



EPA and DHS INVESTIGATIONS AT WEST LAKES

9th October 2000

The following is a summary of the soil test results, historical information and health advice issued by the EPA and the Department of Human Services and discussed with the West Lakes Consultative Committee on Thursday 5th October 2000.

1. Evidence shows **sewage sludge was not used as landfill at West Lakes.**
2. Evidence indicates that sludge was spread on the soil surface in a few discrete areas.
3. **There are no immediate health risks to residents.** Further consultation and investigation is occurring for a small number of residents. Health risks relate only to those people with significant and long-term exposure from home-grown produce or contaminated surface soils. Residents are reminded that bore water should not be used for household purposes until testing confirms that it is safe.
4. To date, 651 laboratory tests have been conducted on individual soil samples from 183 boreholes in public recreation reserves and road reserves. **No testing has so far been conducted on any residential properties.**
5. **The investigation test results and historical information indicate that, as a precautionary measure, further investigation is warranted but this can be limited to a few discrete areas within the initial EPA assessment area (see map).**
6. Other areas of the wider West Lakes development appear to be unaffected, but some testing will be carried out in public reserves to confirm this.
7. Detailed information will be forwarded to residents in the initial assessment area and will be available on the EPA website.

(www.epa.sa.gov.au/westlakes.html)