

# Fremantle Ports' Inner Harbour Deepening Project

Media Statement: 01 February 2010

WHILE the City of Fremantle has no direct involvement in Fremantle Ports' Inner Harbour Deepening Project, the City recognises some recreational water users have concerns about water quality in both the Swan River and Indian Ocean.

To assist the community in keeping up-to-date on water quality levels, the City will provide regular updates on its website [www.fremantle.wa.gov.au](http://www.fremantle.wa.gov.au)

The Fremantle Ports project – which includes channel deepening, land reclamation at Rous Head and the off-shore placement of dredged material – has been approved by the Minister for Environment. The project has been approved subject to conditions imposed by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA).

City of Fremantle representatives will attend Fremantle Ports Inner Harbour Deepening Dredging Reference Group meetings to receive the latest project information.

## **Fremantle Ports Water Quality Monitoring Program**

FREMANTLE Ports have engaged the services of *Oceanica Pty Ltd* to monitor water quality in accordance with the EPA's conditions of approval, and the Port will publish water sampling test results on their website.

To view a summary of water sampling results, click on the following link:  
<http://www.fremantleports.com.au/Planning/5651.asp>

Results of analyses for hydrocarbons, metals, tributyltin (TBT) and pesticides can be found in the Fremantle Ports Water Quality Report of January 27, 2010.

**All results were well below acceptable environmental and safe swimming levels.**

Only one result indicated reduced visibility in waters at Preston Point Beach in the afternoon of January 19, 2010.

To view the Fremantle Ports Water Quality Report of 27 January 2010, click on the following link:  
[http://www.fremantleports.com.au/Planning/IHR\\_Water\\_Quality\\_report\\_2010\\_0125v3.pdf](http://www.fremantleports.com.au/Planning/IHR_Water_Quality_report_2010_0125v3.pdf)

## **Water Sampling at Fremantle beaches**

EACH summer, the City of Fremantle's environmental health officers – in collaboration with the Department of Health – deliver a fortnightly water monitoring program that assesses and reports on the microbiological quality of water at four Fremantle beach locations. These include South Beach, Fremantle Bathers Beach, Port Beach and Leighton Beach.

Since fortnightly testing began in 2007, all four Fremantle beach sites have received a "Green" Traffic Light Risk Classification – the highest rating possible for microbiological water quality.

Results for metropolitan beach sites from Rockingham to Quinns Rock are available on the Department of Health's website, *Healthy Swimming in Western Australian Waterways*.

To view the results for Fremantle's beaches, click on the following links:

<http://www.healthyswimming.health.wa.gov.au/sites/southbeaches.cfm>

<http://www.healthyswimming.health.wa.gov.au/sites/northbeaches.cfm>

## **State Government Approval Process**

IN June 2009, the EPA provided advice and recommendations to the Minister for Environment in regard to the proposal submitted by Fremantle Ports.

To view EPA Report 1330, click on the following link:

[http://www.epa.wa.gov.au/docs/2969\\_Rep1330RousHeadPER15609.pdf](http://www.epa.wa.gov.au/docs/2969_Rep1330RousHeadPER15609.pdf)

On August 18, 2009, the Minister for Environment and Youth, Donna Faragher JP MLC, approved the proposal submitted by Fremantle Ports in accordance with the recommendations of the EPA.

To view the conditions of approval, click on the following link:

[http://portal.environment.wa.gov.au/pls/portal/docs/PAGE/DOE\\_ADMIN/ENVIRONMENT\\_CONDITIONS\\_REPOSITORY/00801.PDF](http://portal.environment.wa.gov.au/pls/portal/docs/PAGE/DOE_ADMIN/ENVIRONMENT_CONDITIONS_REPOSITORY/00801.PDF)

The EPA released a media statement on June 16, 2009, and EPA chairman Paul Vogel said:

“Dredging, offshore disposal and reclamation at Rous Head will not cause the release of contaminants to the extent that they can adversely affect marine ecosystem integrity or other environmental values,” Mr Vogel said.

“However, aesthetic and recreational values relating to the extent of a visible plume along the coast during summer will be compromised by this project.

“The EPA accepts that this will occur for approximately 20-26 weeks and that coastal water quality will return to normal once the activities associated with the proposal cease.”

The view the entire media statement released by the EPA, click on the following link:

<http://www.epa.wa.gov.au/article.asp?ID=2971&area=News&CID=18&Category=Media+Statements>

The EPA is the State Government agency responsible for ensuring Fremantle Ports comply with their conditions of approval.

The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) is the state government agency responsible for ensuring Fremantle Ports Water Quality Monitoring Program complies with environmental and human health standards.

The Department of Health is also monitoring the situation to ensure human health standards are not compromised.

### **Contacts**

For more information, the City of Fremantle recommends you contact:

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#### **Oceanica Pty Ltd**

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