



# ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

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## MEDIA RELEASE

### EPA RESULTS CLEAR MOST OF WEST LAKES ASSESSMENT AREA

The EPA's investigation into the dispersal of sewage sludge in areas of West Lakes has established that a large proportion of the initial assessment area is unaffected.

Announcing the results today, Environment Protection Authority Chair, Stephen Walsh QC, says this is good news for the residents of West Lakes.

"Photographic and historical evidence clearly identifies those areas where the sludge was initially dispersed on surface soils, and this information has been verified by our soil sampling and testing results.

"I would like to point out that the sludge was not used for landfill in the development of West Lakes.

"The results show that further soil sampling and testing is warranted in a small area in the north east corner of Delfin Island, and north and immediately west and south of the Port Adelaide Wastewater Treatment Plant.

"This is a precautionary measure only, because photographic and historical information indicates that, again, a large proportion of the areas may be clear," Mr Walsh says.

"The results of this further investigation will be available in December.

"Department of Human Services continue to advise that there are no immediate health risks to residents," Mr Walsh says.

As a further precautionary measure, the EPA is testing selected reserves in the wider West Lakes area to confirm that the sludge was not transported and dispersed outside the assessment area.

Mr Walsh says the EPA has not undertaken any testing within private properties at this stage.

"But an offer has been made to test residential properties and the consultative process is proceeding with the property owners."

Mr Walsh says the EPA would continue to work closely with the West Lakes Consultative Committee.

"The committee is proving to be a very effective and efficient method of keeping local residents informed. The committee members are to be commended for their concern and involvement."

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