

# Vasse Taskforce

*November 2024 | Meeting 32*

The thirty second Vasse Taskforce meeting was held in Busselton on 29 November 2024 Chaired by Hon. Pierre Yang (MLC). The following key issues were discussed:

## 1. **Ten Years of Vasse Taskforce**

Chair Hon Pierre Yang noted that the meeting marked ten years since the first coming together of Taskforce partner agencies. The Vasse Taskforce (the Taskforce) was established in 2014 to coordinate the management of Geographe waterways and oversee water quality improvement actions through the Revitalising Geographe Waterways (RGW) program. Since 2015, the RGW program has received over \$15 million in State Government funding and an estimated \$19 million in-kind support to implement water quality improvement actions. Major achievements of the Taskforce include development of waterway management plans, water treatment trials and sediment removal projects in the Lower Vasse and Vasse Wonnerup wetlands, rural and urban nutrient reduction programs, and significant increases in scientific understanding of Geographe waterways.



**Photo: Vasse Taskforce members November 2024**

## 2. Summer management of the Vasse Wonnerup wetlands

- The Vasse Wonnerup wetlands Partnership Chair Adam Maskew gave an overview of planning that had commenced for summer management of the Vasse Wonnerup, including the updating of the Fish Kill Response Plan.
- Authorisation for the summer management is being sought under the s40 of the Biodiversity Conservation Act.
- Opening of the Wonnerup sandbar is planned for mid December 2024.
- A working group has been progressing plans for a barrier at Ford Road to prevent seawater entering the freshwater system in the Lower Vase. A temporary barrier will again be installed in summer 2024-25.

## 3. Community engagement highlights

- A Flood Protection bus trip was hosted by GeoCatch in September with speakers from Water Corporation and DWER. The event was a testament to the collaborative work and relationships between agencies in managing waterways and flood infrastructure.
- GeoCatch hosted a Revitalising Geographe Waterways Science Update on November 21, titled Wetland Wonders of the Vasse Wonnerup. Speakers from Murdoch University and DBCA provided updates on ecological findings from the Vasse Wonnerup. 70 community members attended.



Photo: RGW Community Science update at the Busselton Tennis Club was well attended

#### 4. Upcoming engagement activities

Month	Scheduled Engagement Activity	Organiser	Topic
December	Grazing Matcher meeting 7	GeoCatch	Maximising productivity, quality, pasture resilience to grazing.  Fundamentals of rotational grazing and pasture/stock monitoring.  Effective hay and silage production
December	Farmer Sundowner	GeoCatch	Geographe Farmers Protecting Geographe Bay
December	Field Day	GeoCatch / DWER	What's Living in our Waterways
January	Grazing Matcher meeting 8	GeoCatch	Maximising productivity, quality, pasture resilience to grazing.  Fundamentals of rotational grazing and pasture/stock monitoring.  Effective hay and silage production
February	Workshop	DPIRD / GeoCatch / HEWA	Soil Test Results workshop

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