



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

23 December 2019

Air quality poor in Adelaide

Smoke from the Cudlee Creek bushfire has resulted in poor air quality in parts of the Adelaide Hills and metropolitan area.

Environment Protection Authority Director, Science and Information, Keith Baldry, said air pollution peaked at two to six times the standard in parts of Adelaide this morning.

“This pushed it into hazardous levels. The standard for air pollution is 50 micrograms of PM 10 particles (particles up to 10 micrograms across, or a seventh the diameter of a human hair) per cubic metre.

“Adelaide CBD peaked at 200 micrograms and remains high, while Kensington peaked at 350 at 3am, but there the peak levels there were short-lived. Le Fevre Peninsula peaked at 200 at 6am, but it is now improving.”

The smoke haze is due to a combination of meteorological conditions. Evening gully winds pushing smoke from the fire ground combined with calm conditions and an inversion layer that trapped the smoke overnight have all contributed to it.

Air quality in the Adelaide metro area is likely to improve this afternoon as temperatures increase, but the smoke haze is likely to return again tonight.