

Dredging outcomes

September 2019



Quick facts about the project

Current as at 18 September 2019

18.09.2019

Dredging completion

239

Marine mammal sightings

4

Occurrences when turbidity reached the HOLD limit*



All EPA audits satisfied



All dredged material placed only within the approved area

514

Trips to the Dredge Material Placement Area

0

Marine mammal incidents



Several larger vessel booking applications are being processed



Dredging period undertaken within anticipated timeframe



Proactive measures taken to reduce marine pest and biosecurity risks

*HOLD limits reached as a result of combination of dredging and prolonged poor weather conditions.



Trailing Suction Hopper Dredge 'Gateway'



Backhoe Dredge 'Magnor'



KEY MILESTONES DURING DREDGING

Dredging for the Outer Harbor Channel Widening Project was completed within the anticipated schedule of June to September 2019. Here is an outline of some key milestones of the dredging process.



ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING OUTCOMES

Environmental factors were central to informing dredge management decisions and operational activities. Live monitoring data supported the dredge contractors in managing turbidity levels throughout the project. The contractor was able to quickly respond when levels increased, by stopping work or altering methodology, to best manage conditions.

Key monitoring activities included:

- Monitoring water quality every 10 minutes** to manage dredge activity and minimise the impact on seagrass and other marine life
- Trained Marine Mammal Observers on all dredge vessels** to record mammal sightings near the dredges and alter operations to avoid mammals, if required
- Conducting before and after works surveys on seagrass** to track the impact of dredging and recovery
- Implementing a Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS) Management Plan**, which included dredging when the water temperature was below 18 degrees to ensure every precaution was taken to avoid the spread of the virus if present in the channel
- Conducting surveys on Caulerpa taxifolia** (a weed species that impacts seagrass) in the dredge area to inform measures needed to control potential spread
- Thorough cleaning and inspections on the dredge equipment** prior to arriving in Australia to reduce the risk of marine pests entering the Port
- Live tracking of vessel locations and activities** to manage dredging and dredge material placement

HOLD EVENTS AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

Turbidity levels reached HOLD on a total of four occasions, and Flinders Ports worked closely with the EPA to monitor and manage water quality to minimise the environmental impact.

The EPA acknowledged that poor weather conditions – including prolonged wet weather and strong winds - contributed to the high turbidity levels on occasion. At all times Flinders Ports operated within the limitations and restrictions of the EPA dredging licence to manage turbidity levels. Continuous engagement with EPA occurred throughout the dredging campaign.

POST DREDGING MONITORING

Flinders Ports will continue to monitor seagrass over the next two years.

Post dredging seagrass surveys will be undertaken in April 2020 and April 2022 to align with pre-dredging baseline survey undertaken in April 2019.

Flinders Ports will continue to monitor the channel and swing basin for any necessary future maintenance. This is expected to be minimal.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

With the dredging component of the Outer Harbor Channel Widening project now completed, South Australia is in an ideal position to accommodate the future of trade and tourism industry needs across the world.

Shipping lines have already begun booking larger vessels (Post Panamax) into Outer Harbor.

The Port will also now support the South Australian Tourism Strategy 2020, which aims to attract 100 ships a year, adding \$200 million to the state economy.



Outer Harbor Channel Widening Project

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