

# Media Release

## Environment Protection Authority



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Thursday 16 May 2013

### **Hendon – groundwater contamination update**

On 15 May 2013, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) letterbox-dropped approximately 220 residents advising of the results of an initial assessment of groundwater and soil vapour testing undertaken in late 2012 in Hendon, Seaton and Royal Park.

This recent communication follows a letterbox drop in August 2012 advising on the commencement of the testing.

Results from the initial assessment, undertaken by a site contamination consultant engaged by the EPA, has identified that there are chemical substances present including perchloroethene (PCE), trichloroethene (TCE), dichloroethene (DCE) and metals in groundwater and soil vapour throughout the Hendon investigation area.

After careful analysis of the results, further work is now required to determine if the chemical substances present a risk and to establish more detail about the nature and extent of any risk.

The notification also informed residents that further assessment works will be undertaken and a drilling program will occur in the coming fortnight. This will take 4-6 months to complete. The results of the sampling will be reviewed by the EPA in conjunction with the Department of Health and Ageing.

The EPA will continue to advise and keep local residents informed of the outcomes of the assessment.

Residents and property owners in the surrounding area were advised in May 2012 not to use bore water for any purpose until further notice to ensure that there is no direct contact with contaminated groundwater. This advice is still current.

For further information on the use of groundwater and any contamination related enquiries, please contact the EPA on 1800 729 175 during weekdays between the hours of 8 am and 5 pm.

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**For further information please contact Ros Agate: 0434 609 394**