



Media release



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Bore water ban proposed around Hendon

The Environment Protection Authority has begun community consultation on a proposed groundwater prohibition area (GPA) taking in parts of Hendon, Royal Park, Seaton and Albert Park in Adelaide's western suburbs.

EPA Director, Regulation, Peter Dolan, said groundwater in the area was contaminated with a range of hazardous chemicals due to historic industrial activity.

"We have been in touch with residents in the affected area and asked them not to use their bore water for any purpose, and we will be holding two community drop-in days later this month to help answer people's questions," Mr Dolan said.

"The Hendon Industrial Estate is the primary source of this contamination, but there are at least 14 contaminated sites in this area.

"Western Adelaide has a long history of industry, but unfortunately chemical disposal and containment in the past simply did not meet current standards.

"Testing has found many chemicals of concern in the groundwater, including volatile petroleum and chlorinated hydrocarbons such as trichloroethene (TCE), dichloroethene (DCE), and vinyl chloride (VC).

"Chlorinated hydrocarbons are of particular concern because they are known to be carcinogenic when people come into contact with them over a long period.

"They also remain in the environment for many years because they are notoriously difficult to remove once an aquifer is contaminated."

The main way people come into contact with these chemicals is by using groundwater, either to irrigate gardens and lawns, for drinking, showering or to fill swimming pools.

Mains water is not affected by the contamination, and home-grown produce is safe to eat so long as it had not been irrigated with bore water.

Even if a property inside the proposed GPA is not directly affected by one of the plumes of contamination, it is important not to access bore water as pumping can spread the contamination further.

GPA's already exist in several areas around the Adelaide metropolitan area, including Edwardstown, Allenby Gardens, Glenelg East and surrounding areas.

For more information, visit <https://engage.sa.gov.au>