



MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon Peter Garrett MP

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts

PG /45

28 March 2008

MINISTER WELCOMES CHANNEL DEEPENING DECISION

I welcome the judgement handed down in the Federal Court today dismissing the grounds for the Blue Wedges appeal against my decision on the Channel Deepening Project in Port Phillip Bay.

Today's judgement adopts all of the Commonwealth's significant arguments and confirms that my approval thoroughly complied with the requirements of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

In doing so, the court has also acknowledged the detailed assessment process adopted for this project over a number of years, which was rigorously undertaken by my Department and by me.

My approval of this project was granted subject to comprehensive conditions including the development of an Environmental Management Plan which imposes stringent environmental conditions and monitoring requirements.

The court also acknowledged that in making my decision the documentation I considered took into account both the potential environmental, social and economic impacts of the project

I am pleased with today's decision which vindicates the careful, detailed and thorough consideration I have given to this project in discharging the serious responsibilities I have as Federal Environment Minister under the Act.