



Community Notice

Merricks Creek estuary closure

Melbourne Water closed the estuary mouth on Tuesday 6 December to continue the management to improve the health of Merricks Creek Estuary.



Merricks Creek late in 2015



The creek in June 2016

Due to efforts of all the parties, we have achieved a great deal since last year – with a vast reduction of the seagrass in the estuary and up in the creek. This has also greatly reduced the associated odour of the seagrass breaking down.

While it is not possible to completely remove all odour and seagrass, the odour levels have been significantly reduced.

It should be noted that Merricks Creek is fairly typical of estuarine environments around Southern Victorian coastlines and natural seasonal water quality fluctuations such as low oxygen levels, which may be one of a number of contributing factors that affect fish health; see [Estuary opening management in Western Victoria](#) for more information.

In view of the current situation, the decision has been made to delay the construction of the baffles until February 2017 to allow local residents and visitors to enjoy the beach area during the main summer season.

We are optimistic that the closure will receive another flush from the wet spring, early summer rains that we have had to date.

These works have been carried out in conjunction with the Merricks Creek Working Group, DELWP and Mornington Peninsula Shire Council.

If you have any questions about the estuary, please call Melbourne Water's Customer Service Centre on 131 722 quoting Merricks Creek.