

Media Release

Environment Protection Authority



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Friday 27 September 2013

Le Fevre 2 Air Quality Monitoring Site Launch

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) today officially launched its second air quality monitoring site on the Le Fevre Peninsula.

The air monitoring station is located at North Haven School and has been established to improve and increase the air quality monitoring for the Adelaide metropolitan area.

This monitoring station is an important part of the EPA's plan to expand its existing air monitoring network across the Adelaide metropolitan area.

Le Fevre Peninsula has been identified by the state government in its 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide as an area for future growth. With the existing mix of industry and residential landuses, along with plans for further growth, there is a commitment by the EPA to better understand air quality in this area.

Placing the second monitoring station at the North Haven School will strengthen the EPA's ability to identify major pollution sources affecting the community in the Le Fevre Peninsula area. The site was chosen as it provides a large open area suitable for monitoring to take place, as well as the necessary secure location to house the monitoring station.

In June 2005, the EPA established the first air quality monitoring site on the Le Fevre Peninsula, at Birkenhead, which continuously monitors fine particles. The new station monitors a wider range of pollutants, including fine particles and several gases measured under the National Environment Protection Measure.

EPA Director of Science and Assessment Peter Dolan said that the new station represents an important part of the EPA's continuing research into air quality in the northwest metropolitan region.

"As the area has a diverse mix of industrial, commercial, transport and residential landuses. It is important to gain the best information on the region to ensure a proper balance between social, environmental, health and economic benefits is achieved with any further expansion in the region.

"The new air quality monitoring station will help the EPA to gain a better understanding of pollution sources and patterns, and how they may impact on air quality in the area.

"By monitoring a wider range of pollutants at the new station, and comparing air quality and meteorological data from existing stations, the EPA will be able to better identify significant sources of key pollutants in the area.

"We are pleased that the North Haven School has agreed to have the air quality monitoring station on its site under the National Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative. It is great to see that the monitoring station forms part of a series of environmental programs being carried out by the school.

For further information please contact Ros Agate: 0434 609 394

“Overall the air quality in Adelaide is relatively good compared with other states, in part because of its smaller population, but also because weather conditions help to clear pollutants out away from the city. However, there are benefits of any improvement in air quality,” said Mr Dolan.

Data from all EPA air monitoring stations is updated every hour and available to the public via the EPA website <www.epa.sa.gov.au>. Further information is also available by phoning the EPA on (08) 8204 2004 or freecall country 1800 623 445.

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