

Media release

From the Office of the Environmental Monitor

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TURBIDITY BELOW BAY DREDGING LIMITS

Turbidity levels in Port Phillip Bay continued to stay below the Channel Deepening Project's environmental limits last week, dredging's Environmental Monitor Mick Bourke said.

"The latest monitoring program results showed that turbidity levels in the north and south of the Bay fluctuated, but stayed below all of the dredging project's Response Levels and environmental limits," Mr Bourke said.

"Data from 11 conformance turbidity meters operating across the Bay showed that none of environmental limits set to protect the Bay's sensitive plants and animals were reached," he said.

Turbidity results released today cover a seven day period from 13 to 19 July, 2009 and can be found on the Office of the Environmental Monitor's web site (www.oem.vic.gov.au).

Mr Bourke also said results from EPA Victoria's Beach Monitoring Program showed good water quality at Bay beaches.

"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."

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

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