



Above - Bucket dredger AS Mayne and hopper barge Charles H. McKay.

Dredging operation costs to fall by 60 per cent

A major overhaul of the Port of Melbourne Authority's dredging activities is expected to reduce operating costs by 60 per cent.

The restructure of dredging operations became necessary with the end of new dredging projects and the future need for maintenance works only.

As a result, a number of streamlining initiatives were introduced by a consultative committee, set up by the Board.

The committee was established after the Board considered a comprehensive report on "Medium Term Planning Options for Major Ports Dredging," in 1985, and included representation from the Seamen's Union of Australia, Merchant Service Guild of Australia, Australian Institute of Marine and Power Engineers, Municipal Officers' Association, Department of Labour, Ministry of Transport and the PMA.

Initiatives included the paying-off of the Authority's seven-vessel bucket dredging fleet on December 19, 1986; signing of an agreement on December

23 to purchase the trailer suction dredger *AD Geopotes 1* from Australian Dredging and General Works Pty. Ltd.; and the acceptance of voluntary redundancy applications from 69 floating plant employees with personnel leaving progressively between December 1986 and March 1987.

Further activities within the Floating Plant Department during the next four months will include the paying-off of the trailer suction hopper dredger *Matthew Flinders* sometime in March this year; the renaming of the *AD Geopotes 1* and her commissioning as the *A.M. Vella* in a crew training mode for three months, and the sale of all major units of surplus floating plant between April and June.

The *A.M. Vella* will operate on an extended daywork basis to provide a least-cost dredging system for the long-term base maintenance load in major ports.

The Floating Plant Department will continue to operate at a combined strength of 95 personnel including former Ports and Harbors Division employees, Head Office and Ann Street Pier staff.

B.V. CLASS.

For sale

Units of Floating Plant and Ancillary Craft

The Port of Melbourne Authority is intending to call public tenders for the sale of the following major units of floating plant in March, 1987.

BUCKET DREDGING FLEET**

- *Bucket Dredger
A.S. Mayne
- *Bucket Dredger
A.D. Mackenzie
- *Self Propelled Hopper Barge
Roy A. Cameron LR. 11/69.
- *Self Propelled Hopper Barge
Charles H. McKay LR. 4/65.
- *Self Propelled Hopper Barge
Theo. H. Swanton LR. 1/64.
- *Dumb Hopper Barge
No. 118
- *Dumb Hopper Barge
No. 119

TRAILER SUCTION HOPPER DREDGER

Matthew Flinders LR 3/68

FLOATING CRANE

V.G. Swanson (250-ton)

ANCILLARY CRAFT *

- *Diesel Driven Tug
Versatile
- *Diesel Driven Tug
M.V. Nelson
- *Motor Boat
No. 25
- *Motor Boat
No. 35
- *Aluminium Run-About
Woolamal

**The sale of vessels in the Bucket Dredging Fleet would be on an individual basis with the alternative of purchasing the fleet as a whole.

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