawn:
Nurioopta
Yorketown
Whyalla Playford
Port Augusta
Port Pirie West
Naracoorte
Robe
Bolivar
Gawler
Millicent

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