



Media release



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SA Water licence application

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has received an application for the temporary secure storage of asbestos containing material at 7 SA Water sites.

If approved, the additional locations will be added to the existing licences that SA Water were issued in July 2018 to temporarily store asbestos-containing material such as asbestos cement pipes, removed during maintenance work in the local area prior to being taken to an appropriate EPA-licensed landfill.

In line with normal procedure, neighbouring properties of these sites have been contacted by the EPA, informing them of the application and providing the opportunity to raise any concerns or seek further information.

The new sites are at SA Water's wastewater treatment plants at Angaston, Naracoorte, Mullaquana near Whyalla, Port Augusta and Risdon Park at Port Pirie, as well as the Ramsay Pump Station in Ramsay and Bore 14 in Kingston.

This follows the issue of licences in July for SA Water to store asbestos pipes at 21 sites in the Adelaide metropolitan area and hills, Eyre Peninsula, Mid North, South East and Riverland.

EPA Manager Investigations and Waste Compliance Stephen Barry said the EPA had informed nearby residents and as with the previously licensed sites, community feedback would play a role in determining the licence conditions.

"The EPA has inspected all the new storage sites to ensure they are suitable for the short-term storage of pipes until they can be transferred to an appropriate EPA-licensed waste facility," Mr Barry said.

"None of the depots are to be used for any treatment, processing or recycling of asbestos – they are for short-term storage only until the pipes can be transferred to an EPA-approved waste facility.

"The licence conditions for all storage sites require SA Water to meet SafeWork SA's safe handling and storage practices by securely wrapping all material containing asbestos, storing it in a covered and locked bin or compound, and properly signposting it."

Originally, SA water applied to use 31 sites for temporary storage but it was able to amalgamate some regions, reducing the total number of proposed sites to 28.

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