LGA had dirt on toxic soil but wouldn’t tell

A CLOVELLY Park man who spent thousands of dollars renovating his home for sale, told The Advertiser he had been left out of pocket by State Government delays in releasing contamination information.

Real estate experts have warned public concerns about contamination and ongoing testing to determine its extent, threaten to slash home values.

Resident Michael Nakic told The Advertiser he had undertaken a full renovation, including upgrading the kitchen and laundry and painting his Myrtle Grove home, and was on the verge of listing it for sale when news of the contamination broke last week.

Mr Nakic said he had made an offer to purchase a larger property, conditional to sale of his current home, to cater for a growing family.

“You buy your house thinking you can then buy a bigger one, but that’s fallen apart,” he said.

Myrtle Grove is one street immediately south of Ash Ave, where some residents are being relocated due to airborne trichloroethene, and testing of others will soon be under way.

Mr Nakic says he should be compensated if he is unable to sell the home.

Real Estate Institute of South Australia chief executive Greg Troughton said the broader Clovelly Park housing market could suffer as a result of the contamination news.

“Personally, I wouldn’t sell now,” he said. “Some people just have to sell regardless of the circumstances, and I really do feel for those people.”

Environment Minister Ian Hunter said that SA’s “site contamination system is based on the principle that people should bear the cost of monitoring, investigation and remediation”. “It’s understandable that residents outside this area would have concerns,” he said.

“Where possible, we will work through these issues with them.”

Published: Michael Nakic fears he won’t be able to sell his Clovelly Park home.

Picture: TAIT SCHMAAL

Snowfall hits Mid North

SOUTH Australia’s Mid North has had its second sprinkling of snow in less than a month as the state prepares for another day of winter chill.

Mid North residents are usually used to baking temperatures in summer, but were treated to snow yesterday, when light, powdery flakes fell for about 20 minutes.

Local “storm chaser” Jackson Elliott, 23, of Hallett, captured the footage and uploaded the images and video to his Facebook page. Mid North Storms. “Ran in Hallett,” the rest of the state shivered through wild winds of up to 100km/h and lashing rain.

A severe weather warning remained in place for South Australia and a minor flood warning was in place for the Eyre Peninsula, including Osmond upstream of Oakbank in the Adelaide Hills.

Adelaide recorded a top of 10°C, the coldest day since 2005.

The Bureau of Meteorology senior forecaster Simon Timke said the weather situation was expected to persist over coming days.

“Tensions in the state are building with another cold front moving through the state later in the week.”

Aussies give up on health

AUSTRALIANS have given in to bad habits and have given up on their desire to lead healthy lives.

While nearly three in four of us aspire to live in good health, only one in five expects to actually achieve this goal, a survey of 1500 Australians by health fund Medibank has found.

It comes as new research from Roy Morgan shows even though we’re smoking eight million fewer cigarettes a day, drinking fewer glasses of alcohol and exercising more, we’re adding 20kg to our waistlines every year.

Almost two in three adults are overweight (64 per cent), the number of overweight people has increased by 600,000 in 10 years of extra weight and it’s rising by 500,000 a year.

The overweight Australian tips the scales on average at 86kg too much.

The Roy Morgan survey shows obesity is becoming an age and an income-related problem. The under-25s are much less likely to be overweight and obese than the over 65s, while the rich are less likely to be overweight and obese than the poor.

Upset: Michael Nakic fears he won’t be able to sell his Clovelly Park home.

The Adelaide Advertiser is a daily tabloid newspaper for the Adelaide metropolitan area, providing news, sports, education, health, lifestyle and entertainment information for people living in and around the Adelaide area.