Quick facts about the project

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.

Key milestones during dredging

- **Jan to May**
  - All navigation aids within the dredging footprint removed and temporary buoys installed
- **7 June**
  - Dredging began with the Trailing Suction Hopper Dredge 'Gateway'
- **12 July**
  - EPA Compliance audit undertaken with no issues identified
  - Completion of navigation aid reinstatement
- **15 July**
  - 49% of dredging completed
- **18 September**
  - All dredging completed
- **19 June**
  - EPA Compliance audit undertaken with no issues identified
- **29 June**
  - The world's largest Backhoe Dredge ‘Magnor’ arrived in the Port and commenced removing harder material that the Trailing Suction Hopper Dredge couldn’t

Environmental monitoring outcomes

- **18.09.2019**
  - Marine mammal sightings: 239
  - Marine mammal incidents: 0
  - Occasions when turbidity reached the HOLD limit*: 4
  - Marine mammal sightings: 239
  - Marine mammal incidents: 0
  - Occasions when turbidity reached the HOLD limit*: 4
  - EPA audits satisfied: All EPA audits satisfied
  - Dredging period undertaken within anticipated timeframe: All dredged material placed only within the approved area

**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
- 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 limits reached as a result of combination of dredging and prolonged poor weather conditions.
HOLD EVENTS AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

Turbidity levels reached high 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.

Flinders Ports

Outer Harbor Channel Widening Project

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