River Users Update:

**Maintenance Dredging Works Lower Yarra River**
- Hotspot dredging at the VRA Landing and under the Main Yarra Trail

April 2020

As the Local Waterway Manager for the Yarra River, Parks Victoria is responsible for ensuring safe navigation for both recreational and commercial boat users.

The gradual, natural build-up of silt and sediment in the Lower Yarra River has reduced water depth for some parts of the river, restricting safe navigation and access to facilities.

Parks Victoria will carry out minor hotspot dredging at the Victorian Rowing Association Landing (VRA Landing) and under the Main Yarra Trail to mitigate urgent dredging needs.

Parks Victoria is currently in the planning stage of a broader Maintenance Dredging Program which is planned to commence in the 2020-2021 financial year.

**What is happening?**
The accumulation of sediment has led to urgent dredging needs at two sites:

1. The VRA Landing, where rowers are unable to safely launch their boats during low tide.
2. Floating sections of the Main Yarra Trail, where accumulated sediment under the trail is causing unevenness and tilt during low tide. This leads to safety issues for trail users and damage to the structure.

In total, around 1 000 m$^3$ of material will be removed from the sites. The sediment will be relocated to deeper parts of the river channel. Once the areas have been dredged, the water will be approximately 1 m deep at low tide.

**Where will dredging occur?**
River sediment will be removed from just outside the VRA Landing and from under the floating section of the Main Yarra Trail between Punt Road Bridge and Cremorne Rail Bridge.
The sediment will be pumped via a pipeline to placement areas in the channel adjacent to the dredging sites.

Will I be able to access the sites?
To ensure the safety of the river and trail users, the VRA Landing and the Main Yarra Trail will be closed during the dredging operations. Parks Victoria will be working with the dredge contractor to ensure that the sites remain open as much as possible and whenever it is safe to do so. Closures of the VRA Landing and the Main Yarra Trail will be communicated in advance via signage and through the Notice to River Users.

Will river traffic be affected?
The river will remain open for traffic during dredging operations. However, river traffic will be restricted to one-way traffic past the dredging sites and exclusion zones will be installed around the dredging equipment. More detailed information will be communicated via the Notice to River Users closer to the date.

When will the dredging happen?
Dredging is scheduled to be carried out in May and June 2020. Dredging will start at the VRA Landing thereafter the Main Yarra Trail will be dredged. In total the dredging is expected to take around 7-8 weeks.
Which sites will be covered by the Maintenance Dredging Program?
The Maintenance Dredging Program covers the area of the Lower Yarra River between the Bolte Bridge and Powerhouse Landing (just upstream of Herring Island). All sites with dredging needs in this area will be considered, however it will not be possible to include all.

Stakeholders and river users will be consulted to ensure that their needs and requests are incorporated into the Maintenance Dredging Program. If you are interested in being part of the stakeholder consultation, please send an email to waterways@parks.vic.gov.au

More Information

If you would like more information about the Yarra Maintenance Dredging Program or the hotspot dredging, please call 13 1963 or visit www.parks.vic.gov.au

Sediment on the inside and under the Main Yarra Trail.

Project area for the Maintenance Dredging Program.