



## ETHELTON ASSESSMENT AREA

### Community update #2

Issued 15 April 2021

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) commenced environmental assessment work in the Ethelton area in December 2020. Stage 1 work was to determine whether tetrachloroethene (PCE) and trichloroethene (TCE) in groundwater and vapour in the soil along Marion Street could have the potential to enter residential indoor air. These chemicals are associated with historical dry cleaning operations dating back to the 1920s.

The EPA is now writing to you with the results of the Stage 1 work, and outlining Stage 2 work planned for the area.



## Stage 1 results and Stage 2 work

The results of the Stage 1 work confirm groundwater within the assessment area should not be used for any purpose. At the conclusion of its environmental assessments the EPA is likely to recommend that a Groundwater Prohibition Area be established, to protect people from accessing contaminated groundwater (bore water) in this area. There are currently 7 of these areas in South Australia.

It has long been understood that volatile chemicals can be transported in groundwater. More recently it has been discovered that they can also be found as vapour in the air spaces between soil particles. Stage 1 results conservatively predict that soil vapour contaminated with PCE and TCE may have the potential to enter into indoor air in one home at low concentrations. This property owner has already been contacted to seek permission to undertake testing on their property. Should testing indicate indoor air concentrations, the EPA will work with residents to make their home safe.

Stage 2 work will involve installation and sampling of additional groundwater and soil vapour bores, and includes an expansion of the assessment area to the west, to determine the boundary of the contaminated groundwater and soil vapour (please see attached map).

# Community engagement

The EPA is available during and after business hours by phone, email, video call or in person. Please contact us if you have any queries at all in regard to this work.



## Basements

Soil vapour is more likely to enter a home when a room is close to groundwater, such as a basement. If your home has a basement, please contact the EPA.

### Please contact us anytime:

Ph: (08) 8463 4799 or email: [engage.epa@sa.gov.au](mailto:engage.epa@sa.gov.au)

Per richiedere una copia di questa lettera in italiano, si prega di telefonare 13 14 50.

Για να ζητήσετε ένα αντίγραφο της παρούσας επιστολής στην ελληνική γλώσσα, παρακαλούμε τηλεφωνήστε στο 13 14 50.

لتقدّم طلب باللغة العربية لصورة من هذه الرسالة  
الرجاء الاتصال على الرقم 13 14 50.

## Please do not use bore water

Groundwater (bore water) in this area may be contaminated and should not be used for any purpose.

**Not all households have access to bore water. Bore water is typically accessed via a pump in your backyard.**

Tap water provided by SA Water is not affected. Rain water is also not affected. Please call the EPA if you are unsure whether you have access to bore water.

## Home-grown vegetables are safe if bore water not in use

Soil, rainwater and mains water are not affected. Contaminated groundwater does not affect the soil above it unless it is used for irrigation or it is the source of the contamination.

**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) 8463 4799  
Email: [engage.epa@sa.gov.au](mailto:engage.epa@sa.gov.au)  
Website: [www.epa.sa.gov.au](http://www.epa.sa.gov.au)

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](mailto:public.health@health.sa.gov.au)  
Website: [www.sahealth.sa.gov.au](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au)



# Ethelton Stage 2 Assessment Area



- Stage 1 Assessment Area
- Stage 2 Assessment Area
- TCE/PCE in Groundwater and Soil Vapour



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