



Media release



Environment Protection Authority
GPO Box 2607 Adelaide SA 5001
211 Victoria Square Adelaide SA 5000
T (08) 8204 2004
Country areas 1800 623 445

26 August 2019

Bore water ban for Hendon area

Using bore water will be prohibited in parts of Hendon, Royal Park, Seaton and Albert Park from 12 September due to chemical contamination.

The EPA has been investigating groundwater contamination in the area for a number of years, and has previously asked residents not to use their bore water for any purpose.

EPA Acting Director Regulation Andrew Pruszinski, said residents in 2,800 homes had been notified that a groundwater prohibition area (GPA) would take effect next month.

“The upper aquifers are contaminated to a depth of 10m, but anyone with deeper bores can continue to use them,” Mr Pruszinski said. “However this water should be tested before it is used.

“Mains water and rain water are not affected, and it’s perfectly safe to eat home-grown produce so long as it hasn’t been irrigated with bore water.

“Testing has found a range of chemicals in the groundwater, including petroleum and chlorinated hydrocarbons such as trichloroethene (TCE), dichloroethene (DCE), and vinyl chloride.

“Chlorinated hydrocarbons are known to cause cancer in cases where people have been in contact with them over long periods.

“They are also extremely difficult to remove once an aquifer is contaminated, and they remain in the environment for many years, so this groundwater may never be safe to use again.

“Western Adelaide has a long history of industry and manufacturing, but unfortunately, management of chemicals in the past was not always as stringent as current standards.

“Groundwater contamination caused by historic activities affects many modern cities.

“This prohibition is part of an ongoing program to identify and assess these legacies, enabling better knowledge and transparency for community and industry to manage any current or future public health risks.”

The Hendon Industrial Area is the primary source of the contamination, but there are at least another 13 contaminated sites in the new GPA.

Several other GPAs are already in place around metropolitan Adelaide, in Edwardstown, Allenby Gardens and Glenelg East.

It is illegal to use groundwater in a GPA, and a maximum penalty of \$8,000 applies.

The ban on bore water covers all uses, including irrigating gardens and lawns, drinking, showering, and filling swimming pools, as these are all pathways for people to be exposed to the contamination.

For more information, visit www.engage.sa.gov.au

Media contact: epamedia@sa.gov.au

Mob: 0439 137 641

Twitter: [@SA_EPA](https://twitter.com/SA_EPA)

<https://www.epa.sa.gov.au>