

EPA 05/18889

Dear Local Resident

### **Update on EPA Contamination Assessment – Solomontown, Port Pirie**

This letter is to update you on the ongoing assessment of site contamination in Solomontown by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and SA Health.

#### **Indoor air testing results**

In March the EPA sought consent from residents in your area to undertake air sampling within their homes. This testing was undertaken to determine if chemical substances found within the soil air spaces at some nearby locations had migrated into houses.

As a result the indoor air quality in 38 homes was tested in the area bounded by King Street, Alpha Terrace, Albert Street and Parks Street Solomontown.

The results of this sampling and assessment by the EPA and SA Health has found there is evidence of soil vapour intrusion in homes. Two homes recorded levels of benzene above World Health Organization guidelines and three homes recorded levels near the guideline.

Benzene (BTEX), from a variety of sources, is a common pollutant in urban environments. However, as it is a known carcinogen, exposure should be kept to a minimum.

The EPA and SA Health are talking directly with owners/residents of these homes, regarding their results. The EPA will also be taking immediate action to improve air quality in these homes.

Indoor air purifying equipment will be temporarily installed in the five affected homes and closely monitored by the EPA and SA Health while more permanent options are explored in consultation with the residents and owners.

#### **Further investigation**

The EPA and SA Health will develop an expanded air sampling program for Solomontown, including re-offering in-home testing to residents who had previously declined. This work is being undertaken to assess for any variables in the results over time and will be conducted in the coming months.

The EPA will continue to publish updated frequently asked questions and answers on the EPA website <[www.epa.sa.gov.au](http://www.epa.sa.gov.au)> via the *Info for Householders* menu on the home page and you can call the EPA hotline on 1800 729 175 for any other questions you might have. We will also keep you informed via further letters when new information is available.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Fulcher'.

Helen Fulcher

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY**

Date: 18 May 2011