

Media release

From the Office of the Environmental Monitor

Wednesday, 16 September, 2009

NORTHERN BAY TURBIDITY AT BACKGROUND LEVELS

Turbidity in the north of Port Phillip Bay has returned to background levels, signalling the shut down of the remaining turbidity monitoring network, Environmental Monitor Mick Bourke said today.

Mr Bourke said the Office of the Environmental Monitor had received notification from the Port of Melbourne Corporation that the remaining nine conformance and support turbidity monitoring buoys would be shut down and removed from the water by the end of the week.

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

“The CoZa finished dredging in the north of the Bay on Friday 4 September 2009 and left Melbourne on Sunday 6 September. Turbidity levels have since returned to background levels, meaning the network can be shut down in line with the Channel Deepening Project’s rule book.”

Turbidity monitoring data from 7 to 13 September 2009 is available at www.oem.vic.gov.au.

Mr Bourke said the Office of the Environmental Monitor had released its latest review of dredging operations.

“Quarterly Review No.6 provides an independent and transparent view of the Channel Deepening Project’s environmental performance from 1 June to 31 August 2009,” he said.

The review and all the latest monitoring data on the Bay’s health are available at www.oem.vic.gov.au.

-ENDS-