

# Vasse Taskforce

*August 2023 | Meeting 28*

The twenty-eighth Vasse Taskforce meeting was held in Busselton on 25 August 2023 Chaired by Hon. Pierre Yang (MLC).

## **1. Revitalising Geographe Waterways Investment Plan**

The Taskforce members reviewed and endorsed the Revitalising Geographe Waterways Investment Plan for 2025-2029. The plan is based evaluations of the RGW program to date and input from Taskforce partners. The investment plan outlines key priorities and associated state government and Taskforce partner funding to 2027.

## **2. Lower Vasse River Sediment Removal**

Taskforce members were given an update of the sediment removal project in the Lower Vasse River. Stage 2 dredging is now complete and dewatering in geotextile bags will continue until November/December. Planning for stage 3 is underway and proposed for April/May 2024.

## **3. Phoslock application in the Lower Vasse River**

A phoslock application has been scheduled for some sections of the Lower Vasse River during October to December. Timing will depend on rainfall and flow as well as phosphorus concentrations in the water. An update of the project will be provided at the City of Busselton's community update in November.

## **4. Community Update '10 Years On'**

GeoCatch reported to the Taskforce on the '10 Years On' Community Update held in April to mark ten years since the large fish kill in the Vasse Estuary. Presenters from DWER and Murdoch University spoke about events leading up to the fish kill, past and current management, and improvements in collaboration and science over the last ten years. The event was well attended and received by the community, with 86% of attendees believing management of the wetlands had improved significantly since the 2013 fish kill event, and 96% having a high confidence in the science underpinning management decisions.

*Revitalising Geographe  
Waterways*

**VASSE  
taskFORCE**

## 5. World Soil Day

The Taskforce discussed the relevance of this years World Soil Day theme to the nutrient management activities being undertaken in the Geographe catchment. The theme for 2023 is 'Soil and water: a source of life'. World Soil Day is being held on 5 December. GeoCatch and Taskforce partners will arrange activities and communication tying in with the theme.

## 6. Vasse Taskforce membership

The Vasse Taskforce is chaired by Hon Pierre Yang, Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for Water, with representatives from the following local and state government agencies, water service providers and catchment group:

- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
- City of Busselton
- Shire of Capel
- Geographe Catchments Council (GeoCatch)
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage
- South West NRM
- Water Corporation



Vasse Taskforce members, August 2023

## 7. Upcoming engagement activities

Month	Scheduled Engagement Activity	Organiser	Topic
August	Grazing Matcher	MLA, SWNRM, Western Beef	Grazing management extension group for Geographe farmers.
August	uPtake Celebratory Lunch	GeoCatch/DWER/DPIRD	Sharing results and recognising contribution of host farmers and partners in uPtake program
September	Flood Protection Community Bus Tour	GeoCatch/Water Corporation/DWER	Opportunity for community to view the flood protection infrastructure in the catchment and speak to managers.
September	Bay OK Gardens Workshop	GeoCatch	Composting & soil microbiology
October	Bay OK Gardens Workshop	GeoCatch	Gardening with Wildflowers with Sabrina Hahn at Busselton Wildflower Festival
October	Women in Agriculture lunch	GeoCatch	Celebrating Rural Women's Day
November	Soil Test DIY field day	HEWA/DPIRD	Training for farmers who are DIY soil testing through the Geographe Soil Test Program
November	Sustainability Open Day	City of Busselton	Sustainability and waterway project updates and displays
December	Farmer Sundowner	GeoCatch	Acknowledging farmers involved in GeoCatch projects during 2023.

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

For more information [www.geocatch.asn.au](http://www.geocatch.asn.au)

Fish kills should be reported to the [FishWatch](#) 24-hour hotline on 1800 815 507.