

Implementing the Vasse Geographe Strategy

Revitalising Geographe Waterways

Revitalising Geographe Waterways is a four year Royalties for Regions funded program to implement key actions of the Vasse Geographe Strategy. The Vasse Geographe Strategy is a State Government initiative to improve water quality in the Geographe Bay catchment. The Strategy encompasses 30 projects across five integrated work areas. Revitalising Geographe Waterways provides \$7.15 million from Royalties for Regions to implement priority projects under the Strategy.





The Geographe waterways system is a complex network of rivers, coastal wetlands and estuaries stretching from Dunsborough, through Busselton, to north of Capel. Water quality has been gradually declining in catchment waterways for many years, affected by agricultural activity, population pressures, and climate change. Revitalising Geographe Waterways will provide the coordinated effort needed to address this decline and improve water quality.

Projects delivered under Revitalising Geographe Waterways will be undertaken across the five integrated work areas of the Vasse Geographe Strategy.

The Vasse Geographe Strategy will

- **1 Reduce nutrients**
Working in both rural and urban catchments to reduce nutrients by fencing and revegetating waterways, working with farmers and gardeners to optimise fertiliser use and upgrading dairy effluent systems.
- **2 Revitalise waterways**
Improving the health of the Vasse-Wonnerup wetlands, Lower Vasse River and the Toby Inlet.
- **3 Rethink drainage**
Investigating options for reconnecting rivers and optimising drainage infrastructure to improve water quality.
- **4 Work together**
Collaboration across government, catchment groups, industry and community to deliver strategy projects and determine long-term management objectives for key waterways.
- **5 Sustain momentum**
Sustaining the initiatives and partnerships developed in the Strategy over the longer term.



Vasse Geographe Strategy

Revitalising Geographe Waterways will be overseen by the Vasse Taskforce, a multi-agency committee with representation from local government, State Government, water service providers and catchment groups. Taskforce partners will lead the implementation of projects in partnership with industry, local farmers and the community. Taskforce partners will also contribute an estimated \$7.65 million to the program.

Over the next four years, Revitalising Geographe Waterways will deliver a comprehensive range of on-ground works and other actions to implement the Vasse Geographe Strategy that will:

- reduce nutrients from significant sources in the catchment
- establish a sound technical basis for management
- develop a financial sustainability strategy for long-term water quality improvement
- build capacity in local waterway managers
- involve the community in establishing management objectives
- develop plans for the long-term management of key waterways.



The Vasse Taskforce comprises



Local
government



Government
departments



Water service
providers



Catchment
groups



Revitalising Geographe Waterways projects will focus on improving water quality and management in Geographe bay catchment waterways, the rural drainage network, Vasse-Wonnerup wetlands, Lower Vasse River, Toby Inlet, and ultimately Geographe Bay.



Investment across key integrated work areas

The Royalties for Regions funded Revitalising Geographe Waterways program is essential to the success of the broader Vasse Geographe Strategy. Implementation of the program will also provide a demonstration of integrated water quality management applicable to other estuaries in the south-west of Western Australia.

Get involved

Key projects and actions delivered through the Revitalising Geographe Waterways program will cover a wide range of on-ground works and determine how to manage Geographe waterways into the future. As activities get underway, there will be opportunities for the community and industry to become involved.

Management of our natural assets is a shared responsibility, and GeoCatch is maintaining a register of interested people for future involvement. For details contact GeoCatch on (08) 9781 0111, or email geocatch@water.wa.gov.au.

Workshops and events will be advertised through the website.

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More information

More information about the Vasse Geographe Strategy and the program is available on the GeoCatch website at www.geocatch.asn.au



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