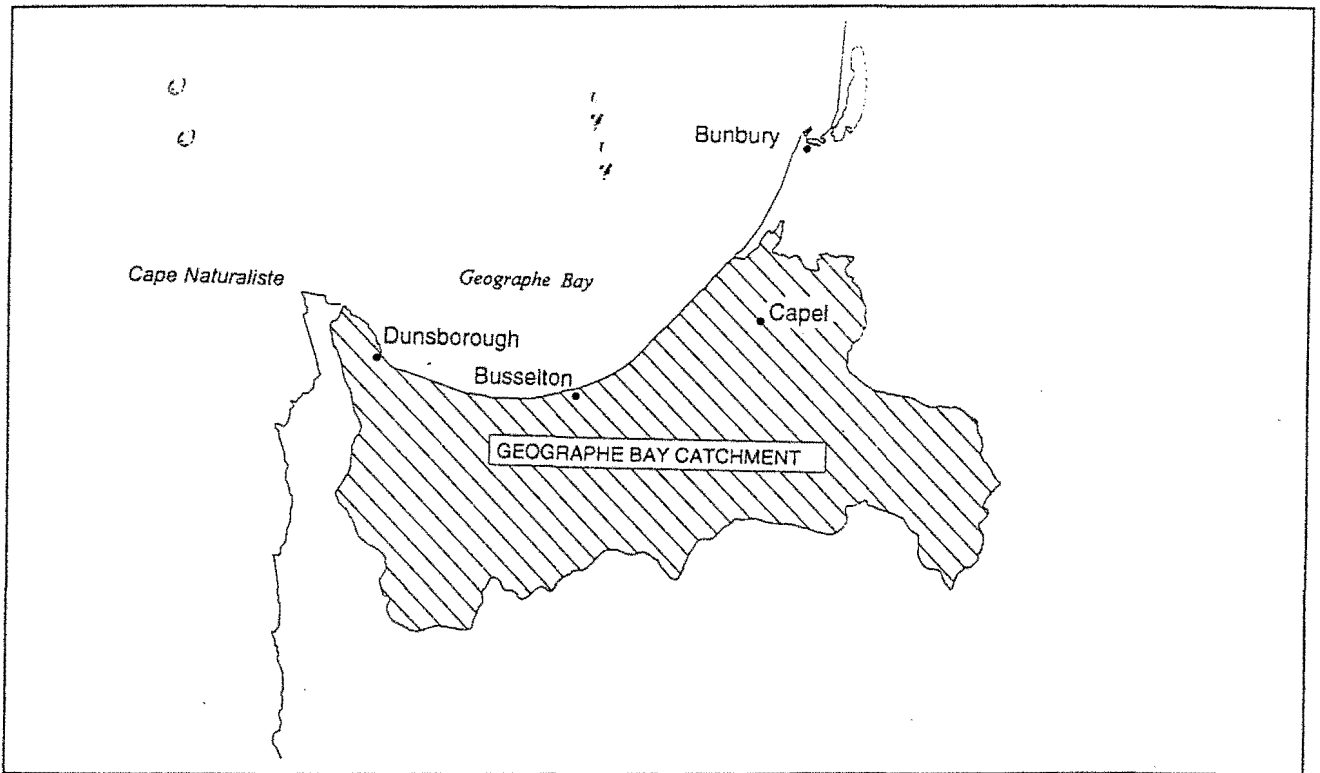




FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF GEOGRAPHE BAY CATCHMENT AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT

THE PROPOSAL

Report of the Geographe Bay Steering Committee



WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SERIES

WATER AND RIVERS COMMISSION REPORT WRM 4 DECEMBER 1996



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FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF GEOGRAPHE BAY
CATCHMENT AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT
THE PROPOSAL

Report of the
Geographe Bay Steering Committee

Report to the Water and Rivers Commission Board

by the
Geographe Bay Steering Committee

Water and Rivers Commission
Waterways Management Planning, Regional Support and
South West Region

WATER AND RIVERS COMMISSION
WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT REPORT
REPORT NO WRM 4 1996



Acknowledgments

The recommendations of this report have been made by the Geographie Bay Steering Committee for presentation to the Board of the Water and Rivers Commission.

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Mr Don Crawford	Water and Rivers Commission
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The report has been compiled by Lisa Chalmers, Waterways Management Planning, Don Crawford, Regional Support and South West Region with assistance from Jillian Harris Consulting.

Data for the maps was supplied by the Ministry for Planning, Bunbury, and modified by B.H. environmental mapping.

Meetings were held at Shires of Busselton & Capel Council chambers.

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Chairman's Letter

I am pleased to present the report of the Geographe Bay Steering Committee to the Water and Rivers Commission Board. The Steering Committee has addressed the terms of reference and has concluded that the need for a management body for Geographe Bay is paramount.

The Steering Committee has outlined how a new management body can be established which has a strong local community base and depends on significant community input. We believe the document provides recommendations which will be of great benefit to Geographe Bay and its catchment.

The community, local and State government have recognised that there is a need for coordinated catchment management for the Geographe Bay area. Sustainable development and environmental protection of the area's vital natural resources can be assisted by establishing a community based management body to work in partnership with agencies and local government.

Initially, the Steering Committee commissioned the community workshop *Streams, Dreams and Solutions* which showed that there was an overwhelming desire to see the catchment restored to a more natural condition than it is presently and with more of the ecological functions of the past. The community also recognised the need for sustainable catchment management so that land uses in the catchment could be balanced with environmental needs.

There are many agencies and groups currently involved in various aspects of the management of the catchment. In the past, these agencies and groups have worked individually within their own sphere of operation.

The Steering Committee recognises that it would not be possible to develop an overall planned catchment strategy without a coordinating body. The body in partnership with the various agencies and groups could drive a program towards restoring the catchment and its waterways, rivers and drains to a more healthy state.

As Chairman of the Geographe Bay Steering Committee, I was privileged to be involved with a committee which has worked together well and

presented an innovative vision for the future management of Geographe Bay and its catchment.

The Committee is broadly based with representatives from the shires, the community and government agencies. They have met on approximately a fortnightly basis since July and I sincerely thank them for their enthusiasm and support.

The Steering Committee were supported by a Technical Advisory Committee consisting of officers from the Water and Rivers Commission and several State and local government agencies.

They attended the Steering Committee meetings and accurately incorporated the Committees findings in the report. Their assistance was invaluable and is reflected in the structure and context of the report.

I would like to thank the Waters and Rivers Commission and everyone involved with preparing these recommendations and look forward to better management of Geographe Bay and its catchment.



Sir Donald Eckersley
Chairman
Geographe Bay Steering Committee

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Preamble

This is the report of the Geographe Bay Steering Committee, which was formed by the Board of the Water and Rivers Commission in response to community concern over the condition of Geographe Bay and its catchment.

This report is not a definitive document about the state of Geographe Bay. Rather, it reports specifically on the terms of reference set for the committee. The major question facing the committee was what sort of body or structure could best accommodate the future management of the Geographe Bay and catchment. This question provides the focus of the Steering Committee's report.

Public Comment

The Water and Rivers Commission is inviting public comment on this proposal. A public meeting will be held in February 1997 to further explain the proposal and generate discussion. If the proposal requires any changes as the result of community comment these changes will be advertised.

If you would like to make a submission on this document, you are invited to send your comments on the form provided with this report. Please note that submissions do not have to be confined to the length or layout of the form provided. Send your comments to:

Geographe Bay Public Comment Submission
Attention Ms P Papageorgiou
Water and Rivers Commission
U2 Leschenault Quays
Austral Parade
Bunbury WA 6230

Closing date for comments 1 March 1997, 5 pm.



Summary

Geographe Bay catchment covers almost 2000 km². It is crossed by a series of natural and artificial watercourses and wetlands. There are several urban centres, with over half of the catchment area used for rural purposes. The natural environment faces increasing pressure from competing uses for the land and waters. Agricultural development, coastal issues, urban sprawl, mining, transport corridors, sustainable fishing, forest management, environmental values, lifestyle values, socio-economic issues and economic development all vie for a place in the catchment. In recent years, rising community awareness has brought to light the difficulties created by the convergence of these diverse interests. Considerable steps have been taken to resolve this situation but, to date, no long term workable solution has surfaced.

The Geographe Bay Steering Committee was formed by the Water and Rivers Commission in response to a request from the Minister for the Environment. The Minister's request resulted from a submission to him from the Shires of Capel and Busselton which outlined the need for coordinated catchment management in the Geographe area. Considerable work had preceded that, including the preparation of a draft catchment management strategy by the Geographe Bay Advisory Committee (GBAC) with support from the Department of Planning and Urban Development (now Ministry for Planning) and others. That initial work is outlined in sections 1 and 2 of this report.

The Geographe Bay Steering Committee has examined the best ways to achieve coordinated management of the Geographe Bay catchment and marine environment. The terms of reference have been addressed and detailed rationale for the Steering Committee's recommendations are provided. The Steering Committee has made recommendations on the procedure for establishing the proposed management body. The committee recommends that:

1. A community based management body be formed.
2. The management body should be called the *Geographe Catchment Council*, to be known by the shortened version of *GeoCatch*. It should operate under the slogan *The Community's Voice in the Catchment*.
3. GeoCatch should be formed under the delegated power of the Water and Rivers Commission Board.
4. GeoCatch should be empowered by the Water and Rivers Commission Board and Memoranda of Understanding with the Commission and other agencies. The Water and Rivers Commission and GeoCatch will need to work together to develop suitable policies for the area. The Water and Rivers Commission can then apply these policies in its work in the area. The management body should make decisions within the area of delegation.
5. GeoCatch and the Water and Rivers Commission should operate in partnership according to the recommended protocol in this report.
6. Once GeoCatch is established, one of its first priorities should be to consider and establish relationships with important organisations.
7. The charter for GeoCatch should be: *To work with the community and management agencies to manage 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.*
8. GeoCatch should primarily be a coordinating body, but it should also perform works, provide education, offer advice, conduct research and assist with regulation. The areas of focus and methods employed by GeoCatch should be flexible and develop with time and perceived needs. Involvement in each of these activities will vary from year to year depending on specific projects undertaken or managed by GeoCatch.



9. The roles of GeoCatch should be to:

- Work with the community and agencies to provide a vision for the catchment.
- Formulate policy in partnership with the community and agencies.
- Educate the public and disseminate information.
- Work with the community on their ideas and concerns and assist the community with management actions in the catchment.
- Work with existing agencies to ensure that works and research are carried out.
- Coordinate and initiate priority works that are not currently performed by existing agencies but which are identified as important.
- Identify and commission research as required in partnership with groups and agencies.
- Advise decision making authorities when appropriate.
- Assist in raising funds.
- Be accountable and report annually to the community and WRC Board.
- Make recommendations to, and work with, regulatory authorities to identify where regulation and prosecution are required.
- Act as a facilitator to resolve conflict on catchment issues where appropriate.

10. The initial tasks of GeoCatch should be to:

- Carry out or commission a catchment audit.
- Establish a business plan to determine priorities and gain support for strategies after a management plan has been prepared and implemented.
- Review the need for incorporation within the first year of formation.
- Establish relationships and, where appropriate, Memoranda of Understanding, with existing agencies.
- Establish priorities for work, with a three to five year programme for works.
- Determine its future functions.
- Establish a network centre to provide a focus of activity.

11. The WRC Board and GeoCatch should establish a working agreement with themselves, and Memoranda of Understanding with relevant State and Local Government agencies both at WRC Board and GeoCatch levels to determine their relationships and relative roles.

12. State and Local Government and GeoCatch should provide each other with information and recommendations on an as-needed basis. This should be achieved by the implementation of Memoranda of Understanding to achieve the two-way flow of information and recommendations between GeoCatch and government agencies.

13. The Geographe Bay Advisory Committee should help to facilitate the formation of the new body. GBAC should be involved in monitoring the achievements of GeoCatch and should continue to lobby for improved management of the marine waters of Geographe Bay. To avoid duplication, GBAC and GeoCatch should not co-exist for more than six months after the major proportion of Geographe Bay is included in a marine park managed by CALM. Once GeoCatch is established GBAC's role will change its emphasis to the marine waters of the bay.

14. GeoCatch needs to be sponsored by the Water and Rivers Commission.

15. GeoCatch should be comprised of up to eleven community members, and four agency members. The quorum should be half the number of council members plus one.

16. Membership for the Council should:

- be drawn from across the community.
- be skills based.
- have two positions held for the Shire Presidents of Busselton and Capel (or nominees).
- have four positions for senior representatives of the Water and Rivers Commission, Department of Conservation, and Land Management, Ministry for Planning and Agriculture WA.
- the remaining members should be, as a guide, five rural land holders and six other community representatives such as industry and environmental group representatives.
- have members who fulfil the following selection criteria:
 - Good interpersonal skills.
 - Good communication skills.
 - Good negotiation skills.
 - Knowledge of issues in the catchment and/or bay.
 - Involved in relevant work in the catchment and/or bay.



-
- Live in the catchment.
 - Links to the community (membership of existing community organisations, work associations etc).
17. Members should be selected from applications sought from the public. Selection should ensure a wide range of skills are represented. Equal opportunity principles will apply.
18. The selection of the initial GeoCatch Council should be made by a committee comprising of the head of Leschenault Inlet Management Authority, the head of Blackwood Catchment Coordinating Group, the Shire Presidents of Capel and Busselton, Sir Donald Eckersley (chair of Geographe Bay Steering Committee), and a member of the Water and Rivers Commission board, or their nominees. The selection committee shall recommend the interim chair of the new management body. The Water and Rivers Commission Board will appoint GeoCatch members on the recommendation of the local group as suggested by the Steering Committee.
19. Members should serve terms of two years. The exception to this should be one half of the initial members appointed to the inaugural Council, who should serve a three year term. This would effectively stagger new appointments so that only one half of the members' terms expire at any one time. This would ensure continuity in GeoCatch's work. Members could serve more than one term if they so desired and their performance was satisfactory.
20. Future appointment to the GeoCatch Council will be subject to negotiation between WRC and the new body to determine the selection process.
21. GeoCatch should largely determine its own procedures, however, some aspects will be negotiated between the Water and Rivers Commission Board and GeoCatch. GeoCatch will determine the frequency of its meetings at its first meeting.
22. GeoCatch should be able to draw on government agencies and other bodies for technical advice when required.
23. The Water and Rivers Commission Board will appoint GeoCatch as a committee of the Board under Section 15 of Schedule 1 of the Water and Rivers Commission Act 1995 to assist it in the performance of its functions. The Board will delegate appropriate powers to GeoCatch to allow it to fulfill its role.
24. GeoCatch will initially require:
- An office/shop front at Busselton.
 - Staff support from the Water and Rivers Commission probably in the form of a coordinator and another full time technical officer. (Staffing requirements will change as the catchment audit and business plan determines).
 - Vehicle and office equipment.
 - Professional support from other government agencies and community groups as part of Memoranda of Understanding, as needed.
 - Voluntary support from the community.
25. When first set up, GeoCatch and agencies, especially the Water and Rivers Commission, will develop agreed work programs for the Geographe Bay area and agencies will allocate relevant funding. The program will be developed with GeoCatch with a view to sustaining a viable program of activities for at least five years while external funding and sponsorship is sought.
26. GeoCatch will initially require resources which may be along the lines of the indicative schedule shown in Appendix H. Staffing requirements will emerge as the catchment audit and business plan develop.
27. The Geographe Bay area should be considered for the Federal Government's Regional Initiative Funding, National Heritage Trust & the National Landcare Program. The application should be made by the Water and Rivers Commission and GeoCatch in partnership with other State Government agencies.
28. GeoCatch should utilise the natural boundary of the Geographe Bay catchment as its land based boundary as shown in this report.
29. GeoCatch should include in its area of interest the water body of Geographe Bay as shown in this report.



1. Introduction

1.1 The need for action

Geographe Bay catchment covers almost 2000 km². It is crossed by a series of natural and artificial watercourses and wetlands and its location is shown in Figure 1. There are several urban centres, with over half of the catchment area used for rural purposes. The natural environment faces increasing pressure and there are competing uses for the land and waters. Agricultural development, coastal issues, sustainable fishing, forest management, environmental values, lifestyle values, socio-economic issues and economic development all vie for a place in the catchment. In recent years, rising community awareness has brought to light the difficulties created by the convergence of these diverse interests. Huge steps have been taken to resolve this situation but to date no long term workable solution has surfaced.

In recent years, several sectors of the community have taken steps to address the issues of catchment management and these are outlined below.

1.1.1 Geographe Bay Advisory Committee

The Geographe Bay Advisory Committee (GBAC) was formed in early 1992 to provide independent advice to the shires of Busselton and Capel on matters relating to the marine and terrestrial, social and natural environment of Geographe Bay and its catchment. GBAC is able to raise issues on its own initiative and by request from the shires.

Membership of GBAC is broad, with representatives from a range of community, government and industry associations. Busselton Shire Council and Capel Shire Council also have representatives, as does the general community. Details of members of GBAC and the organisation's goal are included in Appendix A.

1.1.2 Shires' submission

In October 1995, the Shires of Busselton and Capel made a joint submission to the Minister for the Environment calling for a management authority under the Waterways Conservation Act 1975 to be formed to coordinate management of the Geographe waterways.

It was concluded by the Shires of Busselton and Capel in *Geographe Waterways Management Submission to the Minister for the Environment* (1995) that:

- Geographe waterways, including the Vasse River, Vasse Estuary, Wonnerup Estuary, Toby's Inlet and Capel River, are severely degraded and require urgent attention to improve water quality water flow and the influence of flood control structures.
- The degeneration of water quality in the Vasse River, and to a lesser extent the Capel River, during summer results in extensive algal blooms, associated bad odours and perceived health risks. There is great concern within the community that the near-shore marine environment of Geographe Bay is being adversely affected by the transport of sediments and nutrients from the catchment area by Geographe waterways.
- Development pressure for subdivision and tourist facilities must be managed to ensure the future health and integrity of Geographe waterways and foreshores. Public access and the provision of high standard public facilities are important, but most important is the protection of areas of conservation value and habitat for wildlife. The Vasse-Wonnerup Estuary are internationally significant waterbird breeding and feeding areas and require that appropriate water levels and water quality are maintained.
- The Shires of Busselton and Capel are aware of many of these issues, and have attempted to address them within their limited resources and powers of control, but there is no coordinated effort with the long term quality of the Geographe waterways as the focus.
- The water quality problems being faced by the Geographe community are equal in magnitude to those affecting the Swan Canning and Peel-Harvey systems, and possibly more significant than those affecting the Leschenault waterways, all of which currently receive active and formal management supported by the State Government.



FIGURE 1

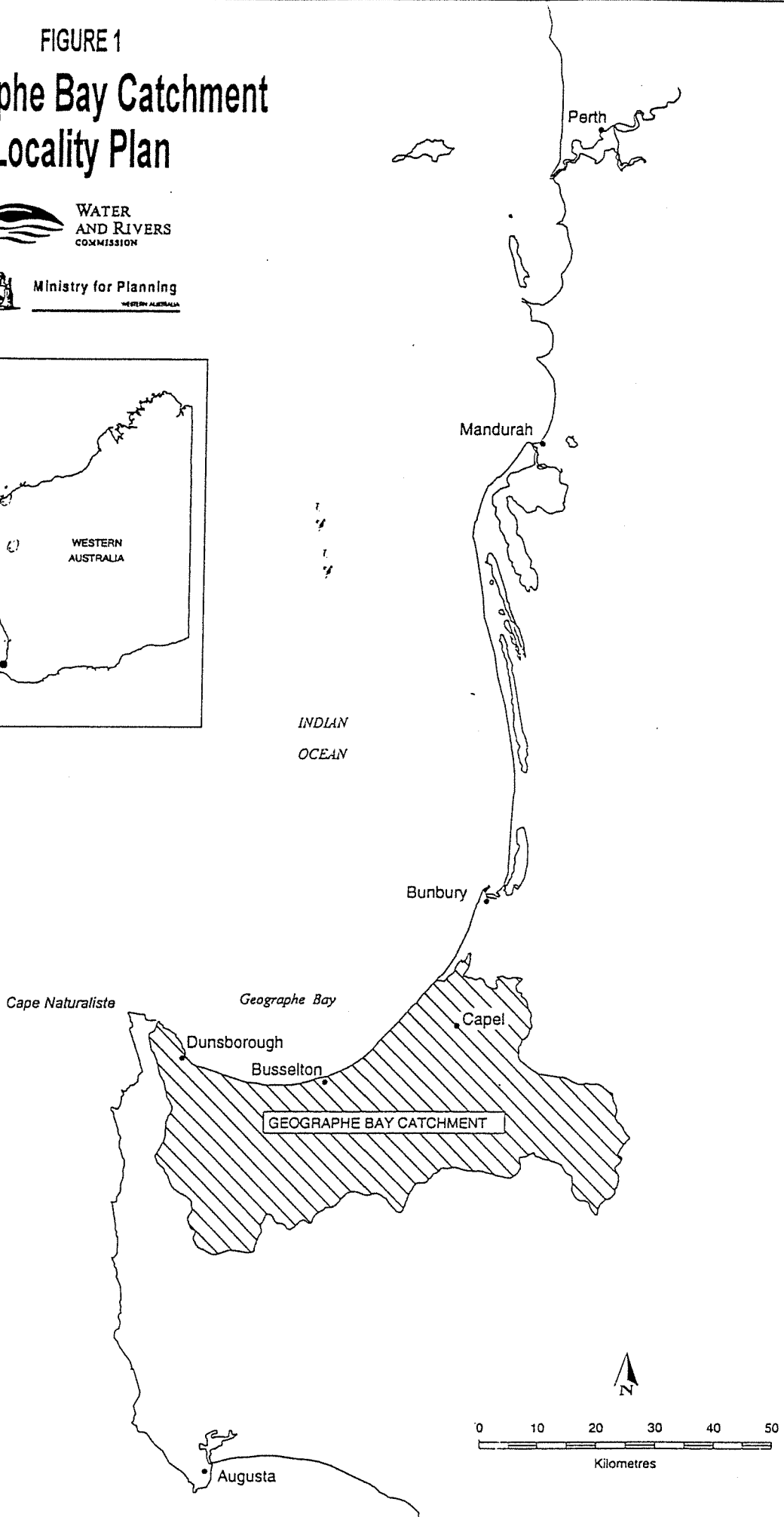
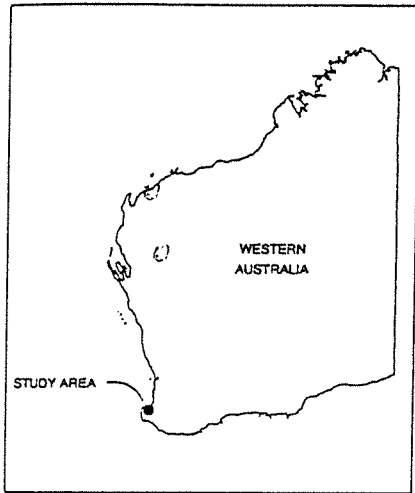
Geographe Bay Catchment Locality Plan



WATER
AND RIVERS
COMMISSION



Ministry for Planning
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



- Local councils lack the technical expertise and know how to deal with the water quality and protection issues, and also lack the resources to put protection and enhancement measures in place.
- The local Busselton and Capel communities strongly submit that the Geographe waterways should have a waterways management body to provide for formal and coordinated locally based management of our waterways.

1.1.3 Integrated catchment management strategy

At the time that the Shires' joint submission to the Minister was made, GBAC and the WA Planning Commission were formulating an integrated catchment management (ICM) strategy for the Geographe waterways. The draft strategy was released for public comment in November 1995. The public comment period closed on 28 February 1996. At the time of this submission to the Water and Rivers Commission Board, a final strategy had not been released.

The draft ICM strategy, *Geographe Bay Integrated Catchment Management Strategy*, provides a detailed description of the issues that affect the Geographe waterways and catchment. The reader is referred to this document for further information on these matters.

The draft ICM strategy outlined the issues associated with Geographe Bay and its catchment and possible ways in which these problems could be managed. It made many recommendations to deal with the many and varied issues facing the catchment. It also identified the lead agencies that would need to be involved in implementing the recommendations. The difficulty GBAC now faces is that it does not have the authority or resources to ensure that these recommendations are carried out.

1.1.4 Minister's response

The Minister for the Environment gave in-principle support to the shires' request for coordinated catchment management. He responded to their submission by requesting that the Water and Rivers Commission convene a Steering Committee to guide the establishment of a suitable management group. This committee's deliberations are contained in this report.

1.2 Existing roles and responsibilities

1.2.1 Water and Rivers Commission

The Water and Rivers Commission (WRC) was created under an Act of Parliament and was established at the beginning of 1996. It brought together the WA Water Resources Council, the Water Resources Division of the Water Authority of WA, the Hydrogeology and Groundwater Resources Branch of the Department of Minerals and Energy, and the Waterways Commission.

Its role is to manage the State's surface water and groundwater resources, including rivers and estuaries. The Commission focuses on protecting environmental values and allocating water for a wide range of uses to support sustainable development in the state.

The Commission has four divisions; Policy and Planning, Regional Services, Resource Investigations, and Corporate Services. It reports to a seven member board.

The Water and Rivers Commission has an office at Bunbury which is responsible for the coordination and implementation of the Commission's programs for the South West Region.

1.2.2 Other groups

In addition to the Water and Rivers Commission and GBAC, several other groups & agencies are involved in the overall management of Geographe Bay. Some of these agencies have overlapping responsibilities. Despite these overlaps, there are areas that do not currently receive coverage from an existing agency. Details of different agencies' responsibilities in catchment management, planning, pollution prevention, assessing development proposals, land management coordination and sundry other roles are given in Appendix B.

This information highlights the lack of overall coordination. No one has overall responsibility for catchment management. At the same time, five government departments, all local governments, several community groups (including LCDCs), and individual landholders all have catchment management responsibilities. Some of these responsibilities are statutory and some are voluntary.

Land management is dealt with by a similar range of organisations and individuals. This means that no single organisation holds the view of the big picture (ie the whole catchment). There is no publicly held vision of the future.



1.3 GBAC - identified steps for resolution

GBAC recommended in its *Geographe Bay Integrated Catchment Management Strategy (Draft) 1995* that:

- A State Government Body be appointed as the lead agency to coordinate ICM activities in the catchment and bay and the implementation of this strategy (for example by establishing a Geographe Bay Management Authority),
- Appropriate resources be allocated to the nominated body,
- Regular reports (2-5 yrs) be published on the State of Geographe Bay and its catchment area, using measures that can be compared over time, and
- This strategy be subject to regular updates and be fully reviewed in five years time.

GBAC's work provides a basis for the future management of the catchment.



2. Identifying the Issues

2.1 Water and Rivers Commission's response to Minister's request

In March 1996, the Water and Rivers Commission Board approved the formation of a short term Steering Committee to "consider the need for and means by which the Geographe Bay waterways might be managed". The Board established Terms of Reference to be considered by the Steering Committee and requested that the committee report to it by the end of September 1996. That date was subsequently revised to October 1996.

2.1.1 Membership of Steering and Technical Committees

Membership of the Steering Committee was chosen to give wide expertise and representation of interest groups in the catchment. Sir Donald Eckersley was appointed to Chair the Steering Committee. A Technical Committee was established to provide advice to the Steering Committee. The Technical Committee was comprised of representatives from several government departments. Members of both committees are given in Appendix C.

2.1.2 Terms of reference

The Steering Committee was formed to determine the most appropriate mechanism to manage the waterways of Geographe Bay. The Steering Committee considered the following terms of reference;

A) The structure and form of a management mechanism

- determine the need for and what may want to be achieved in waterways management, and the means by which this can be effectively undertaken, particularly considering the need for catchment management as a means of achieving outcomes in the context of the Water and Rivers Commission roles and responsibilities defined by the relevant Acts. Options other than the creation of a waterways management authority under the Waterways Conservation Act 1976 should be considered.
- determine the issues and need of the stakeholders and how they will be involved.

- determine the role of local government, state government, community and industry committees.
- recommend relationships between any proposed new body and existing Waterways Management Authorities, the Water and Rivers Commission, Geographe Bay Advisory Committee, State Government committees, associations, and statutory bodies.

The word body is used to encompass mechanisms, relationships and a group if one is formed.

B) The scope and operations of any proposed management body

- determine the nature and scope of the activities for the management body.
- consider current water quality issues and how the management body could be effective in managing local waterways in the Geographe area.

C) Membership of the management body

- identify the form of membership and numbers of members, whether these should be interest and experience based, or whether it is to be representative of constituencies;
- identify the interests and/or organisations which should be represented;
- consider meeting procedures and frequency.

D) Resource requirements

- identify requirements for secretariat, staff, location and accommodation needs to facilitate effective and coordinated management, representative of the boundaries of the management body's interest.

E) Funding arrangements for initial operations

- identify and prioritize the issues requiring research and investigation and through strategic planning translate these into projects, operations and on-ground works to be undertaken.
- determine and recommend how these initial projects and operations are to be funded, including the identification of any potential partnerships.



F) Boundaries of interest for the management body

- consider the proposed boundary and advise on the most appropriate boundary within which the management body should operate, which should include waterways within the Shire of Busselton, Shire of Capel, and the catchment of Geographe Bay.
- determine the legal implications regarding waterways within the catchment being declared as drains under the Land Drainage Act (1925).

In addition to these Terms of Reference the Steering Committee was requested to ensure community involvement and consultation was carried out as part of its deliberations.

2.2 Reporting and community involvement

The community was consulted by the Steering Committee for their advice on the appropriateness of the Terms of Reference. The Water and Rivers Commission Board was advised accordingly.

The Steering Committee will provide this report to the Water and Rivers Commission Board as the basis of advice to the Minister on the most appropriate way of managing the Geographe Bay waterways.

2.2.1 Existing information

In 1993 GBAC undertook a community consultation exercise to enable people to express their ideas on the values of the Geographe catchment. This exercise identified that, while people had a strong desire to retain the natural qualities of the area and associated lifestyle, they also saw a need for continued economic growth. As shown in Appendix D, values covered a range of issues including agricultural land, coastal environments, development, environmental issues, fishing, forestry and lifestyle.

2.2.2 Community workshop

A community workshop *Streams, Dreams and Solutions* was held in July 1996 as part of the Steering Committee's work, supported GBAC's earlier findings. A detailed report of this latter workshop appears in Appendix E.

2.2.3 Discussion with stakeholders

It is evident from this work that the community feels strongly about protecting the Geographe catchment,

waterways and bay. It is also evident that a range of values need to be protected and that these values will not always be entirely compatible. There is strong support for the provision of an overall, coordinated approach to management.

The community is keen to have an on-going role in deciding the future of the Geographe catchment, waterways and bay. As part of that involvement, the Steering Committee recommends that this report be released for public comment for a period of at least six weeks but preferably longer.



3. Options, Constraints, Considerations

3.1 Addressing the terms of reference

The Steering Committee addressed the terms of reference and has made a number of recommendations for which the rationale has been outlined.

3.2 Terms of reference

A) The structure and form of a management mechanism

Recommendations:

1. A community based management body be formed.
2. The management body should be called the *Geographe Catchment Council*, to be known by the shortened version of *GeoCatch*. It should operate under the slogan *The Community's Voice in the Catchment*.
3. The management body should be formed under the delegated power of the Water and Rivers Commission Board.
4. GeoCatch should be empowered by the Water and Rivers Commission Board and a Memoranda of Understanding with the Commission and other agencies. The Water and Rivers Commission, other agencies and GeoCatch will need to work together to develop suitable policies for the area. The Water and Rivers Commission and other agencies can then apply these policies in their work in the area. GeoCatch should make decisions within the area of delegation.
5. GeoCatch and the Water and Rivers Commission should operate in partnership according to the recommended protocol in this report.
6. Once GeoCatch is established, one of its first priorities should be to consider and establish relationships with important organisations.

Rationale for the recommendations under term of reference A:

- Need for coordinated catchment management

The need for a management body for the Geographe Bay catchment was proposed by the Shires of Busselton and Capel and strongly supported by the Geographe Bay Advisory Committee. There are a number of agencies and groups which are involved in catchment management at present, however, by coordinating these groups, improved catchment management could be achieved.

The Steering Committee has considered the workings of some existing management authorities and considers that Geographe Bay would benefit by considering a new approach. The disadvantages of a management authority are that the powers pertain mostly to management of the river and therefore could be perceived to be ignoring the catchment. Management of the total catchment by the body was considered important. The present style of management authority is not perceived as being a community based group.

There is a strong desire in the community to have a management structure which results in an organised approach to catchment management. There is an equally strong desire that the community have a key role in the management of the catchment. The solution lies in the establishment of a community body coupled with a sponsoring agency that will support the group. The community body can harness local knowledge, enthusiasm, liaison and resources and provide direction.

The Water and Rivers Commission is to sponsor water resources management in the Geographe Bay area. The Commission would fit the community input into the broader state framework and could support the local initiatives. Water resources management would be implemented with GeoCatch as the community based body providing the means for ensuring local input and coordination. Water resources management is to be undertaken through a partnership between the community, local government and agencies.



Other agencies and groups would be linked into the structure through the coordinating efforts of GeoCatch. Partners would focus on and pursue, common and complementary objectives leading to the integration of the management of natural resources. This integrated approach to managing the catchment and bay is to be reinforced through partnership agreements and Memoranda of Understanding. GeoCatch will work with agencies and the community on policy development, catchment planning, and development and endorsement of work programs for the implementing agencies and other bodies. Agencies will implement agreed policies, and referrals will be made by agencies to GeoCatch for developments and issues above an agreed level of complexity and impact.

GeoCatch would provide leadership in the community. GeoCatch would be an integrating influence in the community, and co-ordinate activities in the catchment.

The Steering Committee believes that by establishing GeoCatch under the umbrella of the Water and Rivers Commission, it would have credibility with decision makers, access to resources, and power through delegation.

If the status quo remained, the Steering Committee believes that progress would continue to be made in some areas, such as the work of LCDCs. In other areas, such as conflicts between different management aims and responsibilities, things would continue to deteriorate. The 'do nothing' option is therefore not considered to be a viable alternative. In addition, if the 'do nothing option' was taken then there would be no formal powers or administrative arrangements to carry out management of the river system. Bodies such as GBAC would have restricted activities due to limited budgets.

- **Defining an operating protocol**

It is recommended that the new management body will have the powers delegated to it by the Water and Rivers Commission. It was considered by the Steering Committee that the powers under the Waterways Conservation Act 1976 were not broad enough for the management body. However, if GeoCatch was given all the power of the Water and Rivers Commission Act 1995, then the new body would be required to do a number of functions which would be beyond the scope

and expertise of GeoCatch. The best option was considered to be that GeoCatch be delegated powers sufficient to allow it to undertake its role as shown as Option B (Appendix F). This would include the ability to establish Memoranda of Understanding with various government agencies on various management issues in the area.

The proposal will allow GeoCatch to have a catchment focus rather than just a waterways focus. It would also allow GeoCatch to provide input at a policy and planning level and also coordinate local input. GeoCatch would not take any responsibility for licensing wells and assessing water resources. The Water and Rivers Commission will be able to consult GeoCatch on planning for the use of water resources and flood management in the area. GeoCatch will promote the efficient use of water resources and undertake, coordinate, manage and provide practical and financial assistance to, activities and projects for the conservation, management or use of water resources. GeoCatch will also publish information and material relating to water resources under this option.

The above arrangements would provide a means by which GeoCatch could cover all the major issues. Appendix G provides details on how this would work. It lists the major issues and stake holders, the legislation which would allow action and comments on how the legislation could be used.

GeoCatch will be accountable to the community and the Water and Rivers Commission Board for its activities. Accountability to the community will largely be through an open annual general meeting and published annual report to the community on its activities. Accountability to the Board will largely be through regular reporting on the exercise of any delegated powers, and through a requirement to operate within the limits of the delegated powers and the Commission's policies. The published annual report will also be made available to the Board.



B) The scope and operations of any proposed management body

Recommendations:

7. The charter for GeoCatch should be: *To work with the community and management agencies to manage 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.*
8. GeoCatch should primarily be a coordinating body, but it should also perform works and provide education, offer advice, conduct research and assist with regulation. The areas of focus and methods employed by GeoCatch should be flexible and develop with time and perceived needs. Involvement in each of these activities will vary from year to year depending on specific projects undertaken or managed by GeoCatch.

ROLES	Level of involvement
Coordination	↓ Decreasing
Works & Education	↓ level
Advisory	↓ of
Research	↓ involvement
Regulatory	↓

9. The roles of GeoCatch should be to:
- Work with the community and agencies to provide a vision for the catchment.
 - Formulate policy in partnership with the community and agencies.
 - Educate the public and disseminate information.
 - Work with the community on their ideas and concerns and assist the community with management actions in the catchment.
 - Work with existing agencies to ensure that works and research are carried out.
 - Coordinate and initiate priority works that are not currently performed by existing agencies but are identified as important.
 - Identify and commission research as required.
 - Advise decision making authorities when appropriate.
 - Assist in raising funds.

- Be accountable to and report annually to the community and WRC Board.
 - Make recommendations to, and work with, regulatory authorities to identify where regulation and prosecution are required.
 - Act as a facilitator to resolve conflict on catchment issues where appropriate.
10. The initial tasks of GeoCatch should be to:
- Carry out or commission a catchment audit.
 - Establish a business plan to determine priorities and gain support for strategies after a management plan has been prepared and implemented.
 - Review the need for incorporation within the first year of formation.
 - Establish relationships and, where appropriate, Memoranda of Understanding or partnership agreements, with existing agencies.
 - Establish priorities for work, with a three to five year programme for works.
 - Determine its future functions.
 - Establish a network centre to provide a focus of activity.
11. The WRC Board and GeoCatch should establish a working agreement between themselves and Memoranda of Understanding with relevant State and Local Government agencies both at WRC Board and GeoCatch level to determine their relationships and relative roles.
12. State and Local Government and GeoCatch should provide each other with information and recommendations on an as-needed basis. This should be achieved by the implementation of Memoranda of Understanding to achieve the two way flow of information and recommendations between GeoCatch and government agencies.
13. The Geographe Bay Advisory Committee should help to facilitate the formation of the new body. GBAC should be involved in monitoring the achievements of GeoCatch and should continue to lobby for improved management of the marine waters of Geographe Bay. To avoid duplication, GBAC and GeoCatch should not co-exist for more than six months after the major proportion o



Geographe Bay is included in a marine park managed by CALM. Once GeoCatch is established, GBAC's role will change its emphasis to the marine waters of Geographe Bay.

14. GeoCatch should be sponsored by the Water and Rivers Commission.

Rationale for recommendation under term of reference B:

The charter states clearly that GeoCatch will work closely with the community to manage Geographe Bay and its catchment with the support of the Water and River Commission and other agencies. The roles of GeoCatch will therefore be closely linked in with community ideas and directions. It is considered that the primary role of GeoCatch would be to coordinate existing groups, involved in various catchment management issues, such as LCDCs. Groups which currently perform the various catchment management roles will continue to do so, as they will continue to play a part in the total catchment management. Clearly, there will need to be input with other government agencies, in particular, local government Water and Rivers Commission, Conservation and Land Management and Agriculture Western Australia. The following roles were discussed by the Steering Committee in reaching its recommendations.

• Coordinating

This role provides overall vision and coordination and needs fewer resources than most other styles. It would need to be sponsored by an agency. The sponsoring agency would give GeoCatch some powers; there would be a Memorandum of Understanding between the two and mutual trust. GeoCatch would need a viable business plan to get support for its strategies. Community membership would minimise the risk of low community acceptance. The coordination role would include providing a 'one stop shop' for information on the catchment and being open and responsive to community concerns and ideas. GeoCatch will work with stakeholders in the catchment to harness the community's enthusiasm and action. GeoCatch would report annually to the community, although ongoing updates throughout a year will be beneficial to developing a strong community base. This would allow GeoCatch to listen to the community and review its operations accordingly. In addition,

GeoCatch would be able to act as a facilitator and help resolve conflict on catchment issues where appropriate. This would encourage issues to be openly discussed at an earlier stage in the conflict.

• Works

There are works and services that GeoCatch could provide, that need to be done and that are currently 'falling through the gaps' and not being done by anyone. However, some on-ground works may be far more difficult to implement than imagined due to difficulties with ownership and conflicting responsibilities and priorities. If GeoCatch took on doing such tasks it could risk losing credibility, duplicating existing services, and wasting energy and enthusiasm. It would risk a piecemeal approach. In some cases, doing works would involve GeoCatch becoming a proponent under the Environmental Protection Act. This has huge implications for financial and human resources.

During the Committee's deliberations the question of drainage was raised as an important issue in the catchment. Consideration was given to a number of options for the future management of the drains. It was recommended by the Steering Committee that GeoCatch should not be involved in the management or maintenance of the drainage system at this time. Its role should be confined in the first instance to monitoring and measuring the effect of drains on the ecosystem. From this, it could develop strategies and recommend measures to minimise or ameliorate any identified harmful effects. GeoCatch should, however, have the ability to enter into agreements with the responsible agency and assist with remedial work, streamlining or other protective measures. If, in time, it was seen to be appropriate for GeoCatch to become more involved in the management of the drainage system, this should become a matter of negotiation between the Water and Rivers Commission and Water Corporation.

• Education

To ensure that the community is aware of catchment issues and how they can assist in their management, education is vital. GeoCatch will need to implement interpretive programmes which promote awareness, appreciation, understanding and active concern for the natural and cultural values of the catchment



environment. In addition, the community will need to know the role of GeoCatch in the management of Geopraphe Bay. Through participation in the decision-making process local people can ensure that management of the river system is consistent with community values and can contribute their local knowledge and skills.

- **Advisory**

GBAC achieved most of what could be done in the advisory role — GeoCatch needs to build on GBAC's work and therefore needs to be more than advisory, although some advisory functions would be necessary. It would be best to rely on existing processes for decision making (eg MFP, LGAs and EPA) but the new management body should be called upon as a matter of course to provide input to those processes. GeoCatch needs to be satisfied that its opinions are listened to and respected. It needs status and influence.

- **Research and investigation**

GeoCatch should commission research and conduct its own research when appropriate. This may be done in conjunction with the Water and Rivers Commission in a Memorandum of Understanding. This would give GeoCatch credibility and provide information for decision makers, however, it may rely on others to implement findings. GeoCatch should commission an audit of the catchment as one of its first tasks.

- **Regulatory**

While GeoCatch needs to have some say in regulation, it is probably best that it isn't actually a 'regulator' itself, due to the following difficulties:

- would require clear application of law, which would be difficult for community members to apply in a fair and equitable manner. There would be associated difficulties with compensation.
- it may cause reliance on more legislation to solve problems, rather than utilising softer approaches.
- unlikely to be able to form a body with delegated regulatory powers from all agencies.
- community may not accept another regulatory body or another layer of decision makers.
- requires a lot of funding and human resources and risks duplication.

Memoranda of Understanding will need to be established at several levels, from local agreements to inter-agency agreements. The Board and GeoCatch would establish a working arrangement that would set out delegations, resourcing arrangements and accountability. It would be best if GeoCatch was set up such that it had Memoranda of Understanding with existing regulators to enable it to encourage/facilitate them to take action when regulation/prosecution was necessary. GeoCatch could be empowered by appropriate WRC delegated authority to gain cooperation. The Water and Rivers Commission and GeoCatch should establish a Memorandum of Understanding. This will establish what each body requires of the other, and also address accountability arrangements. The Council will be required to report annually to the Board and the Community on their work. There need to be provisions to take action if the management mechanisms in place are not working.

The Water and Rivers Commission will need to establish Memoranda of Understanding with other agencies which state that GeoCatch is a management body which is supported by the Commission and that the other agencies will support and cooperate with GeoCatch at all levels of those agencies. GeoCatch will need to assist the Water and Rivers Commission in establishing these memoranda with other agencies. In addition, GeoCatch will need to establish memoranda with those agencies with which they require a working relationship at a local level. This will include the four local authorities covering the catchment area, namely the Shires of Busselton, Capel, Augusta-Margaret River and Donnybrook-Balingup.

C) Membership of GeoCatch

Recommendations

15. GeoCatch should be comprised of up to eleven community members, and four agency members. The quorum should be half the number of council members plus one.
16. Membership for the Council should:
 - be drawn from across the community.
 - be skills based.
 - have positions held for the Shire Presidents of Busselton and Capel (or nominees).



- have four positions for senior representatives of the Water and Rivers Commission, Department of Conservation and Land Management, Ministry for Planning and Agriculture WA.
- the remaining members should be, as a guide, five rural land holders and six other community representatives such as industry and environmental group representatives.
- have members who generally fulfil the following selection criteria:
 - Good interpersonal skills.
 - Good communication skills.
 - Good negotiation skills.
 - Knowledge of issues in the catchment and/or bay.
 - Involved in relevant work in the catchment and/or bay.
 - Live in the catchment.
 - Links to the community (membership of existing community organisations, work associations etc).

17. Members should be selected from applications sought from the public. Selection should ensure a wide range of skills are represented. Equal opportunity principles will apply.

18. The selection of the initial GeoCatch Council should be made by a committee comprising of the head of Leschenault Inlet Management Authority, the head of Blackwood Catchment Coordinating Group, the Shire Presidents of Capel and Busselton, Sir Donald Eckersley (chair of Geographe Bay Steering Committee), a member of the Water and Rivers Commission board, or their nominees. The selection committee shall recommend the interim chair of the new management body. The Water and Rivers Commission Board will appoint GeoCatch members on the recommendation of the local group as suggested by the Steering Committee.

19. Members should serve terms of two years. The exceptions to this should be one half of the initial members appointed to the inaugural Council, who should serve a three year term. This would effectively stagger new appointments so that only one half of the members' terms expire at any one time. This would ensure continuity in GeoCatch's

work. Members could serve more than one term if they so desired and their performance was satisfactory.

20. Future appointment to GeoCatch Council will be subject to negotiation between WRC and the new body to determine the selection process.

21. GeoCatch should largely determine its own procedures, however, some aspects will be negotiated between the Water and Rivers Commission Board and GeoCatch. GeoCatch will determine the frequency of its meetings at its first meeting.

22. GeoCatch should be able to draw on government agencies and other bodies for technical advice when required.

23. The Water and Rivers Commission Board will appoint GeoCatch as a committee of the Board under Section 15 of Schedule 1 of the Water and Rivers Commission Act 1995 to assist it in the performance of its functions. The Board will delegate appropriate powers to GeoCatch to allow it to fulfil its role.

Rationale for recommendations under Term of Reference C:

Up to eleven community members and four agency members is recommended as it is considered a broad representation of skills and knowledge is required. As a community based group it is realised that not all members will be available at all times and hence the larger group will ensure a quorum.

It was decided that a skills-based membership would ensure that a good knowledge of the catchment issues would be represented on the Council. An emphasis on skills would ensure that people would be working for the catchment and not for a particular interest group. There are too many interest groups in the catchment to have membership on the basis of group representation. A list of selection criteria should be met by the members.

GeoCatch Council membership should be drawn from across the community. The two Shire Presidents being elected on a regular basis are representatives of the views of the communities. Representatives from CALM, WRC, MFP and AgWA should be given four reserved positions on the committee due to their roles



as key agencies involved in catchment management. It was felt that they should be able to provide the other members of the committee with expert advice. They would also allow the agencies' views to be represented as these agencies are important for financial and administrative support. By having a representative on the committee the agencies will be able to have a very close link with community concerns and ideas. It was considered that the remaining people on the committee should as a general guide consist of five rural land holders and six other community representatives, however, this should remain flexible. It is important that landholders in the area are well represented on the committee as the management of the Geographe waterways will often be an arrangement between GeoCatch and landholders.

As this is to be a community based management group, it is important that neither the Steering Committee, the WRC nor the Minister dictate to it too strongly how it should fulfil its roles. It must be given some leeway to determine its own *modus operandi*.

Future appointments to GeoCatch will be subject to negotiation between Water and Rivers Commission and the new body to determine the selection process. The Water and Rivers Commission and GeoCatch will be accountable to the government for the selection process.

GeoCatch will largely determine its own procedures, however, some aspects will be negotiated between the Board and GeoCatch. For example, there will be a specification of the process to deal with the provision of advice to the Water and Rivers Commission Board when there is not a unanimous position in GeoCatch regarding any particular matter. There will also be a protocol outlined for negotiation between GeoCatch and the WRC Board over matters where the Board is reluctant to accept advice or proposals from GeoCatch.

• D) Resource requirements

• Recommendations:

- GeoCatch will initially require:
- An office/shop front at Busselton.
- Staff support from the Water and Rivers Commission probably in the form of a coordinator and another full time technical officer. (Staffing

requirements will change as the catchment audit and business plan determine).

- Vehicle and office equipment.
- Professional support from other government agencies and community groups as part of Memoranda of Understanding, as needed.
- Voluntary support.
- Support from other agencies.

Rationale for recommendations under terms of reference D

GeoCatch will first need to identify priority tasks before it can identify the resource requirements and the personnel required to carry out the tasks. When the initial catchment audit is complete this will enable further management and business planning. The Steering Committee has prepared an indicative resource and funding schedule for the proposed Geographe Bay management body (Appendix H).

It was strongly expressed by the community that GeoCatch should have a "shop front" which would be a first point of contact for enquires and public information.

Once GeoCatch has been appointed, the Water and Rivers Commission will advertise initial staff positions through the public service process. The Chairman of GeoCatch should be consulted on the selection of the staff.

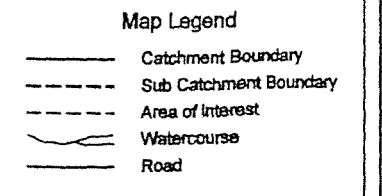
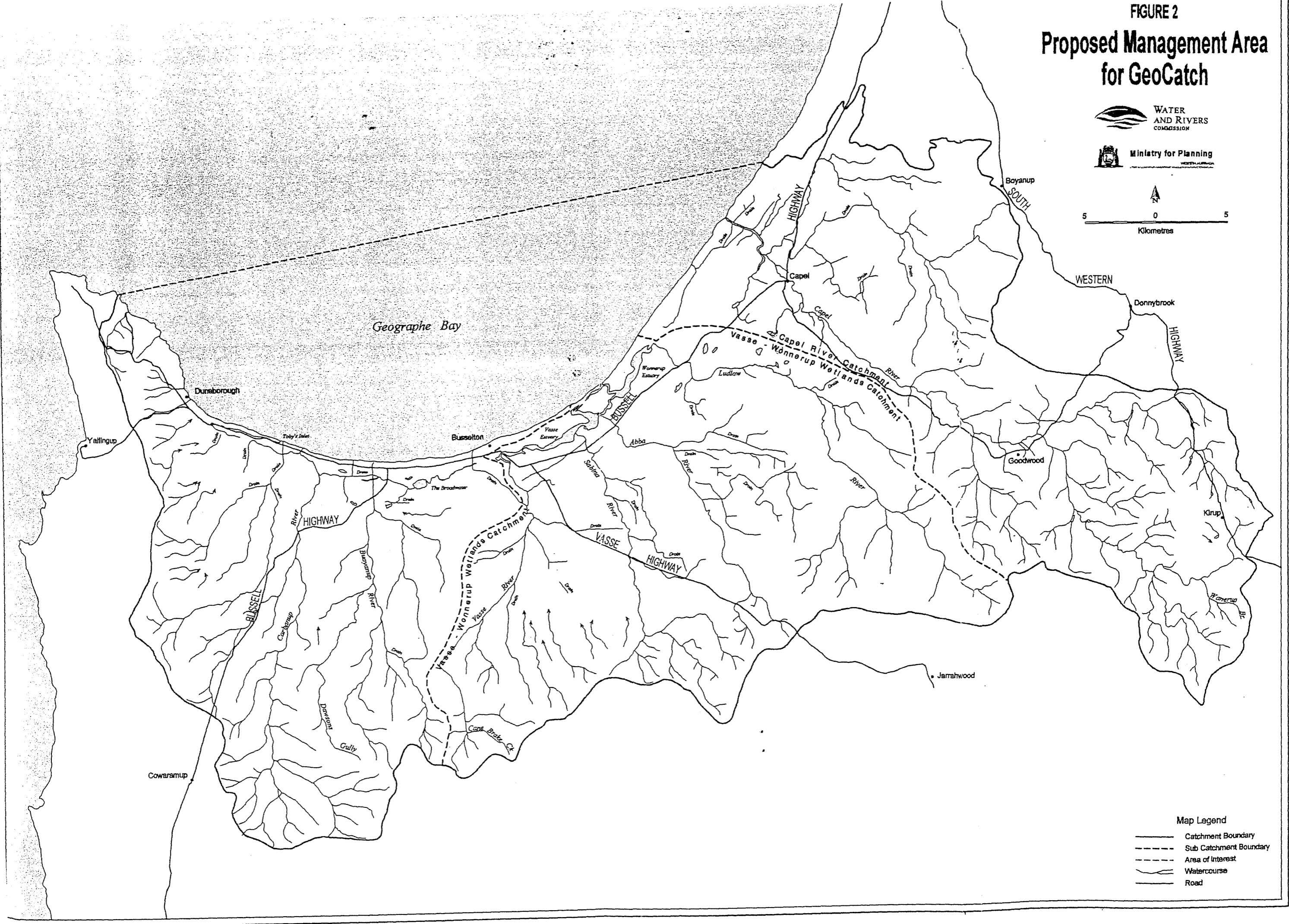
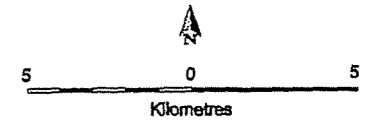
Voluntary support will be an important resource for GeoCatch. Members of the community will be able to participate in the day to day running as well as decision making of GeoCatch. Voluntary support will ensure that the community continue to have a sense of ownership of GeoCatch. Support may take the form of participation in works, education and administrative activities.

GeoCatch will require support from other agencies and groups. For example, this may take the form of technical support, works, provision of administrative assistance or community education. The form of this support will need to be determined by negotiation and establishing Memoranda of Understanding between GeoCatch and the other groups.



FIGURE 2

Proposed Management Area for GeoCatch



E) Funding arrangements for initial operations

Recommendation:

25. When first set up, GeoCatch and agencies, especially the Water and Rivers Commission, will develop agreed work programs for the Geographe Bay area and agencies will allocate relevant funding. The program will be developed with GeoCatch with a view to sustaining a viable program of activities for at least five years while external funding and sponsorship is sought.
26. GeoCatch and the sponsoring agency will initially require resources which may be along the lines of the indicative schedule shown in Appendix H. Staffing requirements will emerge as the catchment audit and business plan develop.
27. The Geographe Bay area should be considered for the Federal Government's Regional Initiative Funding under the National Heritage Trust. The application should be made by GeoCatch and the Water and Rivers Commission in partnership with other State Government agencies.

Rationale for recommendations under term of reference E

Initial funding will be dependent on the Water and Rivers Commission applying for additional funding for GeoCatch. The new body will be carrying out additional work for the Water and Rivers Commission which will require new funding in addition to the existing waterways management authorities. An agreed work program will be developed. The commission and other agencies will control their own agency funded budgets and resources, and will manage these projects.

As GeoCatch becomes established revenue will still come as part of the Water and Rivers budget but additional funding may be sought from other sources. GeoCatch will manage and be accountable for any external funds it attracted. GeoCatch should investigate its need to be incorporated to attract funds and sponsorship. Although the National Landcare Programme requires community groups to be incorporated to attract funds, statutory bodies are not required to be incorporated. In the case of GeoCatch

this will need to be investigated by the Water and Rivers Commission.

The funding proposal shown in this report is only for the terms of reference and GeoCatch will need to determine its own priorities once it is established.

F) Boundaries of interest for GeoCatch

Recommendation:

28. GeoCatch should utilise the natural boundary of the Geographe Bay catchment as its land based boundary as shown in this report.
29. GeoCatch should include in its area of interest the water body of Geographe Bay as shown in this report.

Rationale for recommendations under term of reference F:

There is strong community support for GeoCatch to care for the entire catchment and the bay. The Steering Committee recognises that there are inherent difficulties with taking the boundary of interest for GeoCatch beyond the high tide mark. Recommendation 28 above is made with the understanding that these difficulties exist, but that it is somewhat arbitrary to draw a definitive line at high water mark. It is thought, however, that the primary interest of GeoCatch regarding the bay would relate to the effects of catchment-based activities on water quality in the bay. The Department of Conservation and Land Management is currently considering the establishment of a marine park in the bay which would address the issues of the marine water management. The management of the marine park should be closely linked to catchment management. The two management bodies will need to develop close links.



4. Where to from Here?

4.1 Schedule for implementation

The Steering Committee recommends the following procedure for the implementation of its recommendations.

4.1.1 Procedure for presenting this report

- The Geographe Bay Steering Committee presented this proposal to the Water and Rivers Commission Board for consideration in late October 1996. The Board has considered the proposal and supported the ideas presented by the Committee. The Board suggested a few additional ideas and these have been accepted by the Steering Committee and included in this report to be released for public comment.
- This document has been released for public comment as recommended by the Steering Committee. In addition a four page flier has been produced to summarise the report in a form which will reach the whole community. All comments should be received by 5pm Friday, 1 March 1997.
- Following further consideration by the WRC Board after a public comment period, a suggestion on the form of management body for the Geographe Bay area will be presented to the Minister for the Environment.
- It is suggested that, after the Minister's consideration, he makes a recommendation to the Shires of Busselton and Capel regarding future management of Geographe Bay and its catchment.

4.1.2 Procedure for WRC to establish the new management body

At the same time as the presentation of the recommendations, the Water and Rivers Commission will need to set in place the process to establish the new management body to be established. It is recommended this run concurrently with the review process to enable quick and efficient establishment of GeoCatch. The Water and Rivers Commission needs to be in a position to support the enhanced activity in the catchment, and therefore needs to be able to

resource its activities in the area. At the same time the public comment period, the Water and Rivers Commission will be working with other agencies how they can be involved with GeoCatch integrated management of the catchment. The type partnership agreements which will also be established with the agencies.

4.1.3 Review legislation

The Geographe Bay Steering Committee resolved need for the delegation of powers relating to a number of aspects of waterways management.

Two options exist for the establishment of a waterway management body.

The first option recommends that a Committee established under the Water and Rivers Commission Act 1995. This can be established relatively simply the Board of the Water and Rivers Commission can delegate any powers to the Committee from the Water and Rivers Commission Act. Powers contained in the Waterways Conservation Act can not be delegated to the Committee because the Commission can not delegate powers relating to management authority unless a management area is created and a management body is established.

The second option would be for a waterway management authority to be established under the Waterways Conservation Act 1976. This will require a management area to be created and a management authority established to manage this area. This requires the approval of the EPA and then Executive Council through the Governor of Western Australia. The Waterways Conservation Act contains sections which give powers to a management authority or not the Water and Rivers Commission. In contrast some powers are given to the Commission and the Commission may delegate these to a management authority. To get all the powers contained in the Waterways Conservation Act 1976 a management authority must be created. The management area only include land and waters connected to a river estuary, or embayment. The proposed management area includes a number of non contiguous waterway



creeks, brooks, and drains which would not be covered under this Act. The Waterways Conservation Act 1976 also refers to "associated lands" which would need to be clearly interpreted for the new management area.

4.2.1 Proposed Solution

The following series of steps is recommended for the proposed waterways management body to realise its full potential to tackle the problems in the way the Steering Committee sees appropriate.

1. The Water and Rivers Commission establish an interim Committee in accordance with the suggested membership and delegate appropriate powers to undertake its proposed role. The Committee and the Water and Rivers Commission will establish an interim "partnership agreement" so Committee recommendations and concerns will be acted upon by the Water and Rivers Commission.
2. The Water and Rivers Commission take action to allow the creation of a single management area by amending the Waterways Conservation Act 1976 so that "waters" would include all waterways and groups of waterways. This could be put forward in the Omnibus Bill as soon as possible.
3. Subsequently the Water and Rivers Commission would establish a management area under the Waterways Conservation Act 1975 and act as the interim management body. The WRC would delegate its powers to the Committee.
4. The Water and Rivers Commission staff take action so that the legislation would be amended to allow the delegation of all possible powers contained within the Waterways Conservation Act to a Committee established under the Water and Rivers Commission Act. This can be achieved by amending the legislation to call a management body something other than a management body. This would be done by putting the amendments in the Omnibus Bill.
5. The Water and Rivers Commission establish a new management body with full delegation of powers recommended by the Steering Committee in the terms of reference.

The proposed changes to management legislation would allow a broader interpretation of the legislation and would not compel other management authorities to

amend their management areas. The proposed changes would be put to the Rivers and Estuary Council to allow all management authorities a chance to comment.

4.2.2 Administrative Actions to be Undertaken by WRC

The Water and Rivers Commission will need to put in place administrative arrangements, such as advertising for initial staff and requests for finance from the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

4.2.3 Commencement Date

As proposed by the Steering Committee, the initial advisory committee established as GeoCatch by the Water and Rivers Commission should be done by the 1 July 1997.

4.2.4 Maintenance Budget

The budget will be held by the Water and Rivers Commission and will be available at the discretion and direction of GeoCatch. The requirements for funding and resources will need to be considered by the new management body. The Steering Committee has given an indicative schedule for resource and funding which may be used as a guide.

4.2.5 Regional Initiative

It is recommended that the Water and Rivers Commission investigate the possibility of obtaining funding through Federal programs such as the National Landcare Program for a comprehensive program of research and works in the catchment. This should be put together as a Regional Initiative with funding and commitment from local and State Government, industry and the community to offset Federal funding commitments and requirements.



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W G Martink and Associates. 1995. *A management plan for the Vasse River and Estuary*. Prepared for the Shire of Busselton, March 1995. Perth.



APPENDIX A: GEOGRAPHE BAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Geographe Bay Advisory Committee (GBAC) Terms of Reference

That the GBAC acts as an independent advisory body to the Shires of Busselton and Capel on matters relating to the marine and terrestrial, social and natural environment of Geographe Bay and its catchments, with specific matters able to be raised by the Committee acting on its own initiative and by request from the Shires of Busselton and Capel.

The Geographe Bay Advisory Committee

The members of GBAC at the time of the release of the Draft integrated catchment strategy were as follows:

John Wise	Department of Agriculture
John Cooper	Busselton Shire Council
Shelly Voigt	Independent secretary
Bernie Masters	Vasse-Wonnerup LCDC
Bill Biggs	Chamber of Mines
Hal Scott	WA Farmers Federation
Charlie Broadbent	Conservation and Land Management
Kim Hester	Water Authority of Western Australia
Barry Brown	Tourism industry
Paula Taylor	Sussex Land Conservation District Committee
Patrick Gillet	Yallingup Land Conservation District Committee
Delys Forrest	Community representative
Beth Golden	Capel Shire Council, Capel River Land Conservation District Committee
Barbara Webb	Capel Shire Council, Capel River Land Conservation District Committee
Peter McDonald	Local fishing community
Vacant	WA Fishing Industry Council representative
Vacant	Project Officer
David Swainston	Past member for environmental groups
Fred Pritchard	Past member for community representatives
Lloyd Merritt	Past member for Capel Shire Council and Capel LCDC

Membership of the Technical Working Group

Rosemary Glass
John Wise
Bernie Masters
Bill Biggs
Kim Hester
Charlie Broadbent

Additional consultants to the Technical Working Group

Chris Simpson	Environmental Protection Authority
Geoff Klem	Department of Planning and Urban Development



APPENDIX B **CURRENT GROUPS AND AGENCIES RESPONSIBILITIES**
IN THE GEOGRAPHE CATCHMENT

Area of responsibility	Agency	Roles
Catchment management	AgWA	Assists landholders to prepare farm and catchment plans. (No statutory responsibilities)
	CALM	Advises MFP; (with Water Corp) on some dam catchments. Water quality.
	Water Corp	Shares with CALM on some dam catchments (water quality criteria). Water quality.
	EPA/DEP	Has regulatory responsibilities in urban catchments.
	WRC	Manages declared waterways and provides advice on catchment management.
	LCDC	Integrates technical advice, develops and demonstrates sustainable land use systems; communication link.
	GBAC	Has a goal to advise and encourage government agencies to coordinate, educate and achieve sustainable use and conservation of Geographe Bay and its catchment.
	LGA	Assists LCDCs and supports "Ribbons of Blue", incorporates catchment management principles in strategic plans and land use decisions.
	Landholders	Is responsible for implementing advice and communicating ideas.
Planning	AgWA	Assists LGAs and MFP in land use planning.
	CALM	Produces and implements management plans for CALM lands; provide input to other planning documents (regional plans, town planning etc).
	EPA/DEP	Performs environmental assessments of new proposals; devises Environmental Protection Policies for specific areas of the environment.
	WRC	Waterways and wetlands, allocation, public water source protection, pollution prevention; statutory referrals are carried out by WRC.
	MFP	Planning for urban development.
	LCDC	Planning for integrated catchment management.
	GBAC	Advisory role.
	LGA	Comments on subdivision applications, strategic planning at State and local level. Participates in regional planning with Ministry of Planning.
	Landholders	Plans at private property level and has an advisory role for catchment planning.



Appendix B: Current Groups & Agencies Responsibilities in the Geographe Catchment

Area of responsibility	Agency	Roles
Pollution prevention	AgWA	Assists landholders to minimise off-site effects of farming activities.
	CALM	Provides advice to DEP.
	EPA/DEP	Licences premises that may have the potential to pollute; devises Environmental Protection Policies for specific areas of the environment.
	WRC	Carries out policy development and provision of technical advice on waste management, disposal point sources, assessment and remediation of contaminated sites.
	MFP	Provides advice in relation to planning issues.
	LCDC	Advisory.
	GBAC	Advisory.
	LGA	Monitors at a local level. Issues of orders to prevent discharges and liaison with DEP.
	Landholders	Prevention at a private land level and advisory role.
Development proposals	AgWA	Land clearing assessments; land capability assessments.
	CALM	Provides comment and advice under Town Planning and Development Act on subdivision conditions and rezoning applications.
	Water Corp	Set conditions on drainage and sewage disposal.
	EPA/DEP	Assesses new development proposals.
	WRC	Assesses new development proposals in the light of WRC policy.
	MFP	Assesses new development proposals and plans at a strategic level
	LCDC	Advisory role.
	GBAC	Advisory role.
	LGA	Provides assessment of proposals under Town Planning Schemes. Imposes conditions and ensures compliance of developments.
	Landholders	Public comment on proposals.
Land Management	AgWA	Land clearing assessments; land capability assessments and mapping.
	CALM	Work under the CALM Act, Wildlife Conservation Act, National Park Regulations, Forest Regulations, and Forest Management Plans.
	WRC	Water and Rivers Commission Act, Waterways Conservation Act. Manage WRC land clearing controls, encourage tree planting and best management practices.
	MFP	Planning issues considered.
	LCDC	Advisory role and implementation of catchment management issues.
	GBAC	Advisory role.
	LGA	Manages LGA land, control use of land under Town Planning Scheme, conditions on stocking rates, vegetation clearance etc. Identify appropriate future land uses in strategic plans.
	Landholders	Land management at private lands level.



Appendix B: Current Groups & Agencies Responsibilities in the Geographe Catchment

Area of responsibility	Agency	Roles
Coordination	AgWA	Coordinates LCDC activities and other groups.
	WRC	Coordinates government and waterways care groups.
	LCDC	Coordinates landholders at catchment management level.
	GBAC	Provides advice.
	LGA	Coordinates government authorities through strategies and Town Planning Schemes. coordination of Community Groups.
	Landholders	Participates in activities.
Other roles	AgWA	Administers Agriculture Act and Soil Conservation Act. Provides research, ad extension, regulatory and other services to agricultural industries and communities,
	CALM	Marine and land conservation responsibilities (eg national and marine parks) , cor wildlife and manages public lands and waters entrusted to CALM including desi wetlands.
	Water Corp	Manages Busselton drainage system and sewerage treatment for Dunsborough, Busse Capel.
	DOME	Regulates mining industry and provides geology and resource information and m dangerous goods.
	WRC	Manages the State's surface and ground water resources including rivers and estuaries.
	MFP	Administers various planning acts and plans for the best use of the land.
	DOLA	Administers land titles system and Crown Lands, including the vesting of crown land various state and local authorities.
	LCDC	Identifies land management issues and develops and applies solutions.
	DOT	Administers various transport and related statues, responsible for improved marine tr services including coastal and offshore facilities.
	Fisheries	Manages the State's fish and other living aquatic resources.
	GBAC	Advisory role to government and encourages coordination, education and action, sust use and conservation of the Geographe Bay and catchment.
	LGA	Coastal management, stormwater disposal, urban drainage, control of subdivisio development works, waste disposal and other activities.
	Landholders	Management of private land and advisory role.
	Community Groups	Groups which have specific interests and may conduct localised management of environ issues. Represent community's interests.
	Office of Water Regulation	Licences water utilities.
Busselton Water Board	Supplies water supply in Busselton area.	



APPENDIX C: THE GEOGRAPHE BAY STEERING & TECHNICAL COMMITTEES

• **Members of the Geographe Bay Steering Committee**

Sir Donald Eckersley	Chairman
Mr Alex Campbell	Rivers and Estuaries Council
Mr Don Crawford	Water and Rivers Commission
Ms Beryle Morgan	Shire President, Shire of Busselton
Mr Bill Scott	Shire President, Shire of Capel
Mr Bernie Masters	Geographe Bay Advisory Committee
Mr Ian Carter	WA Farmers Federation (Shared position)
Mr Tom Hutton	WA Farmers Federation (Shared position)
Ms Cath Chandler	South West Development Commission
Mr David Reid	Blackwood Catchment Coordinating Group
Mr Vern Haley	Leschenault Inlet Management Authority
Ms Roseanne Sharpe	Capel Land Conservation District Committee
Ms Paula Taylor	Sussex Land Conservation District Committee

• **Members of the Geographe Bay Technical Committee**

Mr Graham Holtfreter	Water Corporation
Mr Roger Banks	Department of Land Conservation
Mr Rob Griffiths	Department of Environmental Protection (Shared Position)
Mr Chris Bishop	Department of Environmental Protection (Shared Position)
Mr Colin Dent	Shire of Capel
Mr Nigel Bancroft	Shire of Busselton
Mr Wayne Tingey	South West Region, Water and Rivers Commission
Ms Bev Thurlow	Policy & Planning, Water and Rivers Commission
Mr Don Crawford	Regional Services, Water and Rivers Commission
Ms Lisa Chalmers	Policy & Planning, Water and Rivers Commission
Ms Jillian Harris	Jillian Harris Consulting



APPENDIX D: CATCHMENT VALUES

Taken from Geopraphe Bay Integrated Catchment Management Strategy 1995.

Subject	Values
Agricultural land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation and protection of agricultural land and its productivity. • Development and implementation of sustainable management practices.
Coastal environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation, rehabilitation and public access. • No restrictive private ownership.
Diversity and development	<p>Maintain socio-economic and environmental diversity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accept and support a range of industries for sustainable and diverse economic development. • No major industrial development along coastal strip. • Creation of diverse employment opportunities.
Environment	<p>Conservation, protection of, and controlled access to the natural environment as the setting for all activities, lifestyles and economic development. Includes ocean, bay waterways, land, remnant vegetation, wildlife, geographic features, atmosphere.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for public education on landcare and environmental issues.
Fishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustaining fish numbers and diversity. • Existence and maintenance of fish stocks for all fishing purposes.
Forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of forests and industry to preserve recreational, natural habitats, tourist and heritage sites.
Lifestyle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation of local identity and regional character, especially lifestyle and environmental values.



Streams, Dreams and Solutions

Seminar/Workshop

**Held at Broadwater Resort
Holgate Road, Busselton
Saturday 20 July 1996**

Workshop Report

**Jillian Harris
Jillian Harris Consulting**

July 1996



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Abbreviations used in this report

LCDC	Land Conservation District Committee
GBAC	Geographe Bay Advisory Committee
CALM	Department of Conservation and Land Management
MFP	Ministry for Planning
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection



Introduction

Geographe Bay has a relatively complex catchment with a wide range of environmental issues, particularly eutrophication and algal bloom management, sedimentation and protection of waterbird habitat.

Late last year, the Shires of Busselton and Capel made a joint submission to the Minister for the Environment calling for the establishment of a formal management structure to care for Geographe Bay and its catchment. The Minister supported this idea. A Steering Committee, chaired by Sir Donald Eckersley and with broad community representation, was formed to oversee development of the management structure. A Technical Committee of government department representatives was also established to provide advice to the Steering Committee.

The terms of reference under which the committees operate include a requirement to consult the community broadly before reaching any decisions or presenting a report to the Water and Rivers Commission Board. As a first step in the process of community consultation, a seminar/workshop — called *Streams, Dreams & Solutions* — was held in Busselton on Saturday 20 July 1996. The event was sponsored by the Water and Rivers Commission. This report outlines the organisation of the workshop and the major discussions and conclusions participants reached.

Publicity

Over 70 invitations were sent out to community groups (including five Land Conservation District Committees) from within the catchment area and many individuals as well. Government departments with an interest in the catchment were also invited to attend, as were the local government authorities (councillors and staff). Advertisements were placed in the *Busselton Margaret Times* and the *South Western Times*. A media release was circulated to media outlets in the catchment. This received a good response, with articles appearing in several papers and coverage on ABC Radio, including interviews with Sir Donald and Water and Rivers Commission staff.

Format

The programme for the workshop appears in Appendix 1. The format was designed to enable people to have a say about the questions most pertinent to the Committees' deliberations.

Sir Donald Eckersley welcomed participants and outlined the day's proceedings. Roger Payne (Chief Executive Officer, Water and Rivers Commission) then addressed the audience, outlining the commission's commitment to Geographe Bay catchment and its willingness to be open-minded in the management approach taken. He emphasised the commission's willingness to listen to the desires of the community and encouraged everyone to be imaginative in their approaches.



Sir Donald then introduced the Steering and Technical Committees and gave each member an opportunity to make a statement to the participants. This was followed by a question time, in which participants questioned Sir Donald, Mr Payne, and the committee members.

The participatory workshop was led by Deborah Pearson from the Training and Development Group. With assistance from others involved in organising the day, Ms Pearson had devised a workshop format that looked at: Our vision for Geographe Bay — 30 years on; Achievements; What needs attention?; Mechanisms; and Guiding Principles.

Other than the mechanisms and guiding principles sessions, all participants were involved in all the discussions. They were divided into groups of about eight, each led by a small group facilitator (Appendix 2). Ms Pearson maintained the role of overall facilitation. For the sessions on mechanisms and guiding principles, participants were asked to choose which area they preferred to look at. The room divided roughly in half. Those who looked at guiding principles were led by Bev Thurlow and Don Crawford (both from the Water and Rivers Commission). The remainder of the group, who looked at mechanisms, carried on in the same way as in the earlier sessions, with small groups investigating the questions under the guidance of a facilitator, and with Ms Pearson providing overall facilitation and guidance to the groups.

Outcomes

About 60 people (Appendix 3) from a wide variety of backgrounds, attended the workshop. Participation in the discussions was high, with all people encouraged and willing to make contributions.

The workshop format was ambitious. It aimed to cover much ground in a relatively short time. However, it did this successfully.

After the small groups had addressed each question, they reported back to everyone else. In this way, the information from the different groups was shared among all participants. In these report-back sessions, a great deal of common ground was discovered, with many of the small groups coming to very similar conclusions on the different questions.

Vision

There was a lot of commonality between the groups when they were asked to communicate their vision for the Geographe Bay catchment 30 years on.

There was a general desire to see the catchment in a clean, healthy state, with a diverse range of species and clean water. The role of people as managers and planners came through, as did the need for development to be sustainable. Words such as *harmony*, *health*, *community*, *commitment*, *balance* and *quality* featured in most groups' work. There was a general trend to want to see the catchment restored to a more natural state than it is presently in, with more of the ecological functions of the past.

Achievements

In this discussion, there was a recognition that nothing is completely solved but that there has been much progress and many things are working well, or were at least proceeding in a satisfactory manner.



A complete list of all the groups' lists of achievements is included in Appendix 4. In summary, most of the achievements and things that are working well that were listed by the groups can be broadly categorised:

- Community groups (especially the work of LCDCs and the landcare movement generally)
- Awareness of issues (including environmental education in schools and a general increase in awareness across the community)
- Attitudes of government to community (including seeking input, listening, providing advice and expertise and developing partnerships)
- Research, monitoring, planning and management, including innovative solutions to various problems at all levels of management.

As well as achievements under these broad categories, several groups mentioned specific achievements such as Ribbons of Blue, the Geographe Bay management plan (and the work of GBAC), tree planting and management of dairy waste effluent.

Among the key factors that were seen as enabling these achievements to take place were the dedication and work of volunteers, preparedness of those involved to listen to others, recognition of problems and public pressure leading to availability of funds,

What needs attention?

In this discussion, people raised a large number of issues of concern. There was considerable overlap among the issues raised, however, groups differed in what they considered to be priorities. A complete list of all the issues raised by the different groups, is given in Appendix 5. The issues, and the general discussion that surrounded them, can be broadly categorised as follows (not in priority order):

Pollution and water quality

Eutrophication and salinity were raised as issues by several groups. There were also widespread concerns about water quality and control of pollution in general.

Population and development issues

For some groups, these were the priority issues. Population increase and the pressure it puts on the environment emerged as priority concerns for some. Others raised the importance of people's behaviour as a contributing factor to environmental impact in the catchment. The rate of change in the area was considered a problem. Planning for environmentally sensitive development was an issue for many participants. Several groups raised the issue of the rights and responsibilities of individuals as against those of the community. The need to place emphasis on community rights and responsibilities was raised.

Management issues

This category covers a broad range of issues. It is an area that was considered to be of paramount importance by several groups. In particular, the need to understand the current situation and to have a solid understanding of base-line data were seen as important. Linked to this was the need to carry out an audit of the catchment. Other issues that were raised in this category include drainage management and alteration of natural systems, land management, farming sustainability, fisheries, wetlands management, forest management.

Remnant vegetation

The need to conserve remnant vegetation was seen as a major issue. The effect of clearing and introduced plants and animals on remnants was also raised, as was seagrass conservation.



Communication/education

The need for more education (schools, community and government) and communication among the various players was a priority issue for some groups. Also mentioned was the need to learn by example with demonstrations of best practice. The need for government to work together was also raised.

Viability/ economic questions

Several groups raised issues related to the viability of land management practices. One group considered that the need to establish economic incentives for ecologically viable practices was essential.

In choosing priorities

In choosing priorities, the different groups listed various reasons, however, there were some common threads. They centred around understanding where we are at, building on the work that has already been done and doing what is achievable. Steps that would improve water quality and provide economic incentives for positive change were seen as important. A factor raised by many groups was the need to focus on activities that involved a wide range of individuals and stakeholders.

Guiding principles

Only a portion of the total group worked on guiding principles. The list below gives the major principles that participants thought should be followed in managing the catchment. A complete list of their findings, which include principles in sub-sets of those listed below, is given in Appendix 6.

- Ensure the environment is the key in the planning process.
- Develop and agree upon a community owned set of roles
- Constantly review objectives and provide feedback.
- Operate by the principles of ecological sustainability.
- Continue to update and distribute scientific information.
- Ensure clear communication and networking between organisations.
- Ensure adequate resourcing.
- Ensure local representation in decision making.
- Promote our successes.
- Ensure a balance between individuals and community interests and rights.

When the group that had come up with these principles reported back to the larger group, they were asked if it appeared to them as if these principles had been in the minds of those who had been working on mechanisms. There was general agreement that, to an extent, this did appear to be the case.

Over the course of the day, the principles that seemed to come through strongest were those about local community involvement in decision making and management, and the balance between individual and community rights and responsibilities.

Mechanisms

Four small groups worked on the question as to how best to manage the catchment. These groups looked at such questions as the structure and form of a management mechanism, how to involve stakeholders, the roles of government (local and state), community and industry, boundaries of interest, membership, statutory and advisory powers and resources.



Details of each group's findings are given in appendix 7. There was considerable overlap between the various groups. The greatest of these was in the area of community participation. It came through strongly that people wanted the community to have a strong, if not the lead, role in any management structure. Some felt that such a structure or group should be composed entirely of community representatives, with government representatives acting in an advisory role, with no voting power.

On other points, groups differed widely. There was dissension as to whether or not the group would need to have a 'big stick' or not. (Some felt it should have a 'little stick'.) There was concern that, if such a group had a strong regulatory role, it would lose its contact with the community and take responsibility away from individuals (the 'Big Brother' approach). The position was put that if too strong a regulatory approach was taken, the opportunity to work in partnership with community members is lost and the community's incentive to take responsibility is diminished. Conversely, others thought that, if the management body did not have some regulatory power, it would be too weak to achieve anything.

General discussion followed each groups' sharing of their ideas on mechanisms. This discussion involved all participants. Topics raised included the importance of the composition to the success of any management body and the hierarchical position of such a body relative to other regulators. Discussion favoured such a body sitting alongside, rather than above or below, existing regulatory and advisory organisations, thus enabling a partnership to be developed. The point was raised that such a body need not be an authority to have power — a community owned body has the power of influence. The possible use of incorporation for such a body, which would enable it to obtain and manage funds, was also mentioned.

Responses to the day

No formal evaluation of the day was carried out, however, participants were asked for their opinions just before Sir Donald Eckersley closed the day. Responses were generally positive. Among the comments made were:

- It was good to have individual facilitators for the different groups.
- Where were the councillors and developers?
- Why is the Capel LCDC the only one on the Steering Committee? Why aren't the other LCDCs in the catchment (Sussex, Vasse-Wonnerup and Balingup) on it?
- Why isn't the planning department (Ministry for Planning) represented on the Technical Committee?
- We need more discussion of the issues — some people know them well, but not everyone does.
- It was an exhausting day, but worthwhile.
- There were lots of new ideas and it's hard to make sense of it.
- There is a feeling of hope and encouragement, and faith in the community.
- It's good to have the opportunity to have input.
- The sharing and partnership was good; it was an interesting day.



Where to from here?

The workshop provided useful information for the Steering and Technical Committees. It did not provide absolutely clear guidelines as to how the community thinks things should proceed in all areas. This was due to different views and time constraints on the workshop. There were some points that did come through strongly and that the committees would do well to take on board:

- Any management body should be community based. It should have broad involvement of stakeholders.
- More opportunities to discuss the issues should be provided.
- Any management body should look at the catchment on its natural boundaries. The importance of the bay as the receiving body should not be overlooked and may need to be included within the boundaries of the management body's area of interest.
- People see pros and cons in regulatory type approaches. Some think they are essential; others consider them dangerous. This question requires further detailed discussion.
- Further community consultation and involvement is essential.

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Appendix 1: Programme

9.00am **Registration and coffee**

9.15 **Welcome and introduction**

Sir Donald Eckersley, Chair, Steering Committee

9.30 **Options for the future**

Roger Payne, Chief Executive Officer, Water and Rivers Commission

9.45 **Meeting the Steering Committee**

10.00 **Questions**

10.30 **Morning tea**

10.45 **Our vision for Geographe Bay — 30 years on**

11.30 **Achievements**

What's already working well in the catchment? How come?

What are the factors contributing to success?

11.45 **What needs attention?**

What are the issues?

What are the top two or three priority issues? Why?

12.30 **Lunch**

1.30 **Presenting the priority issues**

2.15 **Mechanisms and Guiding Principles**

Mechanisms — What is the best way to manage this catchment?

Guiding Principles — What are the principles which should guide our work?

3.15 **Agreements**

3.45 **Closing remarks — Sir Donald Eckersley**

4.00 **Afternoon tea**



Appendix 2: Facilitators

Overall facilitation:

Deborah Pearson, Training and Development Group

Other facilitators:

Robert Atkins, Water and Rivers Commission

Leigh Barrett, Water and Rivers Commission

Don Crawford, Water and Rivers Commission

Jillian Harris, Jillian Harris Consulting

Caroline Love, Agriculture Western Australia

Bev Thurlow, Water and Rivers Commission

Barry Halligan, Water and Rivers Commission

Appendix 3: Attendance list

Name Organisation

Mr Scott	WA Farmers Federation/ Vasse Wonnerup LCDC	Bob Hingston	CALM Forestry Busselton
Basil Hand	Wonnerup Residents Association	Bobby Davis	Keep Busselton Beautiful
Colin Rouse	Wonnerup Residents Association	Barbara Spooner	Keep Busselton Beautiful
Colin Ricketts	Wonnerup Residents Association	George Spooner	Keep Busselton Beautiful
Dr Joan McIlraith	Wonnerup Residents Association	Robert Atkins	WRC Perth
Alex Campbell	Rivers and Estuaries Council	David Kemp	Vasse Wonnerup LCDC
Jules Furman		Bethwyn Hastie	FAWNA *
Frank Seymour		Cheryl Campbell	FAWNA
Brian Clay		TF Hutton	Capel LCDC
Pauline Clay		Greg Norton	Capel LCDC
Don Carter		Margaret Blackmore	
Robert Griffiths	DEP	Owen Tuckey	Chairman, Peel Inlet Management Authority
Frank Elliott	Vasse Wonnerup LCDC	Susan Eacot	
Kim Sherry		Floyd Irvine	
Jennifer Gill		Barbara Webb	Environment Coalition
Paula Taylor	Sussex LCDC	Brian O'Brien	Brian J O'Brien and Associates
Cath Chandler		Isabelle DeVoy	Busselton Shire Council
Nigel Bancroft	Shire of Busselton	David Reid	Blackwood Catchment Coordinating Committee
Mr Scott	Busselton Jetty Committee	Ross George	Agriculture WA
Ian Carter	WA Farmers Federation	Bill Russell	Agriculture WA
Glen Batty	CALM Forestry Busselton		



Brendan Kelly	South West Environment Centre	Roger Banks	CALM
Bernie Masters	GBAC	Desnia Brophy	Country Women's Association
Don Crawford	WRC	Mrs Bolts	Country Women's Association
Bev Thurlow	WRC	Barry Halligan	WRC
Roger Payne	WRC	Caroline Love	Agriculture WA
Sir Don Eckersley	Chair, Steering Committee	Jillian Harris	Jillian Harris Consulting
Vern Haley	Leschenault Inlet Management Authority	Deborah Pearson	Training and Development Group
Roseanne Sharpe	Capel LCDC	Leigh Barrett	WRC
Graham Holtfreter	Water Corporation	Stuart Dunn	
Bill Scott	Shire President, Capel	Roger Doyle	

Appendix 4: Achievements as listed by groups during the day

Group 1

- Dairy achievements (LCDCs, waste and technical advice)
- Toby Inlet (Flora, fauna, wetlands, sub-committee of LCDC)
- Meelup Management Plan
- GBAC Management Plan for catchment
- LCDC Arboretums
- LCDC (soil type fertilisers; general catchment work)
- Lots of monitoring
- Better waste disposal
- Local councils focal point
- Dieback control
- Tree planting
- Ribbons of Blue/School awareness
- Vasse Wonnerup Local meetings

Group 2

- Recognition of need for a solution
- Degree of public support
- Active LCDCs
- Drainage of the catchment
- Vasse-Wonnerup Estuary flood gates
- Increased environmental education (leading to an increase in technical and scientific knowledge)
- Recognition in planning schemes of sustainable ecological principles
- Local government cooperation

Group 3

- Community groups (Busselton Environment Forum, LCDCs etc)
- Visions of planning
- Education (children and others)
- Monitoring (some)

- Funding for landcare (some)
- Ground-up decision making starting (community consultation)
- Planning (starting)
- Greater awareness of environmental issues
- Innovation (agriculture, waste-water etc)
- Conservation and biodiversity programmes

Group 4

- Established community groups
- Landcare
- Drainage system
- Conservation
- Better awareness
- Management of wetlands (water flow)
- Retention of a reasonably natural and peaceful environment
- Better research, monitoring, planning and management

Group 5

- LCDCs
- Environmental solutions (tree planting, fencing)
- Research
- Access to technical expertise and guidance
- Government funding to the community (eg resources, expertise)
- Partnerships (community and government)
- Better listening

Group 6

- Creating LCDCs (covering the catchment, stream-lining)
- Resourcing LCDCs
- GBAC/MFP Management strategy
- CALM managed wetlands



- Shire of Busselton environment forum
- Environmentally aware shire planners
- Encouraged by other examples
- Realisation of problem before its too late
- Shire policy on flood-plain development
- Change in government agency attitude (eg CALM)
- **Group 7**
- We are together today talking
- Better fertilisers available
- GBAC
- Technical knowledge and assistance
- Agencies listening to people in the area
- Ground swell of community action
- Actions at dairies to manage effluent without legislation
- Pollution control
- Recycling nutrients and wastes

Appendix 5: "What needs attention?" as listed by groups during the day

Priorities for the groups are marked with an asterisk (*) or listed at the end of the group's work.

Group 1.

- Eutrophication (of river and estuary)
- Mosquitoes (methods of control and environmental impact)
- Pollution (of rivers, degradation, mining, farms)
- Wastage of water
- Waste disposal (dumping of industrial, urban, agricultural, garden cuttings)
- Loss of fringing vegetation (riparian)
- Remnant vegetation
- Industrial impact (waste treatment, run-off)
- Water Corporation drains (efficient conveyors of salt and nutrients)
- Forest management (native and private)
- Urban fertilisers
- Introduced species
- Lack of co-ordinated planning
- Extent of development/population
- Profitability of the catchment and therefore finances.)
- Stop further degradation of the Vasse River
- Interruption to waterways
- People health problems
- Use of pesticides
- Mining
- Urban development
- Weeds
- Transport (Ford Road)
- Marine reserve
- Remnant vegetation
- Loss of seagrasses
- Land fill, pollution and urban development
- **Group 3**
- *Land management (vesting and ownership, fencing, understorey, over-grazing, weeds, non-indigenous revegetation, resource depletion, land development, catchment management)
- *Communication (inter-departmental, community and data availability)
- *People (population and behaviour)
- NIMBY (not in my back yard) principle alive and well
- Pollution control
- Lack of monitoring and background information
- Lack of vision for waterways and utility service
- Remnant vegetation clearing (urban and rural)
- Feral animals and domestic pets
- Artificial systems taking over from natural systems
- Priorities for group 1:
- view 1:
- Environmentally sustainable population growth
- Degradation of waterways
- Insufficient control on impact of waste disposal management
- View 2:
- Degradation of waterways
- Insufficient control of impact of waste disposal and management
- Environmentally sustainable development
- **Group 2**
- *Carry out an audit of the Geographe Bay catchment
- Educate the young on a responsibility base rather than a rights base
- General agricultural issues (There is reducing agricultural productivity/



- **Group 4**
- *Sustainable profitable farming systems
- *Eutrophication of the Bay
- *Protect the Busselton wetlands
- *Drainage and river management
- Waste disposal (industrial and domestic)
- Sustainable fisheries (commercial and recreational)
- Planning guidelines (urban and rural [clearing])
- Mosquito control
- Zero population growth
- Remnant vegetation (retention and rehabilitation)
- Question the economic growth model

- **Group 5**
- *Loss of biodiversity and decline of native vegetation (clearing)
- *Water quality
- *Pollution (including salt)
- *Population pressure
- Development
- Better information
- Maintenance of agricultural viability
- Viability of fishing
- Drainage
- Need for living streams
- Individual rights versus community rights
- Compensation
- Education
- Introduced flora and fauna
- Lack of ownership of the problems
- Lack of informed debate
- Government working together better
- Need government assistance and support in crisis areas

- **Group 6**
- *Abused wetlands and modified river systems
- *Nutrient control
- *Education
- Septic tanks
- Salinity management
- Loss of vegetation (clearing, riparian vegetation)
- Planning controls (development)
- Coordination and rationalisation of groups
- No baseline information or position — where are we before we act?
- Engaging the unconverted (incentives, tax rebates)
- Self interest versus community interest

- **Group 7**
- *Demonstration examples of good actions
- *Ecological objectives must have an economic benefit
- Identify all issues
- Buying land rather than repairing it is cheaper
- Encourage farming diversity
- Landowners committed to landcare
- Manage farms on topography
- Change LCDCs from shire to drainage boundary
- Shire boundaries need to be changed to catchment boundaries
- Political stability
- Land zoning (saving the best agricultural land for agriculture)
- Economically viable land use
- Aging population (ownership in hands of older people)
- People need to be committed to pay the price for good land and water management
- Rate of change



Appendix 6

Guiding principles for Managing the Geographe Bay catchment

Ensure the environment is key in planning.

- When planning, the environment comes first.
- Protect and enhance biodiversity.
- Land use to be ecologically sustainable.
- Individual and cumulative impact of decisions to be assessed against vision.
- Controlled management and planning for future and an environmental conscience.
- Environment, social, culture, economy.

Develop and agree a community owned set of roles

- Ultimate arbitrator will be a clear mission statement or constitution.

Constantly review objectives and provide feedback.

- Constant review of objectives for planning the region.

Operate by the principles of ecological sustainability.

- ☉ Promote environment sensitive lifestyles (education).
- ☉ Operate under principle of sustainability.
- Promote environmentally sensitive industry.
- Maintain productivity of land.

Continue to update and distribute scientific information.

- Operate from good science.
- Maintain and enhance water quality.
- Disseminate clear, agreed knowledge and facts.
- Constant research and development.

Ensure clear communication and networking between organisations.

- Clear communication.

Ensure adequate resourcing.

- Adequate resources to be allocated to actions required.

Ensure local representation in decision making.

- Current role and responsibility of LCDCs to be maintained.
- Recognition of existing resources.
- Planning power to the people.
- Total local involvement; community driven.
- Local decision making.
- Majority local representation on management committees.
- Community recognised ownership.
- Community representation — tier system to get reasonable numbers for management group (eg sub-committee)

Promote our successes.

- Rewards and punishments.
- Promotion of success; gives hope.

Ensure a balance between individuals and community interests and rights.

- Development does not impinge on the quality of life of others.
- Respect others' principles.
- Recognition of individual and society interests.
- Fairness and equity in dealing with individual land interests.
- Legislation to protect environmentally sensitive areas, and the individual.



Appendix 7

Mechanisms - what's the best way to manage the catchment.

Work of individual groups.

Group A

The catchment should be managed by a committee, with a chairperson — called a community management group. The committee should be composed of three representatives from LCDCs, two from local government (planners or environmental officers), and local councillors (number not given). These people should be paid sitting fees, unless attending meetings in a work capacity and therefore already paid. Group A felt that LCDCs already had representation from industry, mining, and community groups and therefore members drawn from them would have a wide community base. The local councillors would provide links and communication with community groups. Representatives of government agencies should attend meetings and provide technical advice but have no voting power.

The community management committee would have a building that provided a focal point for the community. It would be driven by the community in partnership with government agencies. The committee would have an executive officer.

The committee would have access to data and information (from government agencies etc). It would influence, co-ordinate, seek funding, develop plans and have resources.

Group B

The catchment would be managed by a community based group. The group would have credibility, shared community values and a broad base of experience (including educators and developers). It would have access to government funding, information and expertise. It would have recognition (among regulators) and be accountable to the community. It would take responsibility. The group would be supported by a facilitator who would do the 'leg-work'. It would not be necessary for the group to have a separate building; it would be suitable for it to be based in a local government office, probably the Shire of Busselton.

Group B felt it was more important for the management group to have an advisory role, where-in it worked with members of the community, rather than be a regulatory or statutory body that told people what to do. This was partly in response to the large number of regulators already working in the catchment and the difficulties inherent in fitting in yet another one (Shire councils, GBAC, EPA/DEP, MFP, CALM, WRC, Agriculture WA).

Group B thought the major roles of such a catchment group would be developing and keeping a common vision for the catchment, and community education and liaison. The group would also ensure co-ordination, integration and management of the catchment, assess regulatory standards, set community standards and attitudes, broker important projects and ensure monitoring and auditing were done. The management group would look after the entire catchment, waterways and the bay.

Group C

The management body needs resources (dollars, knowledge and people), clout (respect and influence), and involvement (all stakeholders). Membership should be based on special skills, knowledge and interest, not by involvement in other groups. The group must be able to get things done.



The management body should look at the entire catchment, using the natural catchment boundary. Its area of interest should include the bay (as the receiving water body), unless the bay was made into a CALM managed reserve. In any case, one objective of managing the catchment should be protecting the bay.

The management body should pool different perspectives. It should be community based not agency based. As much decision making as possible should be at local level, rather than government level. The management body should have regular consultation with stakeholders and interested people and hold environmental forums to get comments from the public.

It is important that members are taken from people who want to be there. It is probably not possible to have all stakeholders involved, as maximum size should be set. Members should hold a range of skills. Government agencies should provide input as a backup. Members should be paid an honorarium or sitting fee. It was thought that this body would supersede GBAC.

Members should have wide representation and their skills should include land management, environmental ethics, communication, standing in the community, shire presidents. About 12 members should sit on the group — definitely no more than 15. The inaugural members could be appointed by the Steering Committee from applications (from advertisements) or a public meeting could be held to appoint members. Half of the inaugural group should take on a two year term and the other half a three year term. This would give continuity and change to the group. Subsequent appointments could be made by the public or appointed by committee from applications. A technical advisory group would be kept separate.

The management body should have a local face and presence, with backup provided from elsewhere (possibly Water and Rivers Commission, Bunbury). The management body's roles would be to coordinate community involvement, and to advise and recommend to decision making authorities and stakeholders. It would be responsible for public education and interpretation of local issues. The group must be able to obtain resources. It would be hands on and involve the community.

Group D

The catchment should be managed by a 'body' under the Water and Rivers Commission Act. A marine park should be declared over the Geographe Bay under the CALM Act. The management body would have powers and functions delegated to it by the Water and Rivers Commission.

The management body's membership would be derived from shires (2 members), LCDC (4), WAFF (1), mining (1), tourism (1), environmental groups (1), community/urban representatives (1), Water and Rivers Commission (1), CALM (1), Agriculture WA (1). Nominations would be accepted from each group. Community nominees from a public process and appointed by the Minister, Commission or management body board.

The management body would have legal authority and a community involvement and education focus. It would have community support, technical input and support (including data base of information), and the ability to delegate minor decisions and management activities (to LCDCs for example). It should be able to second people from other groups and have an unconstrained ability to be involved in all land and water issues affecting Geographe Bay and its catchment.

The major activities of the management body would be environmental auditing, managing water quality, monitoring, educating, providing technical and other assistance to LCDCs and other groups, and drainage planning and management. It would have a say in (Shire's) planning and development and undertake cooperative management with other agencies.



Appendix F: Options for the operating protocol of the proposed management body.

Three options are presented. The powers which would be delegated under each option is shown.

The Steering Committee recommends that the new management body be given the powers shown under option B.

WRC 1995 (refers to Water and Rivers Commission Act 1995) and WCA 1979 (refers to Water Conservation Act 1976).

Legislation	What Legislation allows	OPTION A: WRC 1995 and WCA 1975	OPTION B: Modified WRC 1995 & WCA 1975	OPTION C: WCA 1979 only
Water & Rivers Commission Act 1995. Part 3, 10.(1) The Commission has water resources conservation, protection and management functions vested in it by various written laws.	The management body can:			
Part 3, 10.(1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> make by-laws for the prevention of pollution in the catchment and water reserves in public water supply areas. 	Allows	Does not allow	Does not allow
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> administer a scheme for clearing licences for certain controlled land (ie water catchments). 	Allows	Does not allow	Does not allow
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> make by-laws for underground water pollution control areas in the metropolitan area. 	Allows	Does not allow	Does not allow
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> is responsible for licensing wells in public water supply areas in the metropolitan area. 	Allows	Does not allow	Does not allow
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> is responsible for licensing, or giving directions as to the use of surface waters eg proclaimed streams etc. 	Allows	Does not allow	Does not allow
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> licensing artesian wells and in certain areas, non artesian wells. 	Allows	Does not allow	Does not allow



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Legislation	What Legislation allows	OPTION A: WRC 1995 and WCA 1975	OPTION B: Modified WRC 1995 & WCA 1975	OPTION C: WCA 1979 only
Water & Rivers Commission Act 1995. Part 3, 10 (2). In addition the Commission has the functions of				
Part 3, 10 (2).	a) advising the Minister on all aspects of policy in relation to water resources;	Allows	Modify so that the management body will advise the WRC Board on all aspects of policy in relation of water resources.	Does not allow
Part 3, 10 (2).	b) assessing water resources, and carrying out works under Part 4; (ie - an authorised person can make assessments of water resources).	Allows	Does not allow	Does not allow
Part 3, 10 (2).	c) planning for the use of water resources;	Allows	Do not allow, however, give the management body water advisory committee status, and also consider MOU.	Does not allow
Part 3, 10 (2).	d) promoting the efficient use of water resources	Allows	Allows	Does not allow
Part 3, 10 (2).	e) undertaking, coordinating, managing, and providing practical and financial assistance to, activities and projects for the conservation, management or use of water resources;	Allows	Allows	Does not allow
Part 3, 10 (2).	f) developing plans for and providing advice on flood management.	Allows	Do not allow as the WRC has a good relationship with LGAs. The management body could have an advisory committee status which would mean that they are not subject to liability for advice.	Does not allow
Part 3, 10 (2).	g) carrying out, collaborating in or procuring research or investigations relating to water resources;	Allows	Allows	Does not allow
Part 3, 10 (2).	h) publishing information/ material relating to water resources.	Allows	Allows	Does not allow



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The Steering Committee recommends that the new management body be given the powers shown under option B.

WRC 1995 (refers to Water and Rivers Commission Act 1995) and WCA 1979 (refers to Water Conservation Act 1976).

Legislation	What Legislation allows	OPTION A: WRC 1995 and WCA 1975	OPTION B: Modified WRC 1995 & WCA 1975	OPTION C: WCA 1979 only
Waterways Conservation Act 1976. General powers which can be exercised in proclaimed management areas include:				
Section 31 Section 32 Section 33 Section 34	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the ability to enter into agreements with land owners for the management of land/waters; (NB only the powers in WCA 1976 can be agreed on). 	Allows	Allows	Allows
Section 35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the preparation of management programmes for Management Areas and implementation of those programmes; 	Allows	Allows but best to have an MOU with WRC.	Allows
Section 36 Section 37 Section 38	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the ability to call in town planning referrals for consideration; 	Allows	Allows	Allows
Section 48	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pollution control powers, orders and injunctions. (now an admin procedure with DEP and no longer used). 	Allows	Allows	Allows
Section 61 Section 62 Section 63 Section 64 Section 65	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the management body to appoint inspectors with the power of entry; & to appoint honorary wardens with the powers of inspectors; 	Allows	Allows	Allows
Section 49 Section 50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the ability to issue orders and obtain injunctions; 	Allows	Allows	Allows
Section 55 Section 56 Section 57 Section 58	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the ability to make regulations and by-laws. 	Allows	Allows	Allows



APPENDIX G: MAJOR MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND POWERS ENABLING ACTIONS
 The steering committee has recommended that the new management body have powers which enable the major issues to be addressed in collaboration with stakeholders.

Major Issues	Major Stakeholders	Powers under Option B - modified WRC 1995 and WCA 1976	Comments
<p>Nutrient enrichment (eutrophication)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> elevation of nutrient to a level leading to undesirable effects in the waterways and bays. need for sustainable agricultural practices. unsewered areas. storm water drains in urban areas use of fertilisers for gardens & parklands. weed growth adjacent & in channels groundwater leachate 	<p>Landholders LGAs AgWA WRC WC EPA/DEP LCDC CALM GeoCatch</p>	<p>WRC 1995 Section 10.2. (e) gives power to undertake coordinate, manage and provide assistance to activities and projects for the conservation, management or use of water resources.</p> <p>WCA 1976 Section 48 Control of pollution, and the use of waters general regulation.</p>	<p>GeoCatch would be able to/collaborate in preparation of management actions and carry out actions on site for nutrient management in the designated area using the WRC Act 1995.</p> <p>Memoranda of Understanding could be established with other agencies or groups by GeoCatch under the WRC Act 1995.</p> <p>GeoCatch would be able to ensure that areas of waterways in the management area would be maintained and not contravene regulations such as, causing pollution or disturbance of the banks or foreshores under the WCA Act 1976.</p>
<p>Riparian Vegetation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearing of fringing vegetation to an extent that undesirable effects are occurring Stock grazing on riparian banks causing degradation. Increase in weeds with negative ecological effect protection of existing vegetation. 	<p>GeoCatch Landholders LGAs AgWA WRC WC EPA/DEP LCDC CALM</p>	<p>WRC 1995 Section 10.2. (e) gives power to undertake coordinate, manage and provide assistance to activities and projects for the conservation, management or use of water resources.</p> <p>WCA 1976 Section 48. Control of pollution, and the use of waters general regulation.</p>	<p>GeoCatch would have the means to come to an arrangement with "land owners & managers" on the management of riparian vegetation using the WRC Act 1995.</p> <p>WRC Act 1995 would allow GeoCatch to interpret "conservation of water resources" to include the beds which are described as beds and banks of the waterways.</p> <p>Memoranda of Understanding could be established with other agencies or groups by GeoCatch under the WRC Act 1995.</p> <p>In addition, GeoCatch would be able to ensure that areas of waterways in the management area were not disturbed by the removal of vegetation on the banks or foreshores under the WCA Act 1976.</p>
<p>Wetlands management - estuaries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estuaries require total management to ensure that healthy conditions are maintained Consider conservation and other land uses Effluent treatment sites Reduction of human impact on fauna breeding seasons definition of "estuary" so that it includes man made drains. 	<p>GeoCatch Landholders LGAs AgWA WRC WC EPA/DEP LCDC CALM</p>	<p>WCA 1976 -Section 31, 32,33,32 Gives power to agree with land holders, local government and other bodies on joint action.</p> <p>WCA 1976 Section 48 Control of pollution, and the use of waters general regulation.</p> <p>WRC 1995 Section 10.2. (e) gives power to undertake coordinate, manage and provide assistance to activities and projects for the conservation, management or use of water resources.</p>	<p>GeoCatch would have the means to come to an arrangement with "land owners and managers" on the management of estuaries using both WCA Act 1976 and WRC Act 1995.</p> <p>Memoranda of Understanding could be established with other agencies or groups by GeoCatch under the WRC Act 1995.</p>

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MAJOR MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND POWERS ENABLING ACTIONS

The steering committee has recommended that the new management body have powers which enable the major issues to be addressed in collaboration with stakeholders.

Major Issues	Major Stakeholders	Powers under Option B - modified WRC 1995 and WCA 1976	Comments
<p>Wetlands management of wetlands on private properties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ need to ensure that wetlands on private lands are not being degraded by landuse practices ▪ creation of new wetlands 	<p>Landholders GeoCatch CALM</p>	<p>WCA 1976 Section 31 gives power to agree with owner, lessee or licensee of any area of land for the control or management of land under this Act.</p> <p>WRC 1995 Section 10.2. (e) gives power to undertake coordinate, manage and provide assistance to activities and projects for the conservation, management or use of water resources.</p>	<p>GeoCatch would have the means to come to an arrangement with "land owners" on the management of wetlands on private property.</p> <p>WRC Act 1995 would allow GeoCatch to interpret "conservation of water resources" to include the beds which are described as beds and banks of the waterways.</p> <p>In addition, GeoCatch would be able to ensure that areas of waterways in the management area were not degraded according to the regulations of the WCA Act 1976.</p>
<p>Sedimentation, erosion & associated problems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need to ensure that sedimentation of the waterways is minimised ▪ Need to ensure that erosion of waterways banks is minimised 	<p>GeoCatch Landholders LGAs AgWA WRC WC LCDC</p>	<p>WRC 1995 Section 10.2. (e) gives power to undertake coordinate, manage and provide assistance to activities and projects for the conservation, management or use of water resources.</p> <p>WCA 1976 -Section 31, 32,33,32 Gives power to agree with land holders, local government and other bodies on joint action.</p> <p>WCA 1976 Section 48 Control of pollution, and the use of waters general regulation.</p>	<p>GeoCatch would have the power to develop management actions in collaboration with "land owners and managers" under the WRC Act 1995.</p> <p>The WRC Act 1995 would also allow GeoCatch carry out investigations into causes/degree of problems.</p> <p>WRC Act 1995 would allow GeoCatch to interpret "conservation of water resources" to include the beds which are described as beds and banks of the waterways.</p> <p>Memoranda of Understanding could be established with other agencies or groups by GeoCatch under the WRC Act 1995.</p> <p>GeoCatch would be able to ensure that areas of waterways in the management area were not degraded according to the regulations of the WCA Act 1976.</p>
<p>General water quality (criteria)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ need to ensure the water quality in the waterways is at a level which is ecologically sound. 	<p>DEP/EPA GeoCatch Landholders LGAs AgWA WRC LCDC</p>	<p>WCA 1976 -Section 31, 32,33,32 Gives power to agree with land holders, local government and other bodies on joint action.</p> <p>WRC 1995 Section 10.2. (e) gives power to undertake coordinate, manage and provide assistance to activities and projects for the conservation, management or use of water resources.</p>	<p>The monitoring and establishment of water quality criteria is best dealt by WRC/DEP with a memorandum of understanding detailing agreement for the DEP to enforce criteria. GeoCatch can have management programs and carry out investigations in relation to maintaining good water quality.</p>

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Major Issues	Major Stakeholders	Powers under Option B - modified WRC 1995 and WCA 1976	Comments
Drainage and flood mitigation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> concern of drainage of natural and artificially constructed water courses which causes direct export of nutrients over drainage and erosion estuarine systems as compensating basins and wetlands of ecological & international significance 	GeoCatch Landholders WC LCDC CALM	WCA 1976 Section 31, 32,33,32 Gives power to agree with land holders, local government and other bodies on joint action.	GeoCatch can establish a memorandum of understanding with the issues of drainage and flood mitigation in the area.
Wildlife, ecosystems and habitats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> need for the conservation and preservation of wildlife habitats and ecosystems protection of native fauna & flora 	GeoCatch Landholders CALM DEP/EPA WRC LGA LCDC WC	WRC 1995 Section 10.2. (e) gives power to undertake coordinate, manage and provide assistance to activities and projects for the conservation, management or use of water resources.	GeoCatch will be able to ensure that wildlife habitats, ecological values are included in management programmes. Also the management body is able to have an education programme.
Mosquitos and midges, & Vermin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> concern about public health and nuisance fauna 	WA Health Dept CALM EPA/DEP WRC GeoCatch	WCA 1976 Section 31, 32,33,32 Gives power to agree with land holders, local government and other bodies on joint action.	The issue of mosquitoes etc would be best delt with a memorandum of understanding with the Health Department, CALM & GeoCatch. The issues of other vermin would be best delt with with a memorandum of understanding with AgWA, WA Health Department, CALM, LGA's & GeoCatch.
Land use and development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> conflict of landuse urban sprawl 	GeoCatch WRC CALM LGA	WRC 1976 Sections 36 gives power to request a town planning authority, WA Planning Commission or any responsible body to submit a referral.	Under Option B - WRC will get all statutory referrals and only the major issues will be referred to GeoCatch
General pollution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> eg storm water run off eg wash down of commercial equipment, cars, engine repair shops etc 	GeoCatch EPA/DEP WRC	WCA 1976 Sections, 48; 49,50, 51, 52,53 give pollution control powers. This is now an administrative arrangement with EPA. Officers notify EPA of pollution and EPA enforce legislation. WCA 1976 Sections 61, 62,63,64, 65 give power of inspection of private properties to inspectors and honorary wardens. Police enforcement is also given.	GeoCatch would be able to carry out investigations using inspectors and honorary wardens. A memorandum of understanding with the EPA would ensure that pollution legislation is carried out
Landscape	GeoCatch WRC CALM LGAs	WRC 1995 Section 10.2. (e) gives power to undertake coordinate, manage and provide assistance to activities and projects for the conservation, management or use of water resources.	GeoCatch could ensure that landscape values are included in their management plan and with MOUs

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Major Issues	Major Stakeholders	Powers under Option B - modified WRC 1995 and WCA 1976	Comments
<p>Remnant vegetation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> assessment clearing ongoing management protection issues 	<p>GeoCatch Landholders CALM LGAs WRC AgWA EPA/DEP</p>	<p>WRC 1995 Section 10.2. (e) gives power to undertake coordinate, manage and provide assistance to activities and projects for the conservation, management or use of water resources.</p>	<p>GeoCatch can come to an arrangement that vegetation is not cleared by land owners. Also a memorandum of understanding could be set up with government and local authorities.</p>
<p>Preparation of management programmes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is the need for coordinated catchment management 	<p>GeoCatch other stakeholders</p>	<p>WCA 1976. Sections 35 allows the body in consultation with local govt, other govt authorities and public to be prepared in relation to waters and associated land placed under control of the management body and any land and waters subject to agreement of land owner, lessee or licensee.</p>	<p>GeoCatch can prepare management programmes.</p>
<p>Assessing water resources and carrying out works</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The is the need for continued water resource assessment 	<p>WRC GeoCatch</p>	<p>The WRC is responsible for this activity.</p>	<p>WRC is responsible for carrying out works and building dams etc.</p>
<p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is the need for people to be educated about the catchment & land care issues People will need to know that GeoCatch is the catchment coordinating group. 	<p>GeoCatch Shire LCDC WRC CALM WC EPA/DEP</p>	<p>WRC 1995 Section 10.2 (d) allows for the promotion of the efficient use of water resources.</p> <p>WRC 1995 Section 10.2 (h) allows for information and material relating to water resources to be published.</p>	<p>GeoCatch can provide educational material and programmes for promotion of good water resource use etc.</p>
<p>Licensing, artesian wells & others</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing allocation of licenses. 	<p>WRC</p>	<p>This is the responsibility of WRC under option B</p>	<p>WRC is responsible under WRC Act 1995. Section 10.1</p>
<p>Tourism/Increasing people impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> impact of people on the physical, social, biological and economic environment of Geographie Bay eg stress on fish stocks costs to local residents such as lifestyle and rates Tourism demand for services and access to sites 	<p>GeoCatch LCDC WRC LGA CALM Fisheries Tourism industry</p>	<p>WRC 1995 Section 10.2. (e) gives power to undertake coordinate, manage and provide assistance to activities and projects for the conservation, management or use of water resources.</p> <p>WCA 1976 -Section 31, 32,33,32 Gives power to agree with land holders, local government and other bodies on joint action.</p>	<p>GeoCatch can address these issues in its management strategy.</p>

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MAJOR MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND POWERS ENABLING ACTIONS

The steering committee has recommended that the new management body have powers which enable the major issues to be addressed in collaboration with stakeholders.

Major Issues	Major Stakeholders	Powers under Option B - modified WRC 1995 and WCA 1976	Comments
Salinity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> adverse effects of increased surface and groundwater salinity levels 	GeoCatch WRC WC CALM EPA/DEP Landholders LGA	WRC 1995 Section 10.2. (e) gives power to undertake coordinate, manage and provide assistance to activities and projects for the conservation, management or use of water resources. WCA 1976 -Section 31, 32,33,32 Gives power to agree with land holders, local government and other bodies on joint action.	GeoCatch can address these issues in it management program.
Fish Stocks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> overfishing and habitat damage threatening sustainability and diversity of marine and freshwater life 	Fisheries GeoCatch WAFIC CALM	WRC 1995 Section 10.2. (e) gives power to undertake coordinate, manage and provide assistance to activities and projects for the conservation, management or use of water resources. WCA 1976 -Section 31, 32,33,32 Gives power to agree with land holders, local government and other bodies on joint action.	GeoCatch could work with the new marine park to ensure that overfishing and damage to marine environments does not occur, especially management of run off from the Geographe Bay catchment.
Coastal and Shoreline Changes Climate Change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that anticipated effects can be managed by careful landuse planning. Also education. 	GeoCatch LGA DOT CALM MfP	WRC 1995 Section 10.2. (e) gives power to undertake coordinate, manage and provide assistance to activities and projects for the conservation, management or use of water resources. WCA 1976 -Section 31, 32,33,32 Gives power to agree with land holders, local government and other bodies on joint action.	GeoCatch can work with planning agencies to ensure that predicted effects can be planned for and managed.
Chemical use & pest management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> appropriate use & disposal economic and adverse effects of introduced flora and fauna health & environmental standards mosquito control 	EPA CALM AgWA WA Health Dept LGA Landholders Chemical Companies WRC GeoCatch	WRC 1995 Section 10.2. (e) gives power to undertake coordinate, manage and provide assistance to activities and projects for the conservation, management or use of water resources. WCA 1976 -Section 31, 32,33,32 Gives power to agree with land holders, local government and other bodies on joint action.	Geocatch can enter into agreements with responsible agencies and provide options on the use of chemicals etc.



APPENDIX II:

INDICATIVE RESOURCE AND FUNDING SCHEDULE FOR THE PROPOSED
GEOGRAPHE BAY MANAGEMENT BODY

The time frame would commence as soon as the management body receives cabinet approval. This table covers a three year period divided into quaters.

Outcomes	Activity	YEAR 1				YEAR 2				YEAR 3				Establishment		Ongoing			
		1/4	2/4	3/4	4/4	5/4	6/4	7/4	8/4	9/4	10/4	11/4	12/4	Cost \$	FTE	Cost/Yr	FTE		
Management Group established and supported	Establishment																		
	• advertise & appoint members														2 000	-	1 000	-	
	• establish support for group (coordinator and technical officer)														15 000	2	5 000	-	
	• incorporate group														1 000	-	-	-	
	Administrative Costs																20 000		
	• ongoing fees and costs																		
Audit of natural resources & management plan to address the issues	Audit																		
	• conduct audit														75 000	-	-	-	
	• prepare management plan to address issues (coordinator)													15 000	-	-	-		
Support for the management body to manage the catchment	Memoranda of Understanding/ Agreements																		
	• establish MOU between Geocatch and WRC board														1 000	-	-	-	
	• establish MOUs between WRC and other agencies														1 000	-	-	-	
	• Geocatch to establish local MOU's/agreements														1 000	-	-	-	
Immediate action	Short term works																		
	• establish program of immediate works from previous reports														5 000	-	-	-	
	• implement these works														100 000	0.25	-	-	
Presence in the catchment	Presence and Communication																		
	• develop a communication strategy														20 000	-	-	-	
	• initial implementation														20 000	0.25	15 000	0.25	
	• establish a networking contact point																		
Ongoing action in the catchment	Actions																		
	• coordinating																	200 000	2.25
	• works & education																		
	• advisory																		
	• research																		
	• regulatory																		
Total Costs/Yr															256 000	2.5	241 000	2.5	

Appendix H: Indicative Resource and Funding Schedule for the Proposed Management Body

APPENDIX I: ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS REPORT

The following abbreviations are used in this report:

WRC	Water and Rivers Commission
GBAC	Geographe Bay Advisory Committee
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority
MFP	Ministry for Planning
LGA	Local Government Authority
AgWA	Agriculture Western Australia
DOME	Department of Minerals and Energy
WC	Water Corporation
DOT	Department of Transport

