



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

IN REGARD TO THE ENCLOSED TEST RESULTS

12th October 2000

The EPA and DHS have adopted two main indicators to determine whether sludge may have been dispersed in surface soils within the assessment area and whether further investigation is warranted. The indicators are:

- Historical information, particularly aerial photographs, which indicates the few areas where the sludge was dispersed; and
- The results from the EPA investigations where concentrations of cadmium may exceed 3 mg/kg.

The concentration of 3 mg/kg has been determined based on the anticipated background concentrations of cadmium in urban areas. The background concentrations of cadmium vary across Australia, and in urban areas of South Australia are usually around 1 mg/kg or less and rarely above 3 mg/kg.

The EPA and DHS advise that the nationally accepted health-based investigation guideline levels (for the stated exposure settings) for cadmium are:

- 20 mg/kg - for 'standard' residential with garden/accessible soil (home-grown produce contributing less than 10% of vegetable and fruit intake; no poultry); and
- 40 mg/kg – parks, recreational open space and playing fields.

Note: further information on the above is provided in the "Summary of EPA Investigations" included with this information package or by directly contacting the EPA or DHS.

It is essential that the use of all numbers quoted above are not interpreted as indicating actual risks to human health or default levels for clean-up action as professional judgement should always be exercised and this may entail a site-specific risk assessment.

Residents are advised that further investigation will be carried out as a precautionary measure and that the Department of Human Services advise that there are no immediate risks to residents.