



## EPA investigation in response to concerns about HCB outside the boundary of Botany Industrial Park

The EPA received information from a member of the public on 11 April 2013, raising concerns that hexachlorobenzene (HCB) was present on the nature strip outside the boundary of Botany Industrial Park, Matraville.

In response to the concerns raised, the EPA tested the soil for HCB at the reported location on Denison Street, near the Sydney Water Corporation easement. The EPA sampled soil at 15 separate locations in the general area. The samples were taken from the top few centimetres of the soil profile which is the most likely exposure pathway through direct contact with the soil and potential incidental ingestion or dermal uptake. Analyses were performed at the EPA's National Association of Testing Authorities-accredited laboratory at Lidcombe.

For comparison, the table below shows the sample results and the health-based investigation levels for residential land use based on the National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure. Results above these levels would trigger further investigation to assess potential risks to human health from potential exposure to the soil.

Chemical	Minimum concentration	Maximum concentration	Average concentration	Health-based investigation level
HCB	< 0.005*	0.47*	0.08*	10*

\* All values are in milligrams per kilogram

All 15 results were well below the national health inspection levels and no further investigation is required.

Soil samples for a range of other contaminants were also analysed for the EPA's information. The results indicated other potential contaminants were detected on the Sydney Water easement that may need further investigation. While the EPA does not consider that these levels, if representative for the property, pose a health risk, it has referred these results to Sydney Water for further investigation.

For more detail about the investigation, email the EPA Botany Area Community Information Group Mailbox: [info.botany@epa.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info.botany@epa.nsw.gov.au).