



WEST LAKES INFORMATION

Dear Resident

This information is in relation to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and Department of Human Services investigation regarding the distribution of sewage sludge, and has been sent to West Lakes residents in the 5019, 5020, 5021 postcode areas by the EPA.

Background information

Following information received from the City of Charles Sturt as part of routine investigations carried out by council on their depot (corner of Fredrick Road and Lochside Drive, West Lakes), the EPA became aware that sewage sludge originating from the Port Adelaide Wastewater Treatment Plant may have been distributed on surface soils across some areas of the West Lakes development nearly 30 years ago. The current assessment area is highlighted on the map. The EPA has no information to suggest that the sludge was used as general landfill in the development of West Lakes.

Progress report

- The EPA initially conducted a limited sampling and testing program of 18 public reserves and in a few locations the results indicated slightly raised concentrations of some heavy metals, particularly cadmium, in the soil. The Department for Human Services advised that there was no immediate or acute risk to human health.
- The EPA has been conducting further widespread sampling and testing for cadmium in the assessment area based on initial information received about the spread of the sludge.
- The EPA invited residents to form a West Lakes Community Consultative Committee. Membership includes the State Member for Lee, the Honourable Michael Wright MP and two councillors from the City of Charles Sturt.
- The West Lakes Community Consultative Committee has requested that the EPA present a synopsis of the results of this further testing at the next committee meeting on October 5, before making them available to West Lakes residents.
- The EPA will conduct further sampling and testing in the current assessment area.
- Sampling and testing will also be conducted on selected reserves in the broader West Lakes area to determine whether the sludge may have been dispersed outside the current assessment area.

For more information contact the EPA information line 1800 730 128 or visit the web site www.epa.sa.gov.au/westlakes.html