

Media release

From the Office of the Environmental Monitor

Wednesday, 15 July, 2009

TURBIDITY RESULTS CONSISTENT WITH RULE BOOK

Turbidity levels in the north and south of Port Phillip Bay remained below the environmental safeguards set to protect sensitive Bay plants and animals last week, Environmental Monitor Mick Bourke said.

Mr Bourke said the Office of the Environmental Monitor (the Office) had made a preliminary examination of the latest turbidity monitoring results and was satisfied the Channel Deepening Project had not breached any of the Environmental Management Plan's or rule book's turbidity limits.

"Data from 11 conformance turbidity meters operating across the bay indicates turbidity remained well below the dredging project's environmental limits," Mr Bourke said.

He said the results from EPA Victoria's Beach Monitoring Program showed good water quality at Bay beaches last week.

"Around the Bay 36 beaches were tested for bacteria, heavy metals, organic chemicals and algae last week," Mr Bourke said.

"The latest available results indicate that all beaches were within guideline levels for all parameters.

"As a general precaution, EPA Victoria advises people not to swim near stormwater drains, rivers, streams and other outlets into the Bay during and for at least 24 hours after rainfall," Mr Bourke said.

Weekly results on beach water quality are available from (www.oem.vic.gov.au and www.epa.vic.gov.au/water/beach_monitoring).

The Office of the Environmental Monitor provides an around the clock, independent and transparent view on the environmental performance of the Channel Deepening Project.

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