

Monday, 9 November 2020

## Environmental assessment work to be conducted in Ethelton

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is undertaking environmental assessment work in Ethelton this month to determine if chemicals used in a former dry-cleaning business pose a risk to human health.

The assessment work comes after the EPA was notified that tetrachloroethene (PCE), trichloroethene (TCE) and other chemicals have been found in groundwater and soil vapour at the site of a former dyeing and dry-cleaning business which was located at 10–12 Marion Street.

Environmental consultants will drill and test groundwater and soil vapour bores on roads and in public areas in the assessment area which is bounded by Causeway Road, Mary, Deslandes and Hart streets.

Thirty-four households in the assessment area have been notified and the EPA will advise anyone who may be impacted as soon as test results become available.

EPA Director Regulation Peter Dolan said if bore water is found to be contaminated, the EPA is likely to introduce a Groundwater Prohibition Area (GPA) in Ethelton to stop people accessing the contaminated water.

“In the meantime, bore water from backyard pumps should not be used in the Ethelton area, but it is safe to eat produce grown in the area, as long as it has been watered with mains water or rainwater,” Mr Dolan said.

“If the results from soil vapour testing indicate that there is potential for contaminated vapour to enter people’s homes, the EPA will seek permission from owners to test air vapour inside their homes.”

Many areas in Adelaide are now known to be impacted from the legacy of poor historical chemical handling practices, due to past chemical leaks and spills, and the common practice of disposing of chemicals by tipping them onto the ground. We now know this may result in contaminated groundwater and contaminated soil vapour.

Ethelton residents who have concerns or require further information about the assessment work may phone 8463 4799, or email [engage.epa@sa.gov.au](mailto:engage.epa@sa.gov.au)