



ALBERT PARK ASSESSMENT AREA

Community update #3 – work on private properties

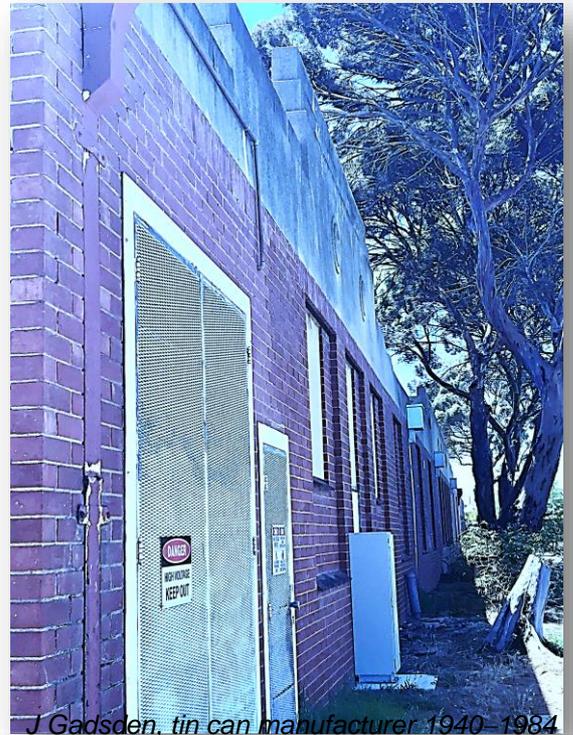
Issued 25 March 2020

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has been undertaking environmental assessment work in Albert Park since March 2019. In particular, this work has been focused near a site at 24 Murray Street, which was used to manufacture tin cans between 1940 and 1984.

Groundwater (bore water) in this area is known to be contaminated with [trichloroethene](#) (TCE) from historical industrial chemical use. TCE was commonly used for metal cleaning and other purposes, and past chemical handling instructions were to tip it out onto the ground.

On 12 September 2019 the EPA established a [groundwater prohibition area](#) to protect current and future residents from contaminated groundwater in areas of Hendon, Royal Park, Seaton and Albert Park.

The next stage of work in Albert Park will be looking at whether the TCE contamination has entered residential indoor air as vapour.



J Gadsden, tin can manufacturer 1940–1984

Testing required on a small number of private properties

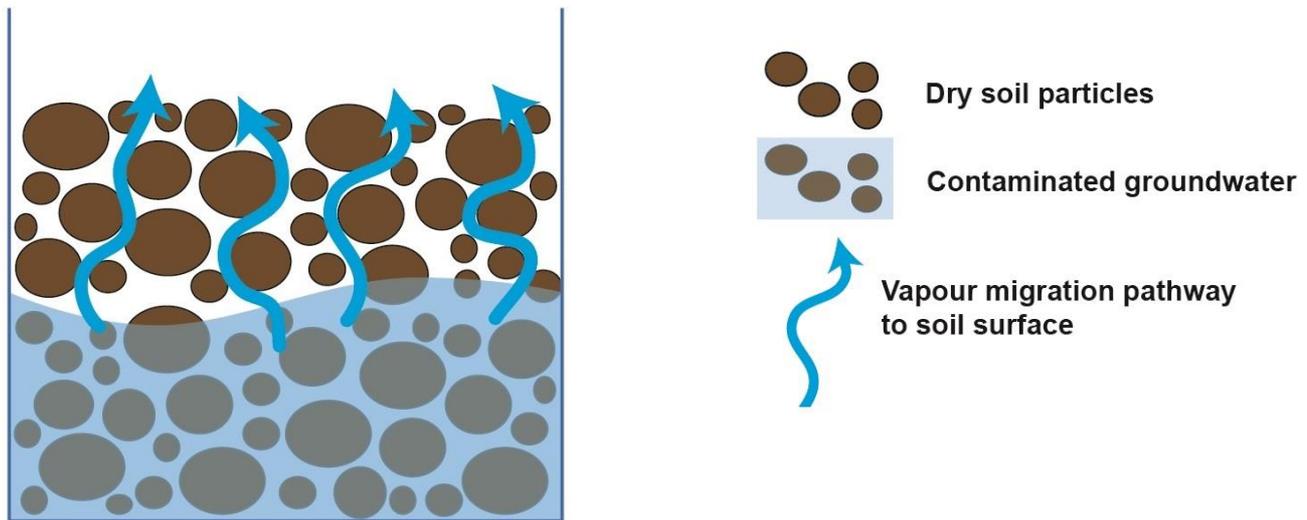
The data obtained from all stages of work undertaken to date has been entered into a computer model to predict which properties need further testing. This testing is required to determine whether there is any potential for vapour to be present in residential indoor air.

A small number of properties in the immediate vicinity of the highest groundwater and soil vapour concentrations require site specific testing. These property owners have already been contacted to seek permission to test on their property.

What's soil vapour intrusion?

It has long been understood that some chemicals can be transported in groundwater for hundreds and thousands of metres. More recently it has been discovered that they can also be found in the air spaces between soil particles, as vapour. The science and understanding of soil vapour contamination has significantly increased over recent years.

Soil vapour migration pathway



When volatile chemicals such as TCE are present close to residential properties, contaminated vapour can enter homes through small pathways such as cracks in foundations or floorboards. This is called 'vapour intrusion'.

What is the risk to my health?

Where contaminated groundwater (bore water) has been identified, the only risk to your health is if you are using the groundwater.

For a small number of homes, further work is needed to determine whether there is contaminated vapour coming off the groundwater that could enter indoor air. If these chemicals are present inside buildings at high enough concentrations over extended periods of time, they can potentially affect your health.

If contaminated vapour is present under homes in high concentrations, long-term measures to prevent the vapour entering a home may include the installation of an underfloor ventilation system. In the rare instance that a home is affected by vapour contamination, the EPA works with residents to manage any potential health risk.

Basements

Vapour is more likely to enter a room when it is close to the groundwater, such as a basement. If your home has a basement, please contact the EPA to find out if there is any additional risk.

Any questions? Please ask us

Here at the EPA we are looking after our communities and ourselves to reduce the spread of Coronavirus.

We have suspended private meetings and community group meetings until SA Health advises that social distancing is no longer required to prevent the spread of the pandemic.

We are still available over the phone and online and encourage you to please call or email us during this time.

The EPA has staff available to talk with you about any aspect of the assessment process, or any other environmental concerns you might have.

We are available during and after business hours, and have a designated phone number and email that you can use to get in contact with us.

Ph: (08) 8124 4216

Email: engage.epa@sa.gov.au

Bore water is prohibited – do not use

Groundwater (bore water) in this area is contaminated and has been prohibited for use for any purpose.

Not all households have access to bore water. Bore water is typically accessed via a pump in your backyard. Please call the EPA if you are unsure whether you have access to bore water.

Tap water provided by SA Water is not affected. Rainwater is also not affected.

Home-grown veggies are safe if watered with tap or rainwater

Soil is not generally contaminated by the groundwater below it, unless contaminated groundwater is used for irrigation. Soil contamination can be found at the site where the chemicals were tipped out or leaked. Home-grown vegetables are safe to eat, provided you are not watering them with bore water.



FURTHER INFO

For **further information** please contact:

Environment Protection Authority
GPO Box 2607, Adelaide SA 5001
Telephone: (08) 8124 4216
Email: engage.epa@sa.gov.au

Website: www.epa.sa.gov.au

(Follow the links to 'Site Contamination' then to 'Assessment Areas')

For **health-related** information please contact:

Scientific Services Branch
SA Health
11 Hindmarsh Square, Adelaide SA 5000
Telephone: (08) 8226 7100

Email: public.health@health.sa.gov.au

Website: www.sahealth.sa.gov.au (type 'trichloroethene into the search bar')

