

# Media release

From the Office of the Environmental Monitor

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## **TURBIDITY MONITORING PROGRAM NEARS END**

Turbidity monitoring in southern Port Phillip Bay ended last week and monitoring in the north is expected to wrap up soon Environmental Monitor Mick Bourke said today.

“The rulebook allows the Turbidity Monitoring Program to end once dredging by the ocean going vessels is complete,” Mr Bourke said.

“Dredging in the south of the Bay ended on the 31 August 2009 and following the return of turbidity to background levels, the southern turbidity monitoring network was shut down on Friday 4 September 2009.

“The last dredge vessel, the CoZA, finished dredging in the north of the Bay on Friday 4 September 2009 and left Melbourne on Sunday.

“Once the northern turbidity monitoring network shows turbidity has also returned to background levels the remaining buoys can be shut down and removed from the water,” Mr Bourke said.

Mr Bourke said the latest turbidity monitoring data showed turbidity levels across the Bay were below the Channel Deepening Project’s environmental safeguards.

“Up to when turbidity monitoring ended in the south of the Bay, the levels recorded were well below the project’s environmental limits,” he said.

“Monitoring of turbidity levels in the north of the Bay continues and the latest results show turbidity levels were below the limits set to protect the Bay’s sensitive plants and animals.”

Past and present turbidity monitoring data can be found at [www.oem.vic.gov.au/Turbiditymonitoring](http://www.oem.vic.gov.au/Turbiditymonitoring).

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