

Friday, 20 November 2020

Groundwater Prohibition Area proposed for Tonsley and surrounding areas

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is proposing to introduce a Groundwater Prohibition Area (GPA) for Tonsley and parts of Clovelly Park, Mitchell Park and Marion to protect residents and workers from groundwater contamination.

Groundwater in these areas is contaminated with chlorinated hydrocarbons, petroleum hydrocarbons, PFAS, heavy metals and cyanide from past industrial activities.

Many residents and workers in the area have already been advised to stop using groundwater from bores for any purpose.

EPA Director Regulation, Peter Dolan said the proposed prohibition area (see attached map) will apply to bores up to 25 metres below ground level. Deeper aquifers used by schools and councils will not be affected. Mains and rain water are also not affected by the contamination.

“Using contaminated bore water for drinking, showering, washing, filling swimming pools, watering lawns or irrigating edible produce over a long period of time, is considered a health risk in these areas,” Mr Dolan said.

“Tonsley and surrounding suburbs were sites of significant commercial, industrial and manufacturing activities, particularly vehicle and vehicle parts manufacturing.

“Chemical disposal and handling practices in those industries, that were considered appropriate at the time, are no longer acceptable today.

“Chemicals that leaked or spilled, or were tipped onto the ground, have since migrated down through the soil and have contaminated groundwater for the foreseeable future.”

Before establishing the groundwater prohibition area, the EPA is holding a 90-day community consultation period.

Two community drop in sessions are planned in late November and early December, (subject to COVID-19 restrictions), where EPA and SA Health staff will be present to answer questions. It is essential to register.

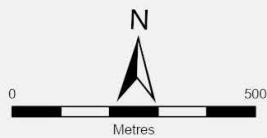
Further details of these sessions are online at: www.engage.epa.sa.gov.au/Tonsley, as are copies of reports, maps and further information.

Anyone with queries or concerns, may also contact the EPA community engagement team on (08) 8204 2004, via email engage.epa@sa.gov.au or visit www.engage.epa.sa.gov.au



- 1 - Automotive parts manufacturing facility
- 2 - Former vehicle manufacturing facility
- 3 - Works depot and recycling depot

- EPA Groundwater Prohibition Area
- Suburb
- Watercourse
- Historical Watercourse
- Burnside-Eden Fault



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