



Vasse Taskforce

| July 2015 |

The Vasse Geographe Strategy is a bold initiative by the State Government to tackle water quality problems in the Geographe Bay catchment and improve the management of local water assets.

Key outcomes from the strategy will include:

- appointment of a lead agency or body to manage each water asset
- a program to achieve water quality improvements through investigations and on-ground works
- contemporary waterways management with clear objectives and management plans
- long-term business investment framework sustaining initiatives into the future
- community and industry participation and involvement.

The Geographe waterways system is a complex network of rivers, coastal wetlands and estuaries stretching from Dunsborough, through Busselton to north of Capel.

Over the next four years, projects and activities will focus on improving water quality in these waterways and enhancing community amenity and recreational values.

The Vasse Taskforce is the driving force behind the strategy and under the guidance of Hon Mia Davies MLA, Minister for Water, aims to improve water quality across five key water assets - Geographe Bay catchment, Vasse-Wonnerup wetlands, Lower Vasse River, Toby Inlet and rural drainage networks.



Vasse

Geographe
Strategy Overview



Vasse Taskforce

The Vasse Taskforce is a multi-agency committee with representation from local government, state government, water service providers and catchment groups.

The taskforce will provide direction and support to the lead agencies responsible for delivering on projects under the strategy and report to the community on outcomes of activities undertaken to improve waterway health.

Determining and implementing long-term governance arrangements for each water asset is a key part of the work undertaken by the taskforce and will result in the appointment of permanent asset managers.

The taskforce has already appointed interim asset managers for each key water asset. These managers are responsible for leading projects and initiatives during the next four years.

The lead water asset managers for the strategy are:

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| Vasse-Wonnerup wetlands Vasse Estuary Technical Working Group | Geographe Bay catchment GeoCatch |
| Lower Vasse River Toby Inlet City of Busselton | Rural drainage Water Corporation |

Taskforce Partners

Department of Water
City of Busselton
Shire of Capel
GeoCatch
Department of Parks and Wildlife
Department of Agriculture and Food WA
Department of Planning
Department of Fisheries
South West Catchments Council
South West Development Commission
Water Corporation
Busselton Water





se phe Strategy

The Vasse Geographe Strategy has a range of projects and initiatives across the five key water assets designed to improve water quality problems in the catchment and enhance the management of local water assets.

The Vasse Taskforce will coordinate the strategy and deliver the projects in partnership with water asset managers.



Our work

Key projects and initiatives delivered through the strategy will cover a range of on-ground works and provide opportunities for community to be involved in determining how to manage water assets into the future.

Key initiatives include:

Geographe Bay catchment

- five year review of the Water Quality Improvement Plan
- roll-out of National Fert\$mart program
- assessment of effluent management systems
- protection and revegetation of waterways
- urban stormwater upgrades
- Bay OK community engagement program
- long-term financial investment strategy

Vasse-Wonnerup wetlands

- fish kill mitigation and response plan
- reconnecting rivers feasibility study
- consulted management objectives and plan
- review surge gate operating procedures

Lower Vasse River

- trialling in situ water treatment trials
- urban stormwater and drain retrofits
- consulted management objectives and plan

Toby Inlet

- announcement of new sewerage infill program
- reconnecting estuary to ocean feasibility study
- consulted management objectives and plan

Rural drainage networks

- new catchment water, flood and landform model
- water quality guidelines for infrastructure manager
- drainage management plan



Get involved

The wetlands and waterways are a community asset. As the projects and work progresses, there will be opportunities for the community and industry to become involved.

GeoCatch is maintaining a register for interested people. If you are interested contact GeoCatch on (08) 9781 0111, or email geocatch@water.wa.gov.au

Workshops and events will be advertised on the GeoCatch website, www.geocatch.asn.au

More information about the Vasse Taskforce, and its work under the Vasse Geographe Strategy, is available on the GeoCatch website at www.geocatch.asn.au

Funding

The projects and initiatives under the Vasse Geographe Strategy will be funded from a combination of existing and new sources.

Initial funding is being provided by taskforce partners. Additional funding is being sought from a variety of sources including state government development funds.

To ensure that the successes achieved under the strategy are maintained and continued in the future, a long-term business investment strategy, including funding arrangements, will be developed.



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