

Factsheet: March 2009

Channel Deepening Project Safeguarding the environment

Port of Melbourne Corporation (PoMC) is keenly aware of the environmental importance of Port Phillip Bay, and the role it plays in the lives of all Victorians.

Even though the Yarra River and parts of the bay have been dredged for more than 100 years, PoMC has put in place the strictest environmental controls ever for dredging in the bay.

A comprehensive Environmental Management Plan prepared by PoMC embodies all the necessary protections and environmental safeguards (a separate briefing provides more detail on the EMP).

PoMC assembled the best team of experts available together with the best technology and science to achieve a project of the highest environmental standards.

Management of greenhouse gas emissions

The project will see fewer, larger ships using the Port of Melbourne.

This will improve shipping efficiency, reduce fuel use and therefore lower greenhouse gas emissions. Future developments in vessel construction including engine design will also see more fuel efficient vessels entering the port.

Monitoring and reporting procedures will be carried out in accordance with the Australian Government's Greenhouse Challenge Plus Program.

Climate change was also factored into hydrodynamic modelling (e.g. water movements, sea levels and currents). The most informed calculations show no coastal infrastructure around the bay is expected to be vulnerable to any changes as a result of the project.

Protecting wildlife

Expert advice and experience from previous dredging is that dolphins, penguins and seals avoid dredging vessels. During dredging, their food may move to another part of the bay, but penguins, dolphins and seals are mobile enough to follow their food sources. They are likely to be tolerant of any short term effects arising from dredging, and feeding areas are largely outside areas that can be expected to be affected by dredge plumes.



If a member of the public believes a bird or mammal has been harmed or injured by the dredging, they should contact the project's toll free information hotline (1800 731 022) so the matter can be investigated.

For more information:

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