



Media release



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Soil vapour testing in Albert Park

The Environment Protection Authority will soon begin digging bores to test for hazardous soil vapour near a former factory in Albert Park.

The Murray Street site was used by a number of industries during the post-war period, including a company that manufactured tin cans between 1940 and 1984.

EPA Director Regulation, Peter Dolan, said the EPA first became aware of chemical contamination in the area last year when a consultant reported test results.

“In coming weeks, we will be drilling 11 bores on nature strips in an area bounded by Murray, Botting, Osborne and Main streets,” Mr Dolan said.

“Depending on the results, we may then approach residents for permission to test on private properties.

“When chemicals enter groundwater, they can emerge from the soil as vapour, and in some cases they also enter houses and can pose a threat to residents.

“Basement rooms can be at higher risk of vapour intrusion than above-ground rooms, simply because they are closer to the contaminated groundwater, so we encourage anyone in the assessment area who has a basement room to get in touch with us.”

Mr Dolan said bore water in the area should not be used for any purpose, but rainwater and mains water were not affected.

“Home-grown produce is also safe to eat, unless it has been irrigated with bore water,” he said.

The principle of ‘polluter pays’ applies for contamination in South Australia.

In cases where the original polluter can no longer be found or is unable to pay for to remediate the site, it is declared an ‘orphan site’ and the EPA steps in to inform the community and undertake the necessary work.

For more information on the Albert Park assessment area, visit www.epa.sa.gov.au or telephone EPA Community Engagement on 8124 4216.