

Media statement

From the Office of the Environmental Monitor

Thursday, July 31, 2008

RE: ENTRANCE CLEAN UP WORKS

The Office of the Environmental Monitor is today advising that on 20 July 2008 one of the Environmental Management Plan's (EMP) rules may not have been fully implemented by the Channel Deepening Project.

Project Delivery Standard (PDS) No. 42 'Clean up in the Entrance' states:

Clean up is to continue until clean up has occurred in no fewer than 90 percent of the grid cells which were dredged during the cycle.

At 4.00pm on 30 July 2008, the Port of Melbourne Corporation (PoMC) alerted the Office that its internal verification process of clean up operations in the Entrance had revealed this had not occurred during this cycle.

PoMC was aware of the discrepancy on 28 July 2008.

The Office is concerned about the time lag between the incident and subsequent advice received from PoMC.

PoMC has provided preliminary advice on the circumstances of the issue to the Office.

The Office immediately sought the following information from PoMC:

- Further details on the cause of the issue;
- What action is being done to ensure the clean-up is completed and an indication of when this will occur; and
- What steps PoMC is taking to ensure this does not happen again.

The Office has notified the Project's Regulators – Secretary of the Department of Sustainability and Environment and the Ministers for Environment and Climate Change and Roads and Ports and will continue to advise the Project's Regulators as more information becomes available.

The Office will provide an update once PoMC has provided the requested information.

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