

# Media release



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## Groundwater Prohibition Area for Glenelg East

The Environment Protection Authority is establishing a Groundwater Prohibition Area for parts of Glenelg East, Glenelg South, Glenelg and Glengowrie.

EPA Director, Regulation Peter Dolan said the decision was made following consultation with the community.

“The Groundwater Prohibition Area comes into effect from 20 December 2018, and is the final step in protecting the community from chemical contamination in the area’s groundwater,” Mr Dolan said.

“We asked residents some time ago not to use their bore water for any purpose, but the engagement process was invaluable in helping us understand how current bore owners were using their bore water, and from what depth they were taking it.

“Following this consultation, we have altered the proposed prohibition area so that residents who are accessing the uncontaminated deeper aquifers will be able to continue to do so.

“Councils and schools will also continue to be able to use bore water for irrigation, as they access the much deeper Tertiary aquifer, which is not affected.

“There is no problem with the area’s soil, or with eating home-grown produce, so long as it has not been irrigated with bore water.

“Mains water and rainwater are not affected by this contamination, so both are safe options for watering backyard vegetable gardens.”

The groundwater contamination is currently limited to parts of Glenelg East and Glenelg, but the proposed prohibition area also takes in sections of Glenelg South and Glengowrie (see attached map), as this will help avoid spreading the contamination further.

The Glenelg East area has seen significant historical use of chemicals, including perchloroethene (PCE) and trichloroethene (TCE) used at a former dry cleaning business.

Other chemicals found include petroleum hydrocarbons from degraded underground storage tanks at a service station, and heavy metals and cyanide from a former blacksmith’s forge.

These compounds can cause health problems if people are exposed to high enough concentrations over long periods of time.

Exposure is usually through drinking groundwater or using it to water vegetables, or through vapour entering buildings through cracks in floorboards or concrete slabs.

Mr Dolan said residents were notified in April that computer modelling had consistently predicted there is no risk from vapour intrusion in their homes.

“Basements may have an elevated risk from vapour because they are closer to the groundwater, so we are encouraging anyone with underground rooms to get in touch with the EPA,” he said.

The EPA has already established Groundwater Prohibition Areas in [Edwardstown and the surrounding suburbs](#), and the [Allenby Gardens/Flinders Park area](#).

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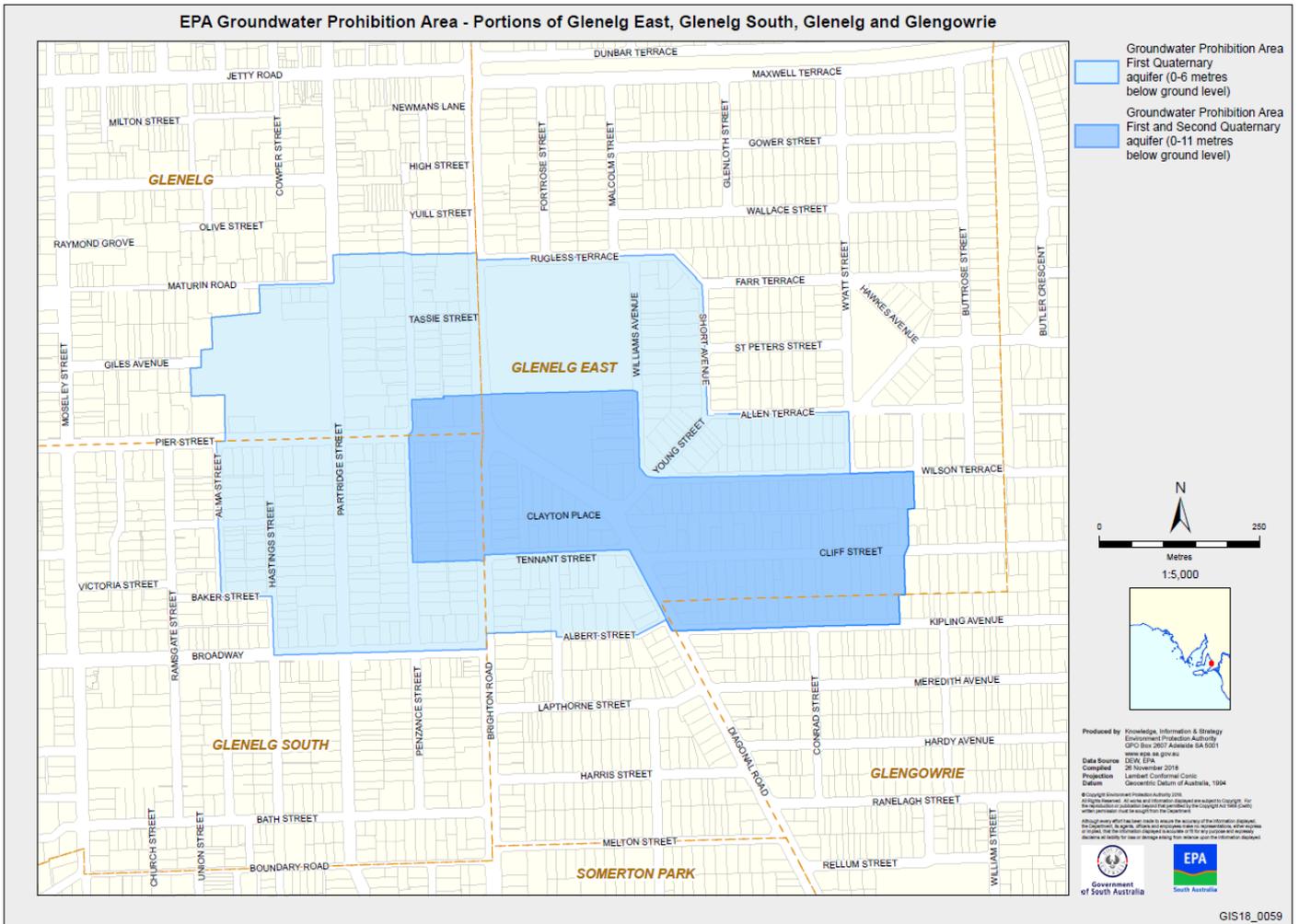
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In a prohibition area, it is illegal to use groundwater above certain depths for any purpose, and a maximum penalty of \$8,000 applies.

For further information, please visit [www.engage.epa.sa.gov.au](http://www.engage.epa.sa.gov.au), telephone 8124 4216 or email [engage.epa@sa.gov.au](mailto:engage.epa@sa.gov.au).



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