

18 September 2007

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Dr Allan Hawke  
Chair – Port Phillip Bay Channel Deepening Project SEES Inquiry  
Planning Panels Victoria  
1/8 Nicholson Street  
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Dear Dr Hawke

## **Response to Inquiry Request of 27 August 2007**

In response to your request of 27 August 2007, as clarified in subsequent correspondence, for PoMC arrange for formal reviews to take place of the Port of Melbourne Channel Deepening Project Scour Assessment Report The Entrance by SKM dated July 2007 ('**Raisbeck Report**'), PoMC has obtained the following reports (attached):

- Peer Review (Sept 07) by Neville Rosengren (Environmental GeoSurveys Pty Ltd)
- Peer Review - 'Dredging-induced Potential Scour at the Entrance to Port Phillip Bay – A Review of Reports on Scour and Modelling the Environmental Impacts (Sept 07) by Terry Healy (Research Professor)
- Review of Dredging Technologies and Work Practices in the context of the Scour Assessment Report The Entrance (Sept 07) by Frans Uelman (Boskalis).

Each of the peer reviewers was asked to assess the appropriateness and validity of the assumptions, findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Raisbeck Report in the context of their particular field of expertise. Boskalis was asked to review its previous investigations into alternative dredging technologies and its proposed dredging and clean-up methodologies to see whether any of its past conclusions might be changed by the information contained in the Raisbeck Report and whether any altered or additional procedure could be recommended to mitigate scour and its impacts.

Together, the reports address the issues of geomorphology and geotechnical character, sediment transport and dredging technologies and methodologies, in accordance with the Inquiry' request.

Terry Healy was also requested to review the three reports by Cardno Lawson and Treloar ('CLT') which were commissioned, following the Raisbeck Report, to consider the implications if the shipping channel scoured to -22m CD.

The combined outcome of these assessments is as follows:

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- Each of the reports concluded that the Raisbeck Report is a competent, well-researched report with logical conclusions and that the information and modelling assumed by the report are credible and acceptable.
- Although the processes that lead to lowering of the seafloor may be more complex than described in the Raisbeck Report, this does not detract from the accuracy or adequacy of the analysis of the net effect of "scour" and "erosion" on the seafloor.
- The assessments presented in the reports represent, overall, the best estimation of environmental impacts available.
- The objective of minimising rockfall, albeit in another context, has been at the forefront of past investigations of dredging technologies and methodologies and there are no modifications which are reasonably available and commercially practical to further reduce rockfall generation and dispersion.
- The specific conclusion that there will be no change in current-driven sediment transport patterns over the Great Sands compared with the modelled case for existing conditions is supported.
- The relevant peer reviewer is more cautious than CLT about potential impacts on sediment transport patterns to and from the beaches in Lonsdale Bight. However, rather than delaying the CDP, he suggests that a 'watching brief' should be kept on the effects of scour on beach sedimentation as the project goes forward.
- Editorial changes are suggested in relation to certain aspects of the reports which are not material to the overall assessment.

We note that the 'watching brief' recommended in relation to sediment transport patterns at Lonsdale Bight is already covered by the monitoring requirements incorporated into Revision C of the EMP. In fact, a number of management measures were included in the EMP during the period of the Inquiry to address the scour issue as it emerged.

The peer review has not identified any new factor of significance to the assessment of environmental impacts or recommended further mitigation measures for adoption in the EMP.

We trust that the reports respond appropriately to the Inquiry's request.

Yours faithfully

**MINTER ELLISON**



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