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**Beverley and Woodville South Residents warned against consumption of bore water -
Departmental - 18 December 2007**

The SA Department of Health today warned residents of Beverley and Woodville South against drinking groundwater from bores or using the water for other domestic purposes such as swimming pools.

The area of concern is bordered by East Avenue to the east, Findon Road to the west, Glenlossie Street forming the northern boundary and Alfred Avenue, the southern boundary.

Health Department Acting Chief Medical Officer Paddy Phillips said this is a timely reminder for all residents to take care when using bore water following the discovery of a chemical, trichloroethylene (TCE), in groundwater from test wells in the Beverley area.

"TCE is an industrial chemical used widely as a metal cleaner and degreaser with potential links to cancer following long-term exposure. The level of toxicity we are seeing in the testing, however, is not believed to be at levels that are acutely dangerous to people," Professor Phillips explained.

TCE is a widespread contaminant of ground water around the world. There are several private bores within the vicinity of the most contaminated test well. Some are not used. Officers from the Scientific Services Branch have met with those residents to ensure they are adequately advised.

"It is important that all residents in the area take appropriate precautions," Professor Phillips said.

"People in the vicinity should not under any circumstance drink the groundwater because of the unacceptably high levels of the chemical in the water from certain bores. It is also unacceptable for irrigation and other domestic uses until further notice."

Professor Phillips said further groundwater testing will be carried out to determine the extent of the problem.

The Department of Health consistently advises South Australians not to consume bore water unless they have had the water adequately tested and it is shown to be safe.

Residents who would like more information can contact Scientific Services at the Department of Health on 822 67100.