

# Vasse Taskforce

June 2019 | Meeting 17

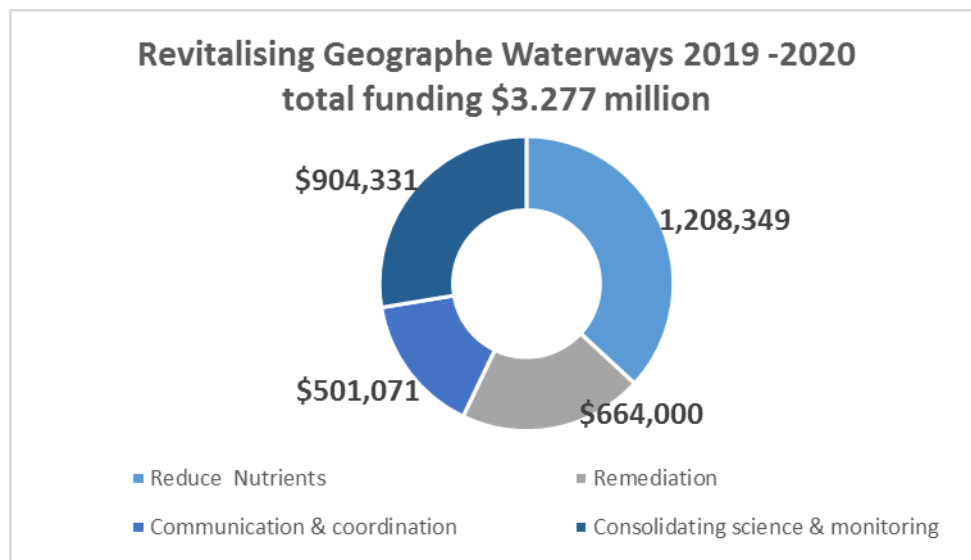
The seventeenth Vasse Taskforce meeting was held in Busselton on 28 June 2019. Mr Paul Brown, acting Chair acknowledged the State Government had confirmed its continued investment to Revitalise Geographe Waterways in 2019-2020 with a further investment of \$1.6 M.

## 1 Investment 2019-2020

The Vasse Taskforce endorsed its works program for 2019-2020. A further \$3,277,750 will be jointly invested by the State government and Taskforce partners to continue the award winning water quality improvement work.

Co-contributions will come from the Departments of Water and Environmental Regulation, Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions, GeoCatch farmers and industry, Vasse Taskforce partners, Water Corporation, City of Busselton and the Vasse Wonnerup Wetlands Science Advisory Group.

Revitalising Geographe Waterways 2019-2020 will be composed of four main sub-projects; reducing nutrients, remediation and innovation, consolidating science and communication and coordination and pulls together the priority actions from Revitalising Geographe Waterways 2015-2019.



Revitalising Geographe  
Waterways

VASSE  
taskFORCE

**1. Reducing nutrients – State Government \$568,499 Co-contribution \$639,850**

This sub-project will progress behavioural change programs through the development and adoption of nutrient management best management practices to reduce nutrient loss off agriculture and urban landscape.

In the Vasse-Wonnerup wetlands sub catchment a new initiative will see the development of a pilot project to better engage with farmers to adopt best management practices. The pilot will include the establishment of a farmer advisory group, the development of at least 10 whole farm nutrient management plans for high risk land uses and implementation of actions within at least 5 plans (nutrient reduction actions may include fencing waterways, riparian management, soil amendment and/or soil testing).

GeoCatch will continue its highly valued work with urban gardeners to reduce nutrient loss of urban areas through the development and roll-out of a community based social marketing project and coordination of gardening workshops.

**2. Remediation and innovation – State Government \$170,000 Co-contribution \$494,000**

This sub-project will be delivered by the City of Busselton who will progress the “Living Streams” concept to improve water quality and enhance social and recreational values of the Lower Vasse River and Toby Inlet. It will include sediment investigations in the Toby Inlet, a review of Busselton stormwater infrastructure and opportunities for water quality improvement as well as progressing the concept of converting the Lower Vasse River into a “Living stream” to improve water quality and liveability.

**3. Consolidating Science – State Government \$589,130 Co-contribution \$315,201**

The strong partnerships developed through Revitalising Geographe Waterways 2015-2019 will continue.

Sub-project 3 will be delivered by the Departments of Water and Environmental Regulation and Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions and Murdoch University who will consolidate the science and monitoring undertaken in the Revitalising Geographe Waterways 2015-2019 to assess effectiveness of management actions to improve water quality.

The ecological monitoring program on the Vasse Wonnerup wetlands will be extended for another year. Monitoring of soil amendment trials, established as part of Revitalising Geographe Waterways 2015-2019, will continue in order to understand the benefits of the trials in each location.

**4. Communication and coordination – State Government \$272,371 Co-contribution \$228,700**

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation in partnership with GeoCatch will continue to lead sub-project 4.

The community can feel confident that they will continue to receive timely and informative information on Revitalising Geographe Waterways 2019-2020 through the established website [www.rgw.dwer.wa.gov.au](http://www.rgw.dwer.wa.gov.au), GeoCatch social media [www.geocatch.asn.au](http://www.geocatch.asn.au), local media and community updates.

A revised Vasse Wonnerup wetlands and Geographe Bay Water quality improvement plan and a long-term sustainability plan (Revitalising Geographe Waterways 2040) will be finalised.

## 2 Upcoming events

June	Ecological monitoring results from Vasse Wonnerup
June	Short videos featuring case studies with participating farmers
June	Completion of Vasse Diversion Drain Enhancement and Bay OK garden
June	Final Management Plans for Vasse Wonnerup, Toby Inlet and Lower Vasse River
June/July	Vasse Wonnerup Sediment Report Lower Vasse River Treatment Trials Seawater Inflow Report Oxygenation Factsheet
July	Community Science Update - Vasse Wonnerup fish science update
July/August	Community Update – newspaper spread Revitalising Geographe Waterways highlights and Where to Next?

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More information [www.rgw.dwer.wa.gov.au](http://www.rgw.dwer.wa.gov.au)

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