

Media release

From the Office of the Environmental Monitor

Friday 5 September, 2008

OFFICE RECEIVES PORT'S SECOND QUARTER REPORT

The Office of the Environmental Monitor today received the Port of Melbourne Corporation's (PoMC) second quarter report on the Channel Deepening Project.

Dredging's independent Environmental Monitor, Mick Bourke, said the Office would closely examine the information presented in PoMC's second quarter report, which covers the period from 1 May to 31 July 2008.

"The Office is satisfied PoMC has met the Environmental Management Plan's requirement to release the second quarter report to the Project's regulators and the Office by 5 September 2008," Mr Bourke said.

"We also consider it appropriate that PoMC released the report to the community at the same time."

Mr Bourke said the Office would consider PoMC's report and supporting documentation before finalising and releasing its own review.

"It is the Office's aim to release our review promptly to meet stakeholder and community expectation," he said.

"However, it is a responsibility of the Office to carefully digest and consider the information presented in PoMC's report before it judges the Project's environmental performance so far, and this will be done promptly."

The Office of the Environmental Monitor's review will be its second and will cover the period from 1 June to 31 August 2008.

Mr Bourke said the Office expected to receive PoMC's investigation report into last week's oil leak at the Entrance to Port Phillip Bay later today.

"Within two hours of the oil leak incident, PoMC notified the Project's regulators and the Office. The Office is satisfied with the prompt notification and the way in which PoMC continued to provide the Office with regular updates on the incident and subsequent investigation," Mr Bourke said.

"The Office expects that the information and support material provided by PoMC in its investigation report will provide a clearer understanding of the incident.

"The Office will consider the information presented in the investigation report and will make its advice public once it has been provided to the Project's regulators and PoMC," Mr Bourke said.

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