

Factsheet: March 2009

Channel Deepening Project Environmental Management Plan

The Environmental Management Plan (EMP)

- The EMP is the governance document of the Channel Deepening Project and applies to all capital works, and the environmental monitoring programs.
- Port of Melbourne Corporation (PoMC) has the overall responsibility for the implementation of the project in accordance with the requirements of the EMP.
- The EMP comprises a total of 127 pages (main document), plus 474 pages of monitoring programs.

EMP scope

The EMP details the environmental management requirements of the project. It sets out the:

- Project delivery standards - for marine-based and land-based works
- Monitoring programs and post construction requirements (e.g. inspections)
- Regulatory controls and reporting procedures
- Contractor and communication measures

EMP approval

The EMP has been prepared in accordance with the:

- Coastal Management Act 1995 (Vic)
- Environment Protection Act 1970 (Vic)
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)

The EMP was approved by the Victorian Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Mr Gavin Jennings, in late 2007, and the Federal Minister for Environment, Mr Peter Garrett, on 5 February 2008.

EMP limits

- Environmental limits for the project have been set for turbidity and noise. In addition, there are project delivery standards for the management of the project.

Environmental monitoring

- The independent environmental monitor Mr Mick Bourke will advise both PoMC and relevant Ministers on the delivery of the project, in accordance with the EMP, and PoMC will cooperate with any requests and maintain consistent reporting procedures.
- People can have full confidence in the levels of environmental compliance and the significant public review process that PoMC is obligated to comply with.

Baywide monitoring

- There will be 9 baywide monitoring programs (plus 4 sub programs) and detailed work methods to provide broader information on the status of key species, habitats and ecological processes.
- The programs focus on fish stocks in the bay, water quality, little penguins, nutrient cycling, plume, contaminants in fish, algal bloom, Ramsar wetlands and seagrass.
- The programs involve the use of various monitoring methods such as satellite imagery, aerial photography, sampling for laboratory analysis, individual site monitoring, data collection, surveys, field measurements and mapping.
- Expert opinion and multiple lines of evidence will be used to identify any changes outside of expected variability. The results of baywide monitoring programs will be reviewed quarterly.

Notification and reporting requirements

PoMC is obligated to make information available, and performances (per project activities) will be reported to the different government agencies within pre-established timeframes:

- Department of Sustainability and Environment
- Federal Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
- Environment Protection Authority
- Independent environmental auditor
- Parks Victoria
- Heritage Victoria

Additionally, environmental incidents and hazards will be reported and recorded.

Audits also will be undertaken to monitor compliance with the EMP, and to ensure continued conformance. Audits will be scheduled for all project components (i.e. dredging, management of dredged material, protection of services, berth upgrades and installation of navigation aids). PoMC implementation of the EMP will be audited using an external auditor (to be appointed).

An annual report will be independently audited by an auditor agreed to be the Federal Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts.

Communication methods

- Methods to disseminate further information to the public are scheduled to include the website www.channelproject.com, a 24-hour toll-free telephone number (1800 731 022), media releases, mailing list, signage around the bay and notices to mariners.

For more information:

Telephone: 1800 731 022
Visit: www.channelproject.com
Email: channelproject@portofmelbourne.com