

UPDATE BULLETIN ON MORDIALLOC CREEK DREDGING ACTION

As at 5.00 pm Thursday 30 June 2011

For widest distribution please via your Club/Association websites

Hi,

Have spoken to Kathy Van Heer from Kingston Council and have agreed the following with her

1. Kathy will advise me of the date when dredging is to commence, when she knows the date.
2. I have advised her that she only needs to contact me about this and that I will contact all boat owners via the Mordialloc Creek Community contacts.
3. I have advised her that a great deal of goodwill exists at the Creek for the dredging activity and that boat owners have committed to their Clubs not to cause any delay in the project.
4. Many boat owners have already moved their boat out of the Creek in preparation for the commencement of the dredging; even though a firm start date has not been advised. Thank you for this; appreciated by both MCC and Kingston Council.
5. She advises that Melbourne Water have still not given final clearance for the work to proceed and that this is a key dependency for deciding on a start date for dredging. I plan to follow this up through our local member Lorraine Wreford to **a).** see if there is unnecessary stalling by Melbourne Water **b).** better understand the reasons for the delay **c).** see if we can obtain a better estimate on the extent of the delay
6. **I advised that it was unreasonable to expect people to move their boats (and incur additional heavy costs) until a firm start date for the commencement of dredging has been advised. This is a reasonable and strongly held view of MCC which has been consistently stated to the Council and to which they originally agreed across the table with us. Some members of MCC have reported that they are being harassed by Council staff to move their boats now; please report this to me (ideally by email) as soon as it occurs so that follow-up action can be taken.**
7. I give an example of where a boat owner may move his boat, incur heavy expenditure and see no action on the Creek or his part of the Creek for a month or so; this clearly would serve nobody's interests and would be **nugatory expenditure; a heavy investment that**

achieves nothing and would be clearly not justifiable on any basis of measurement; a waste of money in anybody's language.

8. Kathy agreed to arrange and participate in a joint reconnaissance of the Creek by Council staff, the Contractors and leaders from the Clubs in MCC **prior to equipment being deployed and work commencing. This is just good engineering and business practice and consistent with the team approach to this project, both in planning and execution. But this does not mean that MCC member organizations or their staff are at liberty to contact the Contractors direct unless there is an issue of safety or imminent damage; our agreement and good business practice dictates that the Contractors answer only to the Council.**
9. The next thing I expect to happen is advice from the Council when Melbourne Water clearances are provided and advice also that a firm date for both dredging commencement and the agreed joint reconnaissance.
10. **In the meantime, if you can reasonably do it, please move your boat from the Creek or to another Creek berth outside of the area planned for dredging;** the Council (particularly Kathy) have been very helpful in sourcing these berths. Should you need assistance in this regard, please call Kathy via the Council switchboard (1300 653 356).
11. **For others, suggest strongly that you develop contingency plans so that you can react quickly and move your boat at short notice when the above dates are advised.**
12. Prior to the dredging commencing, the Contractor will contact another ultrasonic survey to confirm quantities/depth of mud to be removed, position of obstacles, etc.
13. Kathy also advises that the Council have developed their own contingency plan for 'capturing' any mooring poles that become loosened during the dredging and have engaged another Contractor to follow behind the dredging effort and progressively replace/sleeve/upgrade mooring poles where this is both necessary and advisable. This means we will get back into our moorings at an earlier date; we applaud this initiative. Though a cautionary note, you may not be able to return your boat to its mooring merely because the dredging and mooring poles have been completed; your boat may still impede the efficient completion of the dredging in other parts of the Creek.
14. For people moored on the main run of the Creek, plan to advocate on your behalf to Council to discuss whether there is a clear and justifiable need to move your boats for the purposes of this activity. More to follow on that score.

Hope this assists; am committed to keeping you update on progress principally via websites and updates such as this.

Council have also committed to regular weekly meetings during the progress of the dredging so we also commit to keeping you updated on progress, issues, assistance required.

Until then, happy boating to all; thanks for outstanding support to date and commitment to future support and co-operation.

Sure that you share the building excitement as the start date for this great undertaking rapidly approaches.

Just keep in mind how great the new dredged Creek will be and what a massive change it will bring to our local environment.

Looking at the awful mud (and the sad looking boats sitting on it!) this morning, an hour or two after low tide, should be enough to inspire us all.

With best wishes

Garry

Garry Spencer, AM

Convenor

Mordialloc Creek Community

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"Representing the Creek, for the whole Community"