

Vasse Taskforce

November 2020 | Meeting 21

The twenty-first Vasse Taskforce meeting was held in Busselton on 27 November 2020. Taskforce Chair Dr Sally Talbot, acknowledged that 2020 had been a challenging year and thanked all members and staff for their contribution.

1. Vasse Wonnerup Water Quality Improvement Plan 2010 – review

The Taskforce supported the extensive stakeholder consultation that has occurred to date for the review of the Vasse Wonnerup Water Quality Improvement Plan. The Taskforce reviewed the draft objectives developed through the stakeholder consultation covering the following issues: biodiversity, seagrass health, algal blooms and fish kills, best management practices, community engagements, and nutrient reduction in waterways. It is anticipated that the draft document will be available in 2021.

2. Code of Practice Dairy Effluent Management

The Taskforce was presented with a comprehensive overview of the history of the dairy industry in the catchment and development of a Code of Practice for Dairy Effluent Management for WA milk producers. It was noted that a new code was required to address solid separation and odour control. The final document is expected to be available mid 2021. Work will continue under the Healthy Estuaries WA program and support Western Dairy in providing technical advice to farmers.

3. Vasse Surge Barrier Operation Summer 20/21

Late rains in 2020 resulted in high water levels in the Vasse Estuary in November. A two step opening strategy will be used for summer 20/21 with opening Wonnerup sandbar in mid-November followed by opening of the fish gate in early to mid December depending on tides.

4. Upcoming events

November	Community Update City of Busselton Lower Vasse River
November	Water Quality Improvement Plan – Stakeholder workshops
November	uPtake Fertiliser Industry Forum - Updating industry on local fertiliser trials
August 2020 - February 2021	Lower Vasse River health and water quality – Video release

More information www.rgw.dwer.wa.gov.au

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