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## Seagrass survey shows no adverse impacts from dredging project

An EPA marine monitoring survey following the dredging of Outer Harbor has found no adverse impacts on seagrass.

The dredging was undertaken by Flinders Ports in autumn last year to allow larger ships to access the port facilities.

Flinders Ports was required to adhere to strict environmental conditions throughout the project and the EPA conducted further, independent monitoring of seagrass before, during and after the project.

The EPA's monitoring included detailed assessment by EPA divers and reviewing underwater video footage. The results of this first post-dredging monitoring audit found there had been no adverse impact on seagrass at the monitored sites.

EPA Director of Science Keith Baldry said that the results were promising.

"Some seagrass loss in the area being directly dredged was inevitable, but in the wider 'zone of influence' it is very pleasing that we have not identified any adverse impacts in our first post-dredging survey," Mr Baldry said.

During the dredging program, Flinders Ports was required to comply with EPA licence conditions that specified steps that needed to be taken to reduce turbidity – a potential cause of seagrass loss - including stopping work when turbidity reached particular trigger levels.

Flinders Ports was also required to monitor seagrass condition before and after the dredging and to implement a dredging methodology to reduce the impact on marine life and seagrass.

"By using modern dredging practices and up-to-date science, the early indications are that environmental impacts have been minimised," Mr Baldry said.

"We will undertake a further monitoring survey in 2021 to check that this continues and that there are no delayed impacts as a result of the dredging."

The EPA report is available at [epa.sa.gov.au/community/stay-informed/flinders-ports](http://epa.sa.gov.au/community/stay-informed/flinders-ports).