

### Background

Following a detailed assessment, involving public input, the Victorian Government approved the Channel Deepening Project (the Project) proposed by the Port of Melbourne Corporation (PoMC).

PoMC must adhere to an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) or rule book that sets out controls and standards for channel deepening to ensure short-term environmental effects are minimised and that Port Phillip Bay is protected in the long-term.

The Victorian Government has established the Office of the Environmental Monitor (the Office) to ensure the Project receives the scrutiny it requires.

### Who is the Environmental Monitor?

Mick Bourke, Chairman of the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria, was appointed the Environmental Monitor in December 2007.

While holding the role of the Environmental Monitor, Mr Bourke has delegated his powers and responsibilities under the Environment Protection Act to senior executives at EPA and to the Secretary of the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), when dealing with channel deepening matters.

PoMC is obliged to assist the Environmental Monitor. Expert advice from the Independent Expert Group and administrative support from DSE will also be available.

### What is the role of the Office?

The Office of the Environmental Monitor provides an around-the-clock independent and transparent view on the environmental performance of the Channel Deepening Project.

Its objectives are to:

- Be accessible to all stakeholders and the community;
- Scrutinise, report and advise on the Project's environmental performance in an independent and transparent way; and
- Communicate all available information on the Project's environmental performance in a timely manner to stakeholders and the community.

The Office will:

- **Scrutinise** results from bay-wide monitoring programs, other environmental monitoring programs, and PoMC's conformance against the regulatory and environmental controls set out in the Environmental Management Plan;
- **Report** quarterly, annually and at other critical points on the Project's environmental performance;
- **Advise** Government, PoMC and the community on the findings arising from the Office's reports on the Project's environmental performance; and
- **Consult** stakeholders and the community to remain informed on their issues and concerns.

### Reporting by the Office

All advice and reports produced by the Office will be publicly available at [www.oem.vic.gov.au](http://www.oem.vic.gov.au).