



Factsheet: 4 **Toby Inlet**

Vasse Taskforce

| May 2015 |



Toby Inlet is a small estuary to the east of the Dunsborough town site in the Geographe catchment. The inlet is highly visible and provides significant aesthetic and recreation values to adjoining Quindalup residents and the wider Geographe community. Artificial drainage has substantially reduced water flow into the Inlet and as a result the Inlet is often cut off from the ocean. During the summer months the Inlet becomes blocked often resulting in its waters becoming stagnant and smelly, with poor visual amenity. The Toby Inlet Catchment Group has been active in trying to improve water quality and advocate for better management of the Toby Inlet for many years.

The City of Busselton will coordinate the implementation of projects to improve water quality and long-term management of Toby Inlet.

Key initiatives include:

- \$5 million in new infill sewerage works
- reconnecting estuary to ocean feasibility study
- management plan for Toby Inlet
- appointment of permanent asset manager



Project Spotlight

Infill sewage program



Septic systems were identified in the *Vasse Wonnerup Wetlands and Geographe Bay water quality improvement plan (2010)* as a significant source of nitrogen and phosphorus in to the Toby Inlet. In-fill sewage connection is considered a critical action in high water table areas adjoining Toby Inlet to reduce both environmental and human health risk.

This project will provide deep sewage connections to up to 147 dwellings in the Quindalup area between Toby Inlet and Geographe Bay. Connections to sewerage in this area are predicted to reduce 1860 kilograms of nitrogen and 372 kilograms of phosphorus per year to the Toby Inlet. This will also reduce pathogens and improve odour. The Department of Water will undertake intensive monitoring before and after the connections to assess these predictions. It is expected that the removal of nutrient loads contributed by septic tanks will have immediate and long-term positive effects on Toby Inlet .

The Water Corporation will deliver this project.

Project Spotlight

Reconnecting estuary to ocean feasibility study

Flow to the Toby Inlet has been substantially reduced through drainage modifications resulting in the natural opening of the Inlet being almost permanently closed. The City of Busselton has artificially opened the mouth of the Inlet over recent years to improve water quality conditions, but low flows particularly over summer months, lead to the mouth closing quickly. This project will use hydrology models to investigate the feasibility of reconnecting Toby Inlet to the ocean. It will assess reconnection options to increase flow and investigate options for bar management.



More information

More information about the Vasse Taskforce and projects delivered under the Vasse Geographe strategy is available on the GeoCatch website www.geocatch.asn.au

Be involved

Community members will have opportunities to be involved in events and workshops as work progresses. Information on how you can be involved will be available on the GeoCatch website www.geocatch.asn.au