

# Media Release

## Environment Protection Authority



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### **EPA advising residents of groundwater contamination at Hendon**

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) yesterday completed a letter box drop of 2,900 residents and commercial/industrial properties in the Hendon area. This has occurred after the EPA was recently provided with new information identifying off-site groundwater contamination.

Residents and property owners in the surrounding area are being advised to not use bore water for any purpose until further notice.

Residents are also being asked to contact the EPA to advise if either a bore or basement exists on their property.

The information provided to the EPA forms part of environmental assessment done at a site located at 3–5 Philips Crescent, Hendon.

According to EPA Director Science and Assessment Peter Dolan, the current land use on the site was not the cause of the historic site contamination identified in the report.

“This site has previously been used for ammunition works, electrical component manufacturing, circuit board manufacturing and possibly electroplating. So potentially there are both on- and off-site sources for the contamination,” said Mr Dolan.

As part of an initiative commenced some years ago to review historic files relating to potentially contaminated sites the EPA became aware of this site in December 2011. At that time the EPA file contained two reports prepared in 1992 by Coffey Partners International (environmental consultants) indicating on-site contamination at the Philips Crescent site.

Further discussions with the current site owner, Johanson Properties Pty Ltd earlier this year, revealed the existence of a third report which was presented to the EPA on 2 May 2012. This additional report, also from 1992, contains information regarding off-site groundwater contamination.

The report details results from groundwater monitoring wells that showed significant concentrations of volatile chlorinated hydrocarbons (VCH) in groundwater at off-site locations. In 1992, the samples contained concentrations of perchloroethene (PCE) and trichloroethene (TCE) that exceeded the current Australian Drinking Water Guideline values.

“The information contained in this report is 20 years old, so our first priority is to ensure residents have been informed not to use the groundwater for any purpose. We will now undertake further assessment and monitoring work to determine the nature and extent of the groundwater contamination,” said Mr Dolan.

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

The EPA assures residents in the area that it will be undertaking testing as quickly as possible and that it will be seeking further advice and input from SA Health.

“It is a fact that historic site contamination issues exist across the state. We are certainly not the only state, contamination occurs in all countries around the world.

“What is more important is that we are the first generation that is dealing with the clean-up of this and it is a further reminder to people living in built-up areas that they should regularly test their groundwater to ensure it is fit for purpose,” said Mr Dolan.

The EPA investigation area for Hendon (refer to the attached map) is an initial targeted area for further work which will involve testing registered groundwater bores, and if necessary, soil vapour monitoring in a staged approach.

The EPA has published information as FAQs or Frequently Asked Questions and Answers on TCE and PCE on its website ([www.epa.sa.gov.au](http://www.epa.sa.gov.au) via What’s new on the home page).

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



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