

Port pilots new light

REBECCA TUCKER

THESE are two of up to 90 lights set to guide more than 500 cargo ships through Geelong's port each year.

The Victorian Regional Channels Authority is about to trial a set of the new navigation lights. If all goes to plan, they will be placed along 16 nautical miles of shipping channels from Point Richards to the port entrance next year.

The lights will replace outdated navigators in place for about 50 years as part of a long-term safety overhaul for the channel.

Melbourne firm Sealite distributes the hi-tech LED lights to Europe, Asia and the US.

They have their own built-in global positioning system, which synchronises the flashing of lights.

Authority chief executive Ian Scott said improvements to the channel were important to Geelong's continued development as a major import-export gateway port servicing regional industry.

The new lights will be trialled for three months.



LIGHTING THE WAY: Victorian Regional Channels Authority chief executive Ian Scott and commercial manager Peter McGovern inspect the new channel lights. Photo: ADAM ASTILL