

Media Release

Environment Protection Authority



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6 September 2013

Shell Mansfield Park – groundwater contamination

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has been advised by Shell Australia (Shell) and its environmental consultant URS Australia (URS) that it will be undertaking further assessment of groundwater contamination, within the vicinity of the Coles Express Service Station, located on 452 Grand Junction Road, Mansfield Park.

The site is an operational service station owned by Shell. On Thursday 5 September, Shell and URS door knocked residential, commercial and industrial properties in the immediate vicinity of the site to inform them of the environmental investigations being conducted in the area and to establish the presence of unregistered groundwater bores and basement structures.

In September 2010, the EPA was notified of contaminated soils that had the potential to impact groundwater at the site.

Harm to groundwater was reported to the EPA after testing at the site was undertaken by Shell and URS in June and November 2012 and July and August 2013.

The EPA was provided with an updated notification on 21 August 2013 of the presence of chlorinated hydrocarbons in groundwater beneath the western boundary of the site.

EPA Director of Science and Assessment Peter Dolan said that the door knocking exercise provided residents with information on the known issues and the steps required for further assessment works to be carried out.

“In 2012 Shell undertook soil and groundwater investigations on-site which identified petroleum hydrocarbons in groundwater. Additional investigations were undertaken in 2013 that identified chlorinated hydrocarbons in the groundwater beneath the site.

“Shell has engaged URS to further delineate the nature and extent of the groundwater impact.

“Currently there is insufficient information to define the extent of the impacted groundwater, and given the location of the site, further investigation has been recommended by URS.

“The EPA will continue to ensure that all on and off-site assessment work is undertaken by Shell’s environmental consultant and is overseen by an independent Site Contamination auditor.

“Shell is undertaking all necessary steps to deal with this situation and will keep residents well informed.

“Residents were advised on Thursday not to use their bore water. This is also another opportunity to remind bore owners in general that they should regularly test their bore water to ensure it is fit for purpose,” said Mr Dolan.

Information on the notification is available on the EPA website under the Public Register.

For further information on the use of groundwater and contamination related enquiries, please contact the EPA on 1800 729 175 during weekdays between the hours of 8 am to 5 pm.

For further information please contact Ros Agate: 0434 609 394

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