



**MEDIA RELEASE 12<sup>th</sup> May 2005**  
**OPEN LETTER TO PREMIER BRACKS**

**BLUE WEDGES COALITION CALLS FOR SACKING OF THE  
PORT OF MELBOURNE CORPORATION BOARD & CEO**

Dear Mr. Bracks,

The Port of Melbourne Corporation (PoMC) has failed the Victorian public and the State government. Its failures are significant and, in our view, grievous. It has wasted \$12 million of taxpayer's money in a fundamentally flawed EES process that:

- 1) Failed to produce a project that met world's best practice standards.
- 2) Failed to produce an EES that enabled the Independent Panel to make a recommendation or enabled your government to make a sustainable decision under the Environmental Effects Act 1978.
- 3) Failed to exhibit a highly significant report on toxicity assessment of Yarra sediments.
- 4) Failed to produce an "environmental risk analysis that was methodologically sound".
- 5) Failed to carry out a "basic safety assessment".
- 6) Failed to provide sufficient expertise in some crucial study areas.
- 7) "Misled" the reader and therefore the public and the State and Federal governments.

**We do not understand how the Victorian public can be expected to entrust the PoMC with the future of Port Phillip Bay, given the findings of the Independent Panel.**

**The PoMC has a vested interest in the project proceeding. Rather than managing the proposed Supplementary EES (S-EES) the PoMC should be removed from any further management role of either the S-EES or the resources of Port Phillip Bay.**

**We therefore call for the sacking of the PoMC Board and CEO.**

The PoMC can then be replaced by a new Port Phillip Bay Authority. The Authority can have a broad Term of Reference to include the entire bay. The people on the new Board will have a broad range of interests and expertise. These will need to include but not be limited to:

- an expert understanding of the economics of the entire Port Phillip Bay region, including industries, commercial activities and tourism, not just shipping and ports.
- an expert (unbiased) understanding and care for the Port Phillip Bay ecosystems.
- a proper understanding of the scientific method and the rigor it requires.
- an ability to sift through the current PoMC staff and keep those who were able and willing to work with a broader, whole-of-bay perspective.
- a genuine interest and expertise in community consultations and building relationships.

**We further note:**

- The PoMC pre-empted the outcome of the first EES by entering into contractual agreements with overseas dredging contractors prior to the outcome of the EES and Independent Panel hearing.
- The PoMC is now gearing up to “trial dredge” some of our most cherished reef areas near The Rip. “Trial dredging” again pre-empts the outcome of the proposed S-EES.
- If the PoMC is allowed to manage the S-EES it will be seen as a sham, providing the present Management and their dredging contract partners with yet another “green light” from government.

**We call on your government to ensure that “trial dredging” does not commence, and instead the proposal is properly and independently assessed for its economic, social and environmental long-term viability.**

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