

# FAQ CLEANER PRODUCTION PROGRAM



## **What is a Cleaner Production Program?**

Cleaner Production is a tailored program in which GeoCatch will work one on one with individual businesses to identify ways to use water efficiently and reduce nutrients and other pollutants leaving your business premises. By working with individual businesses GeoCatch is looking to improve the quality of water entering the Lower Vasse River and associated wetlands. This will be achieved by reducing nutrients leaving businesses in the Light Industrial Area and entering the river.

## **How will the program improve water quality?**

This program is part of a larger project that aims to improve water quality in the Vasse Wonnerup Wetlands. Currently, the Lower Vasse River (which drains into the Wetlands) contains high levels of nutrients and other pollutants which produce algal blooms, fish kills, etc. By working one to one with businesses GeoCatch aims to reduce nutrients leaving businesses' premises and flowing into the Lower Vasse River. Over time this will help contribute towards improved water quality in the river wetlands and Geopraphe Bay itself.

## **What does the Program involve?**

The program involves an initial assessment of your business' current water practices and procedures, followed by an identification of water and waste issues. This assessment will help to generate options and alternatives to improve your business' water efficiency and management. From this, GeoCatch assists in designing and implementing an Action Plan, in consultation with you, to apply the options generated for your business.

## **How is the Program tailored to my business?**

GeoCatch will work one on one with you. The program will focus on your business' specific practices, processes, procedures and premises.

## **What benefits is the program going to bring to my business?**

There will be many benefits being part of the program. Examples of benefits include:

- a) reducing material costs,
- b) reducing disposal/treatment costs
- c) opportunities for green marketing through GeoCatch
- d) knowledge that your business is doing its best for the environment

## **What am I responsible for if I join the program?**

We encourage business owners/managers to be involved with the initial assessment GeoCatch has prepared for your business (2 – 3hrs). GeoCatch will then discuss with you at a later date the options generated for your business and will finalise a tailored action plan with your assistance (2 – 3hrs). Implementing the plan will then be up to the

individual business and could go as far as you prefer. GeoCatch can assist you financially and technically for implementing your plan.

**Do I have to spend money for the program?**

No. In many cases improving procedures or using an alternative product will result in a reduction of pollutants leaving your premises. In some cases however, new technologies or structural changes may benefit your business. GeoCatch may be able to provide some financial assistance to your business.

**I might lose money if I spend time on the program. How will the money be reimbursed?**

GeoCatch will provide financial assistance for implementing the program to offset part of the time involved. GeoCatch staff will be very flexible with your time availability and with the extent you would like to be involved with the program.

**The land where my business is located does not belong to me so I won't be able to make any structural changes**

With your assistance, GeoCatch will review operations within your business that can be undertaken without structural changes. However, we recommend including the land owner in the program where possible.

**Will the information I provide to GeoCatch be given to other businesses or organisations?**

No. The information that will be collected as part of the program will be strictly confidential and no information will be given to third parties without your consent.

**What happens if my business is doing something wrong?**

GeoCatch is not a regulatory agency and as such is not concerned with the regulation of your business. If areas of improvement are identified, GeoCatch will endeavour to assist your business to make the necessary changes. The changes however, will be up to you.

**I only sell products for nurseries and garden businesses and I don't produce anything, why am I included in the program?**

Garden/nursery products often include fertilisers and other chemicals that potentially could have a negative effect on the Lower Vasse River. Therefore your business has the unique opportunity to help pass on messages to the general public about good fertiliser use and water efficiency. There is also a strong possibility that GeoCatch can assist your business to modify its current practices to help reduce nutrients leaving your premises and use water efficiently.

**Do I have to do the Cleaner Production Program?**

No. Involvement with the program is entirely voluntary. However, being part of the program will allow you to work towards good water management practices for your business. It will also bring opportunities to showcase your green image through a range of marketing opportunities and possibly increase profits through greater efficiency. You will also be working towards improving the environment in which you work and live.