

# Media release

From the Office of the Environmental Monitor

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Friday, 15 February 2008

## **INDEPENDENT MONITOR WELCOMES FIRST CHANNEL DEEPENING RESULTS**

Independent Environmental Monitor, Mick Bourke, today welcomed the release of the first set of results from the Channel Deepening Project by the Port of Melbourne Corporation (PoMC).

Mr Bourke said the Office of the Environmental Monitor (OEM) supported and encouraged the continuing release of information on the Project.

“I welcome the PoMC’s first set of results and I’m pleased that the Port has informed the public of the outcome from its turbidity level monitoring program,” Mr Bourke said.

The monitoring results released by the PoMC showed turbidity levels around the current channel deepening site conformed to the Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

Nine buoys located in the south of the bay have monitored turbidity levels continuously since dredging began last Friday. Turbidity level limits have been set to protect Port Phillip Bay’s plants and animals.

Mr Bourke said he had made a preliminary examination of the results and was satisfied with the way the PoMC had reported them.

“I’m pleased that during the first week of dredging, the turbidity levels have remained well below the environmental limits set out in the EMP.

“However, given the Project has only been running for one week I will examine the results over the coming weeks and months as a whole to look for any trends,” Mr Bourke said.

Further results on the Project and its environmental performance will be released quarterly or as advised by the PoMC.

Mr Bourke said he would continue to review and scrutinise results from the project and if required, conduct other studies or monitoring programs to obtain more information.

The Independent Environmental Monitor is responsible for reviewing the management reports on the EMP prepared by the PoMC and monitoring and scrutinising the environmental performance of the project, including matters raised by stakeholders and the community.

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