



Media release

From the Minister for Planning

Wednesday, 21 March 2007

CHANNEL DEEPENING SUPPLEMENTARY EES REPORT RELEASED

Victorians will be able to have their say on the proposed channel deepening project with the release of a Supplementary Environment Effects Statement (SEES), the Minister for Planning, Justin Madden, announced today.

The Port of Melbourne Corporation (PoMC) has prepared the SEES on its proposal to deepen shipping channels in Port Phillip Bay to allow larger ships access to the Port.

Mr Madden said the Bracks Government asked PoMC to prepare the SEES following an initial consultation on the corporation's 2004 Environment Effects Statement for the project.

"Further analysis of the project's potential environmental impact was required in light of questions raised after the original EES's public consultation and submission stage," Mr Madden said.

"The supplementary EES was undertaken as a result, and I am pleased to announce that this report will be on public display from tomorrow."

Mr Madden said the SEES included the results of a \$32 million trial dredge conducted in August and September 2005.

"The SEES is the culmination of more than two years of investigation, taking into account more than 40 technical studies and around 15,000 pages of research and data," Mr Madden said.

"This is a significant project for Victoria and I encourage all Victorians to have their say on it."

The SEES will be on display at 29 locations from 9am on Thursday, 22 March, until 5pm on Monday 7 May. Written submissions will be accepted during the exhibition period.

The Minister will appoint an independent, three-member panel to conduct public hearings after the exhibition period and to consider all submissions. The public hearings will commence in mid to late June and are expected to take around seven weeks.

The panel will submit its report and recommendations to Mr Madden, who will then make his own assessment taking into account the panel report, SEES and public submissions.

The terms of reference will be made available at www.dse.vic.gov.au/planning/ees

The Environmental Effects process is expected to be concluded by late October. The project will be then be considered for approval by the Victorian and Commonwealth governments.

MEDIA CONTACT: Claire Miller 9651 5799 or 0409 509 677 www.vic.gov.au

Display Locations

Venue / Suburb	Location and address
Department of Sustainability and Environment Planning Information Centre	Planning Information Centre, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne
EPA Victoria Display Centre	Ground Floor, Herald & Weekly Times Tower, 40 City Road, Southbank
State Library of Victoria	328 Swanston St, Melbourne
Department of the Environment and Water Resources Library	John Gorton Building, King Edward Terrace, Parkes, ACT
Albert Park	Albert Park Library, 319 Montague Street
Altona	Hobsons Bay Civic Centre, 115 Civic Parade
Belmont	Geelong Regional Library, 194 High Street, Belmont
Brighton	Brighton Library, 14 Wilson Street
Dromana	Mornington Peninsula Visitor Centre, 359B Point Nepean Road
Footscray	Footscray Library, 56 Paisley Street Maribyrnong City Council Office, Cnr Hyde and Napier Streets
Frankston	Frankston Library, 60 Playne Street Frankston City Council Office, Cnr Young and Davey Streets
Geelong	Geelong City Hall, 30 Gheringhap Street
Hastings	Hastings Library, 7 High Street
Mentone	City of Kingston Council Office, 34 Brindisi Street
Mornington	Mornington Library, 19 Main Street
Parkdale	Parkdale Library, 96 Parkers Road
Port Melbourne	Port Melbourne Library, 333 Bay Street
Queenscliff	Queenscliff Library, 50 Hesse Street Borough of Queenscliffe Council Office, 50 Learmonth Street
Rosebud	Rosebud Library, 25 Ninth Avenue Mornington Peninsula Shire Council Office, Besgrove Street
Sandringham	Sandringham Library, 2-8 Waltham Street Bayside City Council Office, 76 Royal Avenue
St Kilda	Port Phillip City Council Office, 99a Carlisle Street
Werribee	Werribee CBD Library, 177 Watton Street Wyndham City Council Office, 45 Princes Hwy
Williamstown	Williamstown Library, 104 Ferguson Street

The SEES can also be viewed and downloaded at the PoMC website: www.channelproject.com, or obtained from PoMC on 1800 731 022 or email channelproject@portofmelbourne.com



Fact Sheet

Proposed channel deepening project for Port Phillip Bay: SEES panel and public consultation process

- The SEES will be on public exhibition from Thursday 22 March to Monday 7 May, 2007.
- The Minister for Planning will appoint an independent Panel to hold a public inquiry into the SEES.
- The panel's terms of reference will be made available at www.dse.vic.gov.au/planning/ees or call Planning Panels Victoria on **03 9637 9692**. The terms of reference will also be available at the SEES display locations.
- Public submissions can be made during the exhibition period and will be publicly available. Submissions may also be placed on the Port of Melbourne Corporation's website (www.channelproject.com).
- In late May, the panel will hold a directions hearing to introduce its members and resolve any administrative and procedural matters.
- Shortly after the directions hearing, the panel will release a timetable for public hearings. Parties can request to appear at one of these public hearings at this time.
- The panel is likely to commence public hearings in mid to late June 2007.
- Once the hearings have concluded, the panel will provide a final report with recommendations to the Minister for Planning.
- The Minister for Planning will assess the proposal, having regard to the SEES, public submissions and the Inquiry panel report.
- The Minister for Planning's assessment will be submitted to the state Ministers for Ports and Environment, and the Federal Environment Minister for consideration under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.
- The Victorian Government will then to decide whether project should proceed.