

Catchment Boundary



The Geographe Catchment occupies an area of approximately 2000km² between Bunbury and Cape Naturaliste. The Catchment is bounded by the Darling Range, the Whicher Range and Leeuwin Naturaliste Ridge. Below these ridges lies the southern-most extent of the Swan coastal plain extending south and west to Dunsborough.

The shires of Busselton and Capel comprise the majority of the land in the catchment, though small portions of the Donnybrook-Balingup and Augusta Margaret River shires are also represented.



How can I get involved?

There are many ways to get involved with GeoCatch. Throughout the year we conduct numerous public events and workshops such as Great Gardens workshops, planting days and biodiversity walks. GeoCatch publishes a quarterly Network News which provides details on all these events. Please phone or email to receive this free publication.

Become a Council Member:

The GeoCatch Council are made up of active and knowledgeable community and agency members. To find out more or nominate for council, please contact GeoCatch.

Technical and Financial Assistance:

GeoCatch regularly assists community groups and individuals apply for environmental and community grants. GeoCatch can provide technical advice and may have funding available for landholders to undertake environmental work such as fencing waterways and native vegetation or supply plants for revegetation.

Partnerships:

GeoCatch has an excellent working relationship with many stakeholders within the community and welcomes partnership opportunities.

Volunteering and Employment:

GeoCatch offers rewarding volunteer and employment opportunities. To find out what is currently on offer, please visit the website or phone.



For more details on being involved please contact **GeoCatch**, we are located at;

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Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Water**

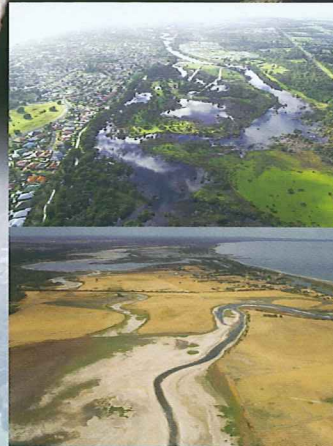


GeoCatch



GeoCatch

The Community's Voice in the Catchment



GeoCatch

The environment - in our hands



GeoCatch

Who are we?

GeoCatch formed in July 1997 as a result of growing concern about the health of the Geographe Catchment.

The Geographe Catchment Council is a community based management body that

deals with land and water issues using an integrated catchment management approach. The council is made up of government agency representatives, shire representatives and community members. The organisation employs professional staff who coordinate a wide range of environmental projects.

Why is our catchment important?

Geographe Bay and its catchments are areas of highly significant value.

- **Geographe Bay** is home to the largest temperate seagrass meadows in Western Australia and over 13 species of whale and 150 species of finfish.
- The catchment is part of an internationally recognised **biodiversity hotspot**.



- Internationally significant, the **Ramsar listed Vasse-Wonnerup wetlands** are home to over 30,000 waterbirds.
- It is an important **agricultural area** known for its dairy, viticulture, beef cattle and horticulture.
- **Tourism** is a major industry with approximately 600,000 people visiting the catchment annually.
- One of the fastest growing **residential settlements in Australia** with 25,354 residents in 2009.

GeoCatch's mission is to work with the community and all levels of government to coordinate the management of the catchment of Geographe Bay and its marine environment so that natural systems, people and their activities co-exist in a healthy, productive and sustainable way.

GeoCatch's key strategic directions are to:

- Provide a voice for the community
- Build a shared vision to manage the catchment
- Develop understanding of catchment processes
- Participate in caring for the catchment
- Contribute towards a visible improvement in the health of the catchment.

GeoCatch works with state and local government and the community to help protect and enhance the natural values of the Geographe catchment.



Threats and Impacts

Some past and existing land uses and practices have impacted on the catchment. Excess nutrients entering our waterways are a significant threat that potentially cause algal blooms, kill fish and create noxious odours. Other threats include weeds, feral animals and diseases such as dieback that affect our native plants and animals. Other increasingly significant threats include vegetation clearing for urban expansion and climate change.

With so much at stake, it is important that the catchment is protected for future generations.



What does GeoCatch do?

GeoCatch is committed to protecting the catchment's values by focusing on the following activities:

Water Quality

GeoCatch is committed to improving water quality through protecting and improving our rivers, wetlands and drainage systems by excluding stock, undertaking strategic revegetation and implementing water sensitive urban design. GeoCatch also promotes sustainable urban and rural land management to protect the environment in the catchment. The Water Quality Improvement Plan for the Vasse Wonnerup Wetlands and Geographe Bay will direct GeoCatch's management of water quality.

Biodiversity

GeoCatch actively protects the catchment's biodiversity by assisting land managers and community groups to undertake strategic revegetation projects, community education, managing dieback, controlling weeds and feral animals. The Peppies for Possums program is an award-winning program coordinated by GeoCatch to protect the threatened western ringtail possum.

Marine and Coast

GeoCatch reduces nutrient input from the catchment and protects and improves coastal foreshore areas by implementing and assisting revegetation and coastal foreshore projects.



Community

GeoCatch works with community groups, schools, agencies, farmers and individuals by assisting with funding applications, onground and technical support, providing networking opportunities and facilitating promotional events, all aimed at protecting and improving the local waterways and natural environment.