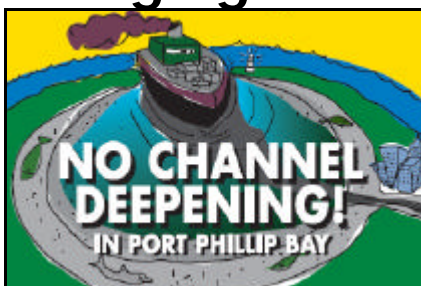




Bay dredging on hold...



The Independent Panel has released its report on the Channel Deepening Project Environmental Effects Statement (EES), and it sounded the project's death knell.

The report is extremely critical of the Port of Melbourne Corporation's \$12million EES with over 130 conclusions and recommendations.

The EES lacked some basic fundamentals like a complete table of contents with page references, a bibliography or even an index, the Panel described it as being **"poorly drafted, over lengthy and reiterative"**(pg36), not what you would expect after having spent \$12million of taxpayer funds on it.

Moving onto more serious findings...

The risk assessments made throughout the EES were based on flawed methods **"...which makes reliance upon its outcomes for environmental assessment and decision-making purposes most unsound."** (pg74)

On the subject of the toxicity of the spoils to be removed from the Yarra the Panel found some major holes. Not only was the supposedly random selection of testing sites found to be dubious, but the classification of the spoil should have been acutely toxic which leads to them being defined as highly contaminated and therefore **eliminates the option of open marine (in the Bay) disposal.**

The panel also raised some concerns regarding PoMC **"...not always clear as to how the project will be delivered to time and budget.."** without **"adverse environmental effects"**.

What happens now?

The Channel Deepening has been put on hold until a Supplementary EES is produce by the PoMC. The SEES will then go before another Independent Panel which will in turn make a recommendation to the Minister for Planning on whether or not they believe the project has addressed environmental, budget and time concerns.

Can we do anything in the meantime?

You can continue to make people aware of the project and its dire consequences if it goes ahead.

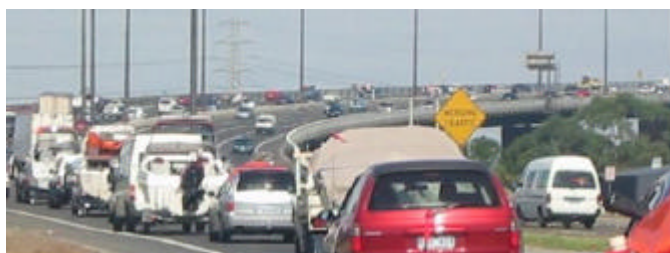
Show your concern by attending rallies/actions against the Channel Deepening Project



Karl Fedke marshaling hundreds of cars/boats



Ready to roll at the Westgate Rally!



Boats/cars crossing the Westgate Bridge

Westgate Rally Wrap-up

Sunday 13th February saw TFPVic along with BlueWedges Coalition, commercial fisherman, divers and other bay users unite in showing their opposition to the Channel Deepening Project.

For the first time divers, recreational anglers and commercial fishermen, environmentalists, divers and other groups that had been at loggerheads in the past put their differences aside and stood side by side in opposition to the proposed dredging of the bay.

Masses of cars with and without boats in tow crossed the Westgate bridge as foot traffic assembled beneath the bridge on the banks of the Yarra, and boat traffic circled in the water. The huge turnout to such an ingenious protest resulted in the issue receiving unprecedented media coverage.

The free fish BBQ at the end of the rally was put on by the Port Phillip and Westernport Commercial Fishermen's Association and was also a glowing success. A big THANK-YOU goes out to those that helped make the event the success it was!



TFPVic signing up new members at the rally



The Fishing Party (Victorian Branch)

Newsletter No. 3

Chairman's Report

We are moving into a very interesting phase in TFP(Vic). As you are aware the major item which has taken a huge toll on us is the Port Phillip Bay Channel Deepening Project. I am pleased to say that we were instrumental in a round one win! Thank you to all who contributed to the cause.

Our membership is the most important item on our current agenda. We currently only have approximately 200 members in Victoria even after some huge legwork promoting TFPVic. We must have 500 members so that we can stand candidates for the State Elections, which is a major priority. We are currently working on some promotions for membership, however our best sales people are our existing satisfied members. Please speak to your friends and associates about joining. I'm sure that the amount of information you receive is worth more than the miserly \$22.00 for 3 years, let alone the kinds of results that we have already gained.

We need your help in many ways. If you would like our representatives to come to a meeting in your area, if you can help on a committee, if you can arrange some friends to join we want to hear from you.

TFPVic are committed to raising the profile of Anglers in Victoria, and we all know that our sport is being threatened in many ways. We want to protect our rights and privileges and hopefully improve fisheries management to a more sustainable level.

Help TFPVic make "I FISH AND I VOTE" a real alternative at the next elections.

Tight Lines

John Willis
Chairman

Lake Modewarre Meeting

TFPVic conducted a meeting in Geelong on the demise of Lake Modewarre. Our North West regional representative Mr. Karl Fedke was instrumental in bringing together many interest groups including the vast array of controlling bodies who are responsible for the Lake.

This is a typical example of the confusion regarding the responsibilities of our waterways. It appears that there are approximately 13 regulatory authorities responsible for the Lake, its surrounds and the catchment and the Surf Coast Shire is throwing responsibility back to the Government. The results seem to be that the fish kills are indeed due to higher water temperature due to the drought, however the question still remains as to how much water is actually getting to the Lake via traditional methods.

A "Friends Of Lake Modewarre" group was formed on the night to hopefully keep the managing authorities on their toes so we can once again see Lake Modewarre return to the trophy lake it once was.

TFPVic News

TFPVic is steadily gaining a profile not only within the angling community (with informal discussion taking place with FutureFish, VRFish) but also with other community based organizations.

The TFPVic Executive committee has continued to visit a number of angling clubs to introduce themselves. Some of these clubs included St Leonards, Altona and Schnapper Point. If you would like us to come and do a brief presentation at your Club then just **contact TFPVic via email or phone**.

A MSN group was launched where members with access to the internet can login and obtain up to date information on events/meetings and also participate in brainstorming on the forums.

We welcomed onboard another Regional Representative, Bruce Smith (Western Suburbs). Contact TFPVic if you would like to represent your area!

How do I join TFPVic?

Either email the Secretary for a membership application form or call any of the TFPVic officers and have it mailed out to you. All that remains is the mailing of the completed form along with your cheque or money order to the TFPVic Branch address, and the Membership Officer will promptly issue you with our welcoming pack.

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