

Thursday, 24 September 2020

EPA to conduct further testing for TCE in Albert Park

The Environment Protection Authority will be conducting further groundwater and soil vapour testing in Albert Park next month following the discovery of trichloroethene (TCE) in the area last year.

TCE was used during the manufacture of tin cans in the suburb between 1940 and 1984. Advice at that time was to dispose of TCE by pouring it on the ground to allow it to evaporate. However we now understand it descends and contaminates groundwater.

The EPA has been undertaking environmental assessments in the area since the middle of last year and the next stage of work will involve testing of five existing groundwater monitoring wells and up to 20 soil vapour wells. In addition, up to six new soil vapour wells will be installed.

EPA Director Regulation, Peter Dolan, said the testing work will be evident on streets, footpaths and road verges in Albert Park in an area bounded by Murray, Malin, Selth, and Osborne Streets.

“All testing will be carried out during the day to minimise impacts on residents,” Mr Dolan said.

“This next stage of work will build on the knowledge we gained through our previous sampling and will help inform us about the extent of the contamination as well as any potential variability between sampling events.

“Following this, it’s possible that we may ask some individual property owners if we can carry out indoor air sampling in their homes to determine whether there is contaminated vapour coming from groundwater that could enter indoor air.

“We have already asked six property owners for access to their properties to conduct air sampling.”

“In the unlikely event that a home is affected by vapour contamination, the EPA will work with residents to manage any potential health risk.

“Residents should not be concerned as the low levels of TCE we have found in some areas of Albert Park do not present an immediate health risk.”

Last September the EPA established a groundwater prohibition area to protect residents from contaminated groundwater in parts of Hendon, Royal Park, Seaton and Albert Park.

Residents are reminded that bore water should not be used for any purpose in this area.

For more information, please visit

https://www.epa.sa.gov.au/data_and_publications/site_contamination_monitoring/assessment_areas/albert-park