

# Werribee River Entrance Channel Fact Sheet

## Long Term Environmental Management Plan

### for Parks Victoria's Bays Maintenance Dredging Program

Parks Victoria is the waterway manager for the designated local ports of Port Phillip and Western Port. Since 1998, Parks Victoria has managed an ongoing maintenance dredging program to facilitate safe boating access to local port facilities and harbours within its jurisdiction and control.

Parks Victoria has recently reviewed its maintenance dredging program to ensure that it is delivering a safe and efficient service. Following an examination of the program's marine design standards and methodologies, a number of changes were recommended.

These changes, and the manner in which the maintenance dredging program will be delivered into the future, have been compiled into a report, the *Bays Maintenance Dredging Program – Long Term Environmental Management Plan*.

Before these changes are finalised, Parks Victoria will make this information available, and provide opportunities for feedback from the community.

### Looking forward

Once approved, the Long Term Environmental Management Plan will provide a framework for Parks Victoria's updated maintenance dredging program while ensuring relevant statutory controls and obligations are met.

The Plan will also provide the technical specifications required to support Parks Victoria's application for Consent to dredge under the *Coastal Management Act 1995 (CMA)*.

### New sites

A number of infrequently dredged sites have been included in the Plan. These were not previously a part of the dredging program, but are now considered, as most will need some level of maintenance over the next ten years.

Their inclusion will also result in further efficiencies across the program, as separate CMA Consent applications will no longer be required for each activity. In most cases the sites will require further detailed investigation, design and funding prior to dredging.

The new sites include:

- Patterson River Estuary,
- Queenscliff Moorings,
- Brighton Harbour,
- Hampton Harbour and Jetty,
- Hastings Jetty,
- Williamstown Precinct,

### New designs

To provide greater safety, efficiency, and environmental protection, some sites have had changes to their design or methodology.

These include:

- Patterson River depth increased to -5.0m.
- Mordialloc, length of dredge area.
- Queenscliff, increase of dredge area to include mooring area for Ferry and dredge.
- Portarlington new entry channel and depth within the harbour.
- Werribee, depth increased to -2.5m.
- New methodology at Tankerton for in water disposal.

### Is it safe and clean?

The Long Term Environmental Management Plan includes a sediment sampling plan which complies with the EPA Best Practise Guidelines for Dredging, and the National Assessment Guidelines for Dredging. The previous sediment sampling results are provided in detail. In summary, the sediment dredged is suitable for placement on the adjacent beaches or in water, as is the proposal at Tankerton.

Freshly dredged sand may contain organic material, mostly seaweed, which will give it a dark colour and mildly unpleasant odour when it first comes out of the water. After a few days of exposure to the air and sun, the sand will bleach to a normal colour and lose any odour.



### Specific site information

This site excludes the approach to the City of Wyndham boat ramp, and is maintained using an excavator and Cutter Suction Dredge (CSD). The current methodology is to deposit the dredged sand on beaches east of the River entrance.

Dredge depth is between -1.5m and -2.0m across the dredge area.

### Specific changes to site

Dredge depth will be increased from -2.0m to -2.5m along the channel. A land based excavator will be used every fourth year to keep the spit clear. Sand from the spit will be placed on the adjacent beach area.

### When will the dredging happen?

Dredging may occur anytime of the year to ensure safe access for vessels. Though the majority of dredging

works will take place between February and mid-December. The frequency of maintenance dredging is determined by the build-up of sand through natural coastal processes. It is also influenced by weather events and seasonal use of the area by members of the public.

This site is to be dredged on a 2 year cycle.

Approximately 25,000m<sup>3</sup> of sand is expected to be removed each time.

The site was last maintained in 2015.

### More Information

If you would like more information about the maintenance dredging works, please call 13 1963 or visit [www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au)