

Media release

From the Office of the Environmental Monitor

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TURBIDITY BELOW DREDGING PROJECT'S LIMITS

Turbidity levels across Port Phillip Bay remained below the Channel Deepening Project's environmental limits last week, Environmental Monitor Mick Bourke said today.

Mr Bourke said the turbidity monitoring data from 22 to 29 June, 2009 had not revealed any exceedances of turbidity limits.

"The project's rule book, the Environmental Management Plan, sets safeguards for important Bay plants and animals during dredging, including the management and monitoring of turbidity from dredging works," Mr Bourke said.

"Under the EMP, the Port of Melbourne Corporation must keep a close eye on Bay turbidity to ensure it remains at safe levels.

"To do this, turbidity is monitored continuously at 20 buoys located in the north and south of the Bay, which provide information on water quality and the behaviour of the dredging plume.

"The latest monitoring data shows that turbidity was below the dredging project's response levels and environmental limits last week," Mr Bourke said.

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