

Factsheet: March 2009

Navigation Aids- Queenscliff

As a part of the Port of Melbourne Corporation's (PoMC) Channel Deepening Project (CDP), a number of Sector Light Navigation Aids are being updated around the bay including the building of two new structures in the Queenscliff/ Point Lonsdale area.

These aids are being constructed at the Narrows (Dog's Beach) and Rocky Point, as outlined in the project's Supplementary Environment Effects Statement (SEES) released in March 2007.

A navigation aid is a land-based fixed marker, typically a structure that is used as a reference point for safe course plotting and the safe navigation of vessels. Essentially, they define safe operational boundaries.

Locations

Locations of navigation aids were chosen through a detailed simulation process. These assessments found that establishing navigation aids at the Narrows and Rocky Point would provide vessels with access to the highest and most suitable visibility locations.

The aid at the Narrows will be adjacent to Lovers' Walk, a narrow pedestrian path parallel with the coast. The other at Rocky Point will be at the Queenscliff Caravan Park, next to an amenities block.

Both sites have little or no vegetation, although some minor clearance may be necessary. If this is required, PoMC has entered into an agreement with the Borough of Queenscliffe for foreshore works within the area.

Design and Visual Impact

PoMC, in consultation with the Borough of Queenscliffe, carefully considered the design of the navigation aids. They will be no higher than 10 metres and no wider than 2.5 metres. The tube-like structures will be made of galvanised steel, with the sea-facing side painted white which is required for higher visibility from the water.

Navigation aids are highly sophisticated technology. The aids use what is called a Precision Sector Light (PEL), which projects a ray of light that is confined to the required operational width. This means local residents will not be affected by any light projecting from the aid.

Unlike traditional light houses, these navigation aids don't have moving parts, and do not emit any noise.

Community Consultation

As part of the CDP, PoMC has undertaken an extensive community and stakeholder consultation program. Since August 2005, four Community Information Sessions have been held at Queenscliff to assist the residents and bay users in gaining information about the project.

PoMC also presented at meetings of the Association of Bayside Municipalities, and held regular updates with individual councils.

When will this happen?

Works on navigation aids began in September 2008 and PoMC is committed to minimising any disruption. For example, in consultation with the contractor and Borough of Queenscliffe, works will only occur for around three to four days over a four week period.

Although contractors will only be on site for a limited time, PoMC urges residents to be mindful of safety instructions and signage when near the construction site.

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