

**INFORMATION STATEMENT
FOR PERSONS SEEKING
APPOINTMENT TO
GEOCATCH**



GeoCatch

MEMBERSHIP OF GEOCATCH

GeoCatch is comprised of up to nine community members, two local government members and four agency members. The quorum is half the number of members plus one.

Membership for GeoCatch:

- Is drawn from across the community.
- Ideally encompasses a range of experience and skills.
- Has positions held for the Shire Presidents of Busselton and Capel (or nominees).
- Have four positions for senior representatives of the Department of Water, Department of Agriculture and Food, Department for Planning and Infrastructure, and Department of Environment and Conservation.
- The remaining members make up nine community members, who live in the Geographe catchment, with an interest in conserving and managing its natural resources.

Members should generally fulfil the following selection criteria:

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Good interpersonal skills.
- Good communication skills.
- Good negotiation skills.
- Understanding of natural resource management issues and social, environmental and cultural interactions.
- Having a set of skills relevant to the vacancy being filled.
- Knowledge of fresh and/or marine water and water management issues is desirable.
- Live within the Catchment.
- Have links to the community (i.e. membership of existing community organisations, work associations etc.).

GeoCatch operates under the banner:

The Community's Voice in the Catchment

The charter for GeoCatch 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 was formed to deal with natural resource issues in the Geographe Catchment using an integrated catchment management approach. The Department of Water sponsors GeoCatch to assist the Department in performing its own functions to manage the State's water resources.

GeoCatch operates according to the Geographe Catchment Management Strategy and annual Business Plan. Fourteen key NRM issues have been identified in the 2008 GeoCatch strategy, which form the basis of the annual business plan. GeoCatch actively seeks funding from a range of funding opportunities to undertake recommendations from the strategy. Project officers are employed to coordinate projects.

GeoCatch works in close partnership with a number of state and local government agencies and community groups and individuals to undertake NRM in the Geographe Catchment. Meetings are held monthly, not less than eight times per annum. A sitting fee is paid for all meetings.

What is the role of a GeoCatch member?

Members, through the Geographe Catchment Council, are actively involved with the development of project proposals, establishing priorities for projects and contributing to projects through GeoCatch meetings. Members can also represent GeoCatch on internal project Steering Committees and external NRM projects.

Community members provide a critical link between GeoCatch and the community. Ideally, they play an important role in bringing community issues to GeoCatch and in turn disseminating NRM information from GeoCatch back into the community.

What does becoming a member of GeoCatch involve?

1. Community representatives will be selected from applications sought from the public. The Council aims to achieve a diverse representation of community members with varied skills and experience ranging from farm management, industry consultation and environmental group representation. Equal opportunity principles are observed during the appointment process.
2. Members will serve terms of three years. Only one half of members' terms expire at any one time to ensure continuity in GeoCatch's work. There is opportunity for members to continue on the Council, upon successful re-appointment, up to 3 consecutive terms.
3. Members must be available to attend the full Council meetings, which are held regularly on the last Thursday of the month. Meetings are held 8 times per year. Meetings usually start at 9am and last for 3 to 4 hours. Meetings are held at various locations across the Geographe Catchment (i.e. Capel, Busselton, and Dunsborough), car-pooling can be organised where practical.
4. Members are paid for attendance and contribution at standard government rates (\$176 for a half day). Fees are paid directly to the member on a quarterly basis.
5. Communications with members occurs between meetings, particularly when an out-of-session decision or feedback on a matter is required. Email or fax capacity is an advantage in this respect.
6. To ensure effective decision making, members are required to prepare for meetings by giving thorough consideration to the agenda papers, which are provided one week in advance.
7. Members are encouraged to attend and to help with GeoCatch public presentations and community liaison events.
8. Under its Working Rules, the Council has endorsed the following:
 - Members of the GeoCatch Council shall not take paid employment from GeoCatch Inc, and;

- Members of the GeoCatch Council shall not take paid employment from the Department of Water, where such work relates to the work of GeoCatch Inc.

GeoCatch members will be asked to resign their position on the GeoCatch Council should they be employed or contracted for work by GeoCatch Inc. or the Dept of Water on work that relates to GeoCatch Inc.

9. All GeoCatch members will comply with the Public Sector Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics.
10. Members positions will become vacant if they are absent from three consecutive meetings, in the same financial year, without tendering a notice of apology to the presiding Chair or a leave of absence sought from GeoCatch.