

## **Report for Healthy Wetlands Project**

1. **Project Title:** Wetlands Habitat integrity, implementation and on ground works.
2. **Project Code:** WH.03b
3. **Aim/Purpose:** Addresses on ground conservation actions in private and non DEC managed wetlands which abut or directly enhance the conservation of Ramsar and DIW wetlands within the SWCC area. The key outcomes of this project will be:
  - 1) Wetlands on private lands contained on the current Ramsar and DIW lists or under nomination for listing have their ecological condition improved through implementation of on ground actions.
  - 2) Wetlands on private lands adjoining or connected to those on the current Ramsar and DIW lists or under nomination for listing have their ecological condition improved through implementation of on ground actions.
  - 3) At least 5 individual property owners/land managers with wetlands meeting the above criteria are contacted and their awareness of the ecological significance of their wetlands is improved.
4. **Start Date:** 1/09/2007
5. **Finish Date:** 31/12/2008
6. **Funding Source:** The South West Catchments Council secured funding from the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) and/or the National Action Plan (NAP) for Salinity and Water Quality. This project was won by the Department of Environment and Conservation who then sub-contracted the private and non-DEC managed lands component to GeoCatch.
7. **Report to:** The Department of Environment and Conservation (the Project Manager)
8. **Project Officer:** Lisa Massey  
GeoCatch Wetlands officer
9. **Project Officer contact details:** GeoCatch  
72 Duchess Street  
PO Box 269  
Busselton WA 6280  
Ph: 9781 0111 Fax: 9754 4335
10. **Project Partners:** The Department of Environment and Conservation (the Project Manager) and GeoCatch.

11. **Project Stakeholders:** Private landowners, managers of non-DEC managed land.

12. **Background:** The Vasse-Wonnerup wetlands are important for their rich biodiversity and importance for water bird breeding and habitat. They are currently under threat of damage or degradation by human activity. Important issues requiring to be addressed in these conservation category wetlands are weed invasion, stock access and the need for enhancement of habitat on their margins.

13. **Major output requirements/targets:**

- 1) Promotion of the program through 2 articles in newsletters and newspapers and one brochure.
- 2) Revegetation of wetlands using native species – minimum of 3 ha.
- 3) Enhancement of wetlands by fencing, planting, drainage management and other supportive actions to reinstate connectivity where possible.
- 4) Implement pest and invasive plants control measures with a focus on priority weeds – minimum of 6ha.
- 5) Promotion of private property wetlands management via at least 1 field tours including demonstrations of on ground works and outcomes.

14. **Main Achievements:**

Completed site selection for on ground works based on priority areas provided by Department of Environment and Conservation. Secondary evaluation of potential sites based on wetland conservation status, habitat value, landowner interest and threat of degradation. Approaches have been made to landholders in those priority areas to gauge interest in doing on-ground works. The awareness of landowners with wetland areas has been raised by press releases, regular newspaper columns and postcard mail-outs.

Currently landowners have agreed to undertake restoration of their wetland areas on three private sites and one public site, comprising 0.17 km fencing, 2.94ha weed control and 1.44ha revegetation. Over 1.5ha of *Typha orientalis* and water lily have also been controlled.

A workshop for landholders interested in managing and restoring their wetland margins was held in mid-June 2008. It focused on the values of wetlands, threats to them and how landholders can commence a wetland project utilising the funding and technical advice available through GeoCatch.

**Project Budget: \$70,000 (incl. contractor employment)**

## **Report for Wetland Water Quality Project**

15. **Project Title:** Improving Water Quality in the Vasse-Wonnerup System
16. **Project Code:** WQ.04b
17. **Aim/Purpose:** To address water quality issues in the Vasse-Wonnerup catchment by planning and implementing on ground work within the wetlands. The focus will be on reducing nutrient and sediment movement into the Vasse-Wonnerup wetlands, estuary and Geographe Bay from the catchment.
18. **Start Date:**1/10/06
19. **Finish Date:**30/06/08
20. **Funding Source:** Regional Investment Plan
21. **Report to:** SWCC
22. **Project Officer:** Lisa Massey
23. **Project Officer contact details:** GeoCatch  
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Ph: 978 10111 Fx: 9754 4335  
lisa.massey@water.wa.gov.au
24. **Project Partners:** None
25. **Project Stakeholders:** Shire of Busselton, Department of Environment and Conservation, rural and urban landholders
26. **Background:** The Vasse-Wonnerup wetlands are important for their rich biodiversity and importance for water bird breeding and habitat. They are currently under threat from excessive nutrients and other contaminants entering the system from the greater catchment.
27. **Major output requirements/targets:**
1. on-ground project development
  2. 2km fencing erected
  3. 1.5ha of wetland revegetated
  4. Two awareness raising events
  5. Two written media articles

**Main Achievements:** Priority evaluation of potential sites based on wetland conservation status, habitat value, landowner interest and threat of degradation. Approaches have been made to landholders in those priority areas to gauge interest in doing on-ground works. The awareness of landowners with wetland areas has been raised by press releases, regular newspaper columns and postcard mail-outs.

Currently landowners have agreed to undertake restoration of their wetland areas on three private sites and one public site, comprising 1.25 km fencing 9.56ha weed control and 6.41ha revegetation.

One project site covers 2.4ha and intercepts nutrient-rich groundwater flowing north-east from the adjacent horticultural area. The immediate margin of the old river channel will be planted in 2008.

Preliminary weed control and removal of exotic species for a project on James Richardson Park has led to community interest and revival of a friends group associated with the park.

A workshop for landholders interested in managing and restoring their wetland margins was held in mid-June 2008. It focused on the values of wetlands, threats to them and how landholders can commence a wetland project utilising the funding and technical advice available through GeoCatch.

**14. Project Budget: \$21,150**