

EPA 05/17652

Dear Local Resident

### **Update on contamination in Edwardstown, South Plympton**

This is our third letter to you to keep you informed of progress and developments in the ongoing investigation of groundwater contamination in Edwardstown and South Plympton.

#### **Indoor vapour testing**

The first round of indoor air testing is now underway in 25 homes in the Edwardstown area. We have placed two types of sampling equipment in these homes – the Summa canister, used to test for VC (vinyl chloride) TCE (trichloroethene) and PCE (perchloroethene, also known as tetrachloroethene) and the Radiello passive sampler to test for benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylenes (BTEX) and selected volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

The canisters have already been retrieved and sent for analysis; the Radiello samplers will be retrieved for analysis this week. Test results are expected to take a further two weeks. Once we have received the results we will provide individual results only to the relevant occupants and home owners to ensure that your privacy is respected. The overall results will be made publicly available.

The next steps will depend upon the results from the indoor air quality testing: whether the chemicals are present and, if so, at what level and the level of human exposure to those chemicals.

We sincerely appreciate the patience and cooperation of residents who have assisted us with this indoor vapour testing process.

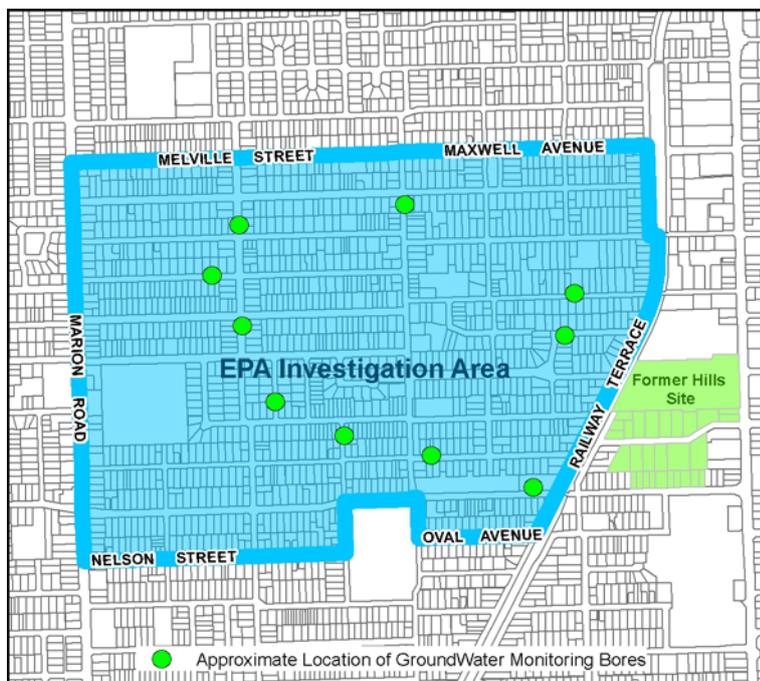
#### **Further groundwater testing**

There have been four stages of drilling groups of wells over the last 19 months since the EPA was first notified of contamination on the former Hills site in August 2009. Each stage involved the environmental consultant, engaged by Colonial First State Global Asset Management, developing a systematic plan for where the wells should be drilled to try to identify the boundaries of the contaminated groundwater. The next stage is to confirm the western and southern boundaries of the plume. At each stage, the role of the EPA is to assess and endorse the environment consultant's plans for bore placement.

Drilling of more bores into the aquifer within the investigation area (see map), will commence in the week beginning 4<sup>th</sup> April. This work is being undertaken by an environmental consultant (URS Australia), engaged by Hills Holdings, with an EPA accredited site contamination auditor (Mr Warren Pump) engaged to oversee it.

As a courtesy the consultants who are doing this work may contact residents living nearby.

The results of this groundwater sampling will be made available to residents. They will also be made available on the EPA website (at [www.epa.sa.gov.au](http://www.epa.sa.gov.au) via the *What's New* list on the home page).



APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF NEW BORES TO BE DRILLED

### Remediation of former Hills site

Environmental consultant AEC Environmental has been engaged by Colonial First State Global Asset Management to manage the remediation of the former Hills site. The contaminated soil will be excavated and transported by truck to an EPA licensed facility for treatment and disposal. This work is scheduled to commence this week and will take approximately 2 to 3 weeks to complete. The EPA's accredited site contamination auditor (Mr Warren Pump) will also oversee this work.

### Next steps

The next steps will depend upon the results from the various testing programs described above.

We 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 *What's New* list on the home page) and you are always most welcome to call the EPA hotline on 1800 729 175 for any other questions you might have.

Yours sincerely

Helen Fulcher

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY**

Date: 28 March 2011