

# Somerton Park EPA Assessment Area

Community update



Issued January 2025



**The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) will continue environmental assessment in Somerton Park in January 2025.**

The EPA started work in June 2023 to assess chemicals found in the groundwater and soil vapour, mainly tetrachloroethene (PCE) and trichloroethene (TCE). The Stage 1 assessment was conducted to understand if there was a risk that contaminated groundwater or soil vapour was impacting nearby properties.

In July 2024, the EPA completed the Stage 2 assessment in an expanded area of Somerton Park to better understand potential health risks, particularly from vapour intrusion, and determine the extent of groundwater contamination.

Soil conditions from the Stage 1 and 2 assessments suggest no unacceptable risks to human health from vapour intrusion, but that groundwater is contaminated and should not be used.










Stage 3 of the EPA's assessment will start in January 2025 to further investigate the extent of contamination and determine if a groundwater prohibition area (GPA) should be established.

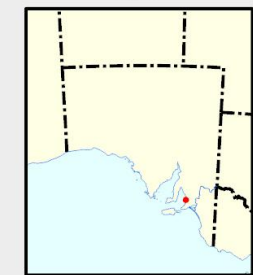
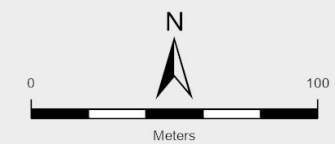
## What are PCE and TCE?

The main chemicals of concern in the Somerton Park EPA assessment area are tetrachloroethene (PCE) and trichloroethene (TCE). These are common industrial chemicals used for metal cleaning and dry-cleaning clothes and in the production of thermoplastics, adhesives, lacquers, dyes, perfumes, soaps, and polyvinylchloride (PVC) products. In the environment, PCE and TCE break down rapidly in air and surface water but much more slowly in soil and groundwater.

For further information, please contact the EPA: **(08) 8429 7554** or [engage.epa@sa.gov.au](mailto:engage.epa@sa.gov.au)

### Stage 3 Environmental Assessment at Somerton Park

-  EPA Assessment Area
-  Stage 3 Assessment Area Expansion
-  Suburbs
-  Parcels
-  Residential
-  Commercial/Industry/Vacant
-  Parks and Reserves
-  Education
-  Public Institution



**Produced by** Environment Protection Authority  
GPO Box 2607 Adelaide SA 5001  
[www.epa.sa.gov.au](http://www.epa.sa.gov.au)

**Data Source** DEW, EPA

**Compiled** 6/01/2025

**Projection** Lambert Conformal Conic

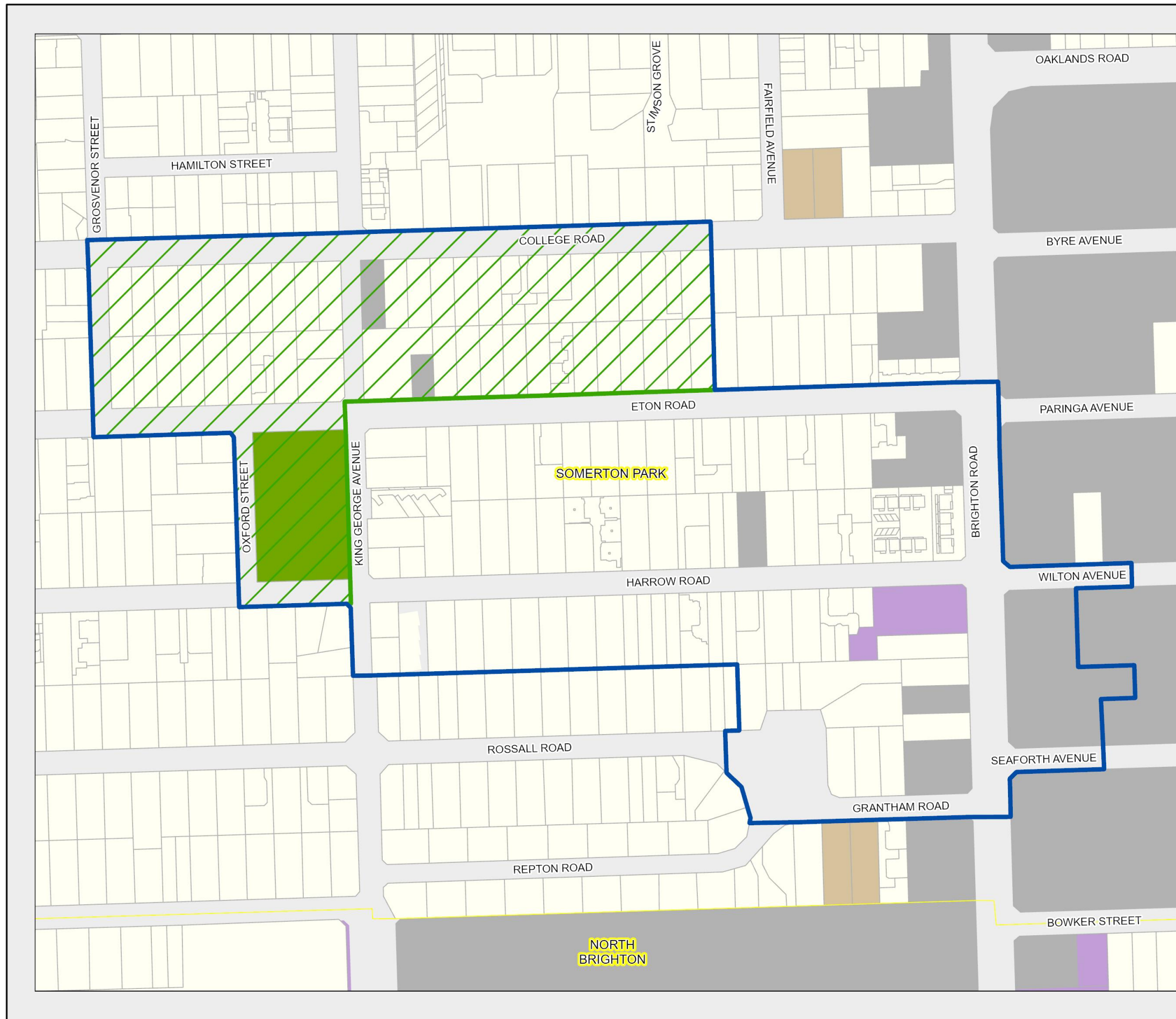
**Datum** Geocentric Datum of Australia, 2020

© Copyright Environment Protection Authority 2023.  
All Rights Reserved. All works and information displayed are subject to Copyright. For the reproduction or publication beyond that permitted by the Copyright Act 1968 (Cwth) written permission must be sought from the Department.

Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information displayed, the Department, its agents, officers and employees make no representations, either express or implied, that the information displayed is accurate or fit for any purpose and expressly disclaims all liability for loss or damage arising from reliance upon the information displayed.



GIS24\_0026



## What is the risk to residents?

For site contamination to become a health risk, there needs to be a source (contaminated groundwater), a pathway (extracting that water from a bore), and a receptor (a person coming into contact with that water).

Using contaminated groundwater for drinking, showering, washing, filling swimming pools, watering lawns or irrigating produce over a long period of time is considered a health risk. Not using groundwater removes the exposure pathway and protects public health.

## Please do not use groundwater (bore water)

Groundwater is water that is present underground within rocks or sediments and can be accessed by a bore with an outdoor pump.

Most properties do not have access to groundwater.

Groundwater in this area is contaminated and should not be used for any purpose.

## What does this mean if I want to sell my house?

The EPA has a statutory obligation under the *Land and Business (Sale and Conveyancing) Act 1994* to provide information relating to environment protection.

This includes details of reports where an environmental assessment has been carried out by, or on behalf of, the EPA.

Once a report is received, an interest will be flagged on all properties within the assessment area to ensure that potential future purchasers are aware that an assessment has been undertaken.

## Home-grown fruit and vegetables are safe

Home-grown fruit and vegetables are safe to consume, provided you are not watering them with groundwater.

## Rainwater and mains water (tap water) are safe

Rainwater and mains water (tap water provided by SA Water) are not affected by the groundwater contamination and can be used.

## Further information

Reports from the Stage 1 and 2 assessments are available on our website, at [bit.ly/3Bzf7MG](https://bit.ly/3Bzf7MG) or via the QR code:



## Do you need a translator?

如需更为详细的中文信息，请致电 13 14 50

Αν θέλετε αυτές τις πληροφορίες στα Ελληνικά, παρακαλώ καλέστε το 13 14 50

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

Wenn Sie diese Informationen auf Deutsch erhalten möchten, wählen Sie bitte die Rufnummer 13 14 50



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

**Environment Protection Authority**

GPO Box 2607 Adelaide SA 5001

Phone: (08) 8429 7554 | Free call (country): 1800 623 445

Email: [engage.epa@sa.gov.au](mailto:engage.epa@sa.gov.au)

Web: [epa.sa.gov.au](http://epa.sa.gov.au)