
Summary of Submissions

Future Management of Geographe Bay Catchment and Marine Environment - The Proposal

Report to the Water and Rivers Commission Board
and 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 WRM 5



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Foreword

The Water and Rivers Commission is pleased to present the summary of submissions received on the proposal to establish the Geographe Catchment Council, GeoCatch.

As this summary shows, there is positive support for the establishment of the council which will help coordinate catchment management in the Geographe Bay area.

This proposal resulted from community concerns about the need to manage activities in the catchment which were seen to be causing problems in the bay and waterways between Dunsborough and Capel.

It was therefore critical that the Water and Rivers Commission sought public comment on the detailed plan to establish "GeoCatch" as a new type of council designed to involve the community and form partnerships to manage the Geographe Bay catchment.

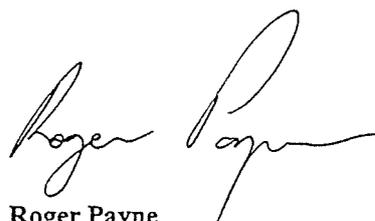
The submission period provided valuable feedback on whether the community and other stakeholders considered the proposed framework was an effective management mechanism and whether the recommended structure would represent all interest groups in the area.

Many management issues were raised by the submissions and the Commission believes that these will be addressed effectively once the GeoCatch structure is in place to deal with them.

The Commission believes that establishing GeoCatch with input and direction from the whole community will make real progress, and help to reassess traditional practices and resolve differences; an approach based on sound analysis and community involvement.

The Board of the Water and Rivers Commission and I thank all people who responded to the call for input into the recommendations. They have been useful in reinforcing the recommendations and refining specific details of the management framework. In addition, they have identified issues which GeoCatch can begin to address once it is established in July 1997.

I would also like to thank the staff of the Water and Rivers Commission who have strived to ensure that the community has been consulted on the future management of the Geographe Bay Catchment and are now working towards establishing GeoCatch by July 1997.



Roger Payne
Chief Executive
Water and Rivers Commission



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Summary

The proposal to form the Geographe Catchment Council (GeoCatch) received overall support both in the written submissions and at a community information meeting in February 1997. The following is a summary of the types of submissions made and the issues which they raised.

The Water and Rivers Commission and the Geographe Bay Steering Committee report on the future management of Geographe Bay was released for public comment in January 1997. The comment period was promoted through the media and a display in a local shopping centre. A community forum was held on 22 February 1997 to explain the concept and elicit feedback.

Number of submissions

Submissions were received from January to 1 March 1997, and fell into the following categories:

State Government Agencies	4
Local Government Authorities	1
Aboriginal Corporations	2
Community groups (including environmental, landowners and district committees)	7
Private individuals	54
TOTAL =	68

General themes raised by submissions

- 1. Support for GeoCatch:** The Steering Committee suggested that a community-based management body be formed. Almost all submissions received supported this recommendation and comments included that they believed that by forming GeoCatch there was the opportunity to have an "integrating" influence on the community managing the catchment. Several submissions believed that the proposal had "vision to manage resources in the future" and believed it was "an honest attempt at bringing all the agencies together".
- 2. Delegated powers:** A number of submissions questioned whether the powers of GeoCatch would be sufficient in areas of conflict. Respondents wanted to know whether the relevant Minister will have the power to override over what GeoCatch recommends. It was also asked whether GeoCatch would have overriding power over Shire works or power to review works undertaken. Another submission asked who would have the overriding power if, for example, GeoCatch and Water and Rivers Commission could not agree on works to be undertaken.
- 3. Criteria for review of performance:** It was recommended in a submission that after two years of operation, the performance and operational effectiveness would need to be reviewed. The submission recommended that the following issues be considered in the review:
 - *Whether the membership balance is still appropriate.*
 - *Whether the Water and Rivers Commission should retain lead agency status.*
 - *Whether the structure has stimulated and/or enhanced other groups' levels of cooperation or activity in the catchment area?*



- *Consideration of the recommendations that will be contained in the Minister for Primary Industry's 'Review of Natural Resource Management and Viability of Agriculture'.*
- *Community perceptions of the success or otherwise of GeoCatch, together with its role or relationship with other regional or catchment management groups.*

In response, the report supports this submission (see Recommendation 1).

4. **Other agency roles:** One submission suggested that GeoCatch should not impinge upon other agencies' statutory roles, responsibilities, decision making processes, accountability or budget control.

In response, the report notes that GeoCatch as a coordinating body would not impinge upon statutory roles⁶ and processes of other agencies. The relationship⁷ between agencies would be agreed upon in the Memoranda of Understanding. All agencies contacted have expressed that they believe that the Memoranda of Understanding would present no difficulties as they have a mutual interest and see benefits for coordinated catchment management.

5. **GBAC's role:** The Steering Committee and Water and Rivers Commission recommended that the Geographe Bay Advisory Committee's role would change once GeoCatch was established. Several submissions were received recommending the continuation or disbandment of GBAC. Also the timing of the overlap of GBAC and GeoCatch was raised.

In response, it is recommended that GeoCatch and GBAC negotiate the time frame for which they would coexist (Recommendation 2).

6. **Size of GeoCatch:** There were several submissions suggesting that the proposed council was too large and many respondents recommended that the council should be between 9 and 12 people as a maximum.

The current proposal provides for up to 11 community members and four agency members. It is recommended that the proposal remains unchanged as it provides flexibility.

7. **Community members:** The report recommends that the community members should be, as a guide,

five rural landholders and six other community representatives. The proportion and number of community representatives will depend on what skills are required on GeoCatch. It was recommended in one submission, that GeoCatch have an Aboriginal person/s from an incorporated Aboriginal body representing the Geographe Bay catchment area. It was also recommended that there be a balance of conservation-orientated people and development-orientated people. One submission suggested that there should be a good representation of community members who were long time residents and those who had either lived outside the area or were recently living in the catchment, to avoid parochialism.

In response, Recommendation 3 suggests that there not be a reserved position for Nyungah people; rather that it be a desirable selection criteria that GeoCatch should have members with knowledge or experience of issues important to the local Nyungah people. It is felt the other comments are covered in the original proposal.

8. **Boundary:** The Water and Rivers Commission and the Steering Committee recommended that GeoCatch's area of management will include the natural boundary of Geographe Bay as its land based boundary and it should also include in its area of influence the water body of Geographe Bay as shown in the report. One submission has noted that the catchment boundary as determined by the WAWA, *Country Drainage - Busselton Drainage District*, 1994 includes the Five Mile Brook Diversion which extends into the Busselton urban area as shown on Figure 1.

Recommendation 5 recommends a change to the proposed boundary to include Five Mile Brook Diversion.

Management issues raised

There were many submissions which raised issues for GeoCatch to manage once established. To address these the *Summary of Submissions* includes a table of the types of management issues raised and the powers available to GeoCatch to address them. The types of management issues raised were the rate of development in the area, protection of riparian vegetation, flood mitigation, mosquitoes and use of the marine bay. This table will be



provided to GeoCatch, once established, for it to consider.

Recommendations to amend the original report

Recommendation 1:

That there be a review of GeoCatch's performance and council members' performance and that the review time frame and performance criteria be developed between the Board and GeoCatch after GeoCatch is established.

Recommendation 2:

That GBAC and GeoCatch negotiate the time frame for which they should coexist.

Recommendation 3:

That desirable selection criteria for GeoCatch's membership should provide for knowledge and experience of issues important to the local Nyungah people.

Recommendation 4:

That the support of the Water and Rivers Commission to the Geographe Bay Ribbons of Blue coordinator take the form of providing room for the coordinator in the GeoCatch office in addition to the present funding.

Recommendation 5:

That GeoCatch's management area include the Five Mile Brook Diversion.



1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Future Management of Geographe Bay Catchment and Marine Environment - The Proposal was released for public comment on 17 January 1997. Mr Ian Burston, Chairman of the Water and Rivers Commission, invited public comment on the proposal and the public submission period closed on 1 March 1997. During this time every effort was made to ensure that all residents, stakeholders and other community groups were made aware of the proposal and were given the opportunity to comment. A summary flier and submission form was delivered to every household in the catchment and advertisements were placed in the local papers and on radio. A community meeting was held on the 22 February 1997 at the Vasse River Resort, to summarise and answer questions on the proposal. This was attended by people from across the catchment representing private individuals, community groups and local government authorities. In addition, a display was staffed at the Busselton Boulevard Shopping Centre between 19-21 and 26-28 February to further assist in submission preparation and general information on the proposal.

1.2 Summary of the proposal

The Geographe Bay Steering Committee examined the best ways to achieve coordinated management of the Geographe Bay catchment and marine environment. The terms of reference were addressed and a detailed rationale for the Steering Committee's recommendations was provided. The Steering Committee made recommendations on the procedure for establishing the proposed management body. They recommended that a community-based management body be formed and known as Geographe Catchment Council (GeoCatch). The Council would be established under the delegated power of the Water and Rivers Commission and form partnership agreements with other stakeholders. It was recommended that GeoCatch would be primarily 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. It was recommended that the Council consist of members who were drawn from across the community, and be skills based. It would initially require a shop front, staff support from the Water and Rivers Commission and professional support from other agencies and stakeholders.

1.3 Purpose of this document

This document provides a summary of the submissions received and indicates where changes have been made in preparation for establishing the Geographe Catchment Council (GeoCatch).

1.4 Number and theme of submissions

A total of 66 submissions were received from a wide range of sources. A list of written submissions received is provided in Appendix A. Comments and issues raised at the public meeting were also included in the analysis.

The majority of the submissions received supported the proposals to establish GeoCatch. There were many submissions made on issues which the new management body could address once established, including managing runoff into the bay, fisheries, development and drainage. There were several submissions which recommended that GeoCatch should have the power or authority to address management issues in the catchment. The submissions received fell into the following categories:

State Government Agencies	4
Local Government Authorities	1
Aboriginal Corporations	2
Community groups (including environmental, landowners and district committees)	7
Private individuals	54
TOTAL =	68



1.5 Submission analysis and methodology

Submissions received were analysed by the Water and Rivers Commission, consulting with the relevant persons and agencies as necessary.

A list of criteria was used for determining amendments to the proposal. These are as follows:

The supply of additional information

Amendments were made to the proposal where additional information was provided by submissions or through consultation.

Identified lack of clarity

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Amendments were made to the proposal where it was identified that the reader had misinterpreted information. These amendments made the proposal's intention clear.

Disagreement with the recommendations

Amendments to recommendations were made when a number of submissions disagreed with their intent or philosophy. Any amendments were made carefully by looking at both the advantages and disadvantages of the opinions presented.

Identified changes to the implementation of recommendations

Amendments to the review were made where comments relating to how recommendations should be implemented, who should be consulted and the priority of the recommendation were received. These comments will aid in the final implementation process.



2. Common Support and Concerns

This report will discuss those submissions which addressed the terms of reference first. Other issues raised on general management issues will then be discussed in a separate chapter.

2.1 Submissions on the terms of reference.

Most of the submissions supported the establishment of GeoCatch as a community-based catchment management coordinating body.

2.1.1 The structure and form of GeoCatch

2.1.1.1 Submission comments - community-based management body

The Steering Committee suggested that a community-based management body be formed. Almost all submissions received supported this recommendation and comments included that they believed that by forming GeoCatch there was the opportunity to have an “integrating” influence on the community managing the catchment. Several submissions believed that the proposal had “vision to manage resources in the future”. Another submission believed it was “an honest attempt at bringing all the agencies together”.

There were three submissions which believed that GeoCatch should be a management authority so that it would have all the powers under the *Waterways Conservation Act 1976*, and so that it would have “accountability and responsibility of its own” but still be under the umbrella of the Water and Rivers Commission and be community focused.

Discussion

The Water and Rivers Commission and the Steering Committee welcome the overall support for the establishment of GeoCatch. It was recognised in the report that Geographe Bay required total catchment management and not simply waterways management. Under the present *Waterways Conservation Act 1976*, the powers available to a management authority mainly pertain to the management of a river whereas GeoCatch is recommended to have powers under the

Waterways Conservation Act and also the *Water and Rivers Commission Act 1995*, therefore allowing it to achieve integrated catchment management. It was for this reason that a management authority was not considered appropriate for the Geographe Bay catchment. As GeoCatch will be a member of the Rivers and Estuaries Council, a council of all waterways management authorities, this will ensure accountability to the Water and Rivers Commission. GeoCatch will also be accountable for its own performance and decisions and will need to be accountable to the community.

2.1.1.2 Submission comments - WRC as lead agency

It was recommended in the report that GeoCatch be formed under the delegated power of the Water and Rivers Commission. One submission questioned why Water and Rivers Commission was the most appropriate agency to be leading the management body.

Discussion

The Minister for the Environment requested that the Water and Rivers Commission form a Steering Committee to address the best way of managing the Geographe Bay waterways. The Water and Rivers Commission and the management bodies formed under the Commission, have powers under the *Waterways Conservation Act 1976* to manage the State’s waterways in designated waterways management areas.

2.1.1.3 Submission comments - delegated powers

A number of submissions questioned whether the powers of GeoCatch would be sufficient in areas of conflict. It was also raised in the submissions whether the relevant Minister will have the power to override what GeoCatch recommends. It was queried whether GeoCatch would have the overriding power over Shire works or power to review works undertaken. Another submission asked who would have the overriding power if for example GeoCatch and Water and Rivers Commission could not agree on works to be undertaken. It was also suggested that there would need to be a tribunal system for conflicts.



Discussion

It was recommended in the report of the Steering Committee that GeoCatch should be delegated selected powers under the *Waterways Conservation Act 1976* and the *Water and Rivers Commission Act 1995*. As shown in the Appendix of that report, this would allow GeoCatch to address the issues identified in the GBAC report either by direct action or cooperation with other responsible agencies.

One of GeoCatch's roles is to act as facilitator to resolve conflict on catchment issues where necessary. It is important that there is an overwhelming agreement on management issues and it is GeoCatch's role to work with the community and government agencies to ensure that all opinions are heard and considered when making decisions. All stakeholders will need to accept that the decision made by the stakeholders will be the agreed position for catchment management.

In cases where the Minister becomes involved in the issues, GeoCatch will represent the considered opinion of the community. For example, a hypothetical development on private land would need to be considered by the normal planning process of statutory referral to all relevant government agencies. The Planning Minister would have overriding power on the final planning decision, however, GeoCatch would make recommendations as an independent body and its recommendation could not be influenced by the Planning Minister. GeoCatch would be accountable to the WRC Board and the Minister for Water Resources for any decisions or recommendations it may make.

As GeoCatch's major role is as coordinator, GeoCatch, and indeed the Commission, cannot have overriding power over the Shires or other agencies' everyday functioning, but will develop partnership agreements to set the foundation for a sound working relationship. The established roles of the local and State government agencies will continue. For example, works which are carried out by the local Shires will continue; however, if it is seen by GeoCatch that the works are not in the best interest of catchment management, then GeoCatch may consult with the stakeholders and make recommendations to modify the work practices.

The Water and Rivers Commission Board would have overriding power over GeoCatch on priority works to

be undertaken in the catchment. This is because GeoCatch will be established as a committee of the Water and Rivers Commission Board. However, the WRC Board and GeoCatch will develop a working relationship and will document this in a Memorandum of Understanding. Part of this MOU will deal with the process for resolving disagreements between the WRC Board and GeoCatch.

2.1.1.4 Submission comments - ability to influence issues

One submission raised concern on the ability of GeoCatch to influence development, drainage, clearing, pollution prevention and bore licensing. A second submission asked if development approvals could be delayed until GeoCatch had formed.

Discussion

GeoCatch will be able to address issues of land use and development as agreed between WRC and GeoCatch in the Memoranda of Understanding which will give it the power to request a town planning authority, WA Planning Commission or any responsible body to submit a referral. It is proposed that the Water and Rivers Commission receive all development applications for GeoCatch and refer any major issues to GeoCatch. GeoCatch would have the power to call WRC for any issues or referrals it would like to review. As most management bodies receive well over a thousand statutory referrals a year, there is a tendency to be "bogged down" in statutory referrals rather than focusing on management issues. GeoCatch would prepare development policies to enable WRC to assess the referrals according to GeoCatch's policies and guidelines.

It is not the role of the Water and Rivers Commission to request that the development process and statutory referrals on development be delayed until GeoCatch is formed. If statutory referral bodies felt that this would be beneficial then they could implement this recommendation themselves.

Under section 10 (e) of the *Water and Rivers Commission Act 1995* GeoCatch would be able to undertake, coordinate, manage and provide assistance to activities and projects for the conservation, management or use of water resources with the relevant stakeholders. GeoCatch can come to an



arrangement that vegetation is not cleared by land-owners, local governments or agencies.

GeoCatch would be able to carry out pollution investigations using inspectors and honorary wardens. A Memorandum of Understanding with the EPA would ensure that the provisions of pollution legislation are carried out.

The Water and Rivers Commission is responsible for bore licensing and GeoCatch will be able to make recommendations and will be consulted on bore licensing issues.

2.1.1.5 Submission comments - form and structure

There was no objection to the name and slogan of the Geopraphe Bay Council and the shortened version of GeoCatch has been quickly adopted by the community. No objections were raised to the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between GeoCatch and the Water and Rivers Commission and the recommendation of establishing partnership agreements with important organisations and stakeholders in the catchments. One submission suggested that it was important that GeoCatch should have the respect of other agencies.

Discussion

It is believed by the Steering Committee 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.

2.1.1.6 Submission comments - set up time frame

It was questioned why there was a need to "rush" the establishment of GeoCatch by July 1997. The report of the Task Force for the Review of Resource Management and Viability in WA *Review of Natural Resource Management and Viability of Agriculture*, 1996 has been recently presented to the Minister and it was believed by one submission that the formation of GeoCatch should wait until this report had been adopted. Another submission believed that it was important that GeoCatch quickly establish a high profile.

Discussion

It is believed by the Minister for the Environment and the Minister for Water Resources that the sooner we

establish GeoCatch, the sooner it can begin to address catchment management issues. The Water and River Commission has submitted comments on the *Review of Natural Resource Management and Viability of Agriculture*. The review concentrates on the management of natural resources from an agriculture viewpoint and the legislative framework required for the viability of agriculture. The Steering Committee and the Commission have involved Agriculture WA in the development of the GeoCatch proposal and Agriculture WA supports the concept and time frame.

The Water and Rivers Commission and the Steering Committee also believe that it is important that GeoCatch establish a high profile by demonstrating leadership in the community and having an integrating influence in the catchment. Once it is established it was believed that promotion of GeoCatch could be addressed by the coordinator and GeoCatch council.

2.1.2 The scope and operations of GeoCatch

2.1.2.1 Submission comments - review of performance

The proposal recommended that GeoCatch should be primarily a coordinating body. It was recommended in a submission that after two years of operation, the performance and operational effectiveness would need to be reviewed. The submission recommended that the following issues be considered in the review:

- Whether the membership balance is still appropriate.
- Whether the Water and Rivers Commission should retain lead agency status.
- Whether the structure has stimulated and/or enhanced 'other groups' levels of cooperation or activity in the catchment area?
- Consideration of the recommendations that will be contained in Minister for Primary Industry's *Review of Natural Resource Management and Viability of Agriculture*.
- Community perceptions of the success or otherwise of GeoCatch, together with its role or relationship with other regional or catchment management groups.



Other submissions raised the need to review the suitability and effectiveness of delegated powers.

A submission recommended that the criteria against which the performance of GeoCatch can be publicly assessed be developed and agreed by the key stakeholders prior to the formation of the new body.

A further submission supported the recommendation that GeoCatch would need to be accountable to the community and would need to report on at least an annual basis.

Discussion

The Water and Rivers Commission and Steering Committee support the need for review and will define the review criteria and time frame with key stakeholders and GeoCatch. The review criteria will be part of the Memorandum of Understanding between GeoCatch and the Water and Rivers Commission. They also stress that it is essential for GeoCatch to be accountable to the community, stakeholders and the Water and Rivers Commission. This will encourage trust and open discussion of ideas and management initiatives.

RECOMMENDATION 1

That there be a review of GeoCatch's performance and council members' performance and that the review time frame and performance criteria be developed between the Board and GeoCatch after GeoCatch is established.

2.1.2.2 Submission comments - level of involvement in roles

One submission recommended that GeoCatch would need to make decisions which would allow competitive businesses in the region to continue operating.

Discussion

GeoCatch will primarily be a coordinating body. When all stakeholders are considering issues which involve businesses or other operations bringing valuable income to the community, there will need to be careful consideration of priorities and possible effects on viable industry and catchment management considerations. Policies will be developed in partnership with community and agency stakeholders to guide decision making and these will be made available for discussion.

2.1.2.3 Submission comments - role of GeoCatch

The roles of GeoCatch were outlined in the report and several roles were reinforced by the submissions. There was support from the submissions for the idea that GeoCatch should work with existing agencies; however, one submission questioned the assumption that other agencies would work with GeoCatch to form policies. It was also suggested that it was important that GeoCatch is an intermediary between community groups and government organisations, that the groups did not feel cut off from government organisations.

One submission supported the proposal that government agencies, recognised groups and individual landholders would retain their areas of responsibility while GeoCatch would take a lead role in setting directions, integrating activities and facilitating measures to improve the quality of management in the catchment.

Discussion

The Water and Rivers Commission is currently working at arranging Memoranda of Understanding with key stakeholders and this will ensure that GeoCatch will have a working relationship with key stakeholders in the catchment. All agencies have shown their support for GeoCatch and the types of working relationships recommended in the report. It is hoped that GeoCatch will be able to improve communications between government agencies and community groups. It will be able to coordinate community groups' responses to government agencies and also ensure that their concerns and ideas are represented to government agencies.

2.1.2.4 Submission comments - other agencies' roles

One submission suggested that GeoCatch should not impinge upon other agencies' statutory roles, responsibilities, decision making processes, accountability or budget control.

Discussion

GeoCatch as a coordinating body would not impinge upon the statutory roles and processes of other agencies. The relationship between agencies would be agreed upon in the Memoranda of Understanding. All agencies contacted have said that they believe that the Memoranda of Understanding would present no



difficulties as they have a mutual interest and see benefits for coordinated catchment management.

2.1.2.5 Submission comments - Memoranda of Understanding

It was recommended by the report that GeoCatch with the assistance of Water and Rivers Commission would need to establish Memoranda of Understanding with relevant local and State government agencies

The recommendations of the report gave examples of issues and potential stakeholders GeoCatch would need to coordinate. It was noted in one submission that for many issues there would be nine or more stakeholders who were interested and this has the potential to generate too much bureaucracy and paperwork.

Discussion

It is typical of catchment management that there are many stakeholders with roles to play in management issues. This is the key to the formation of GeoCatch as it will provide a forum for all stakeholders to liaise on a course of action and ensure that they are involved and informed of discussions which may affect them. At present, it is difficult for the smaller groups in the catchment particularly, to successfully liaise with other stakeholders on catchment management issues.

2.1.2.6 Submission comments - CALM's role for Vasse-Wonnerup Estuaries

It was suggested that GeoCatch should recognise and support CALM's role and responsibility in relation to the management of the Vasse and Wonnerup wetlands which are listed under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance. CALM suggests that this should include the vesting of the Vasse and Wonnerup Estuaries with the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority.

Discussion

The role of CALM as a manager of wetlands listed under the Ramsar Convention is acknowledged and will be supported by GeoCatch. It is believed that the creation of the GeoCatch management area would not impact on the vesting of the Vasse and Wonnerup estuaries with the NPNCA and would not affect CALM's role as manager for this area. WRC believes that the relationship between GeoCatch and CALM would be clearly outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding.

2.1.2.7 Submission comments - accountability of GeoCatch

The report recommended that GeoCatch to be accountable to the community and there were several submissions supporting this recommendation.

Discussion

It is recognised that GeoCatch must be accountable for its decisions. The community has indicated that they would like regular reporting of decisions and general operations. It was suggested that an annual community meeting be held and more regular community updates be made.

2.1.2.8 Submission comments - policy development

The report recommended that GeoCatch work in partnership with the community and agencies to develop policies. Several submissions recommended types of policies and guidelines which should be developed, including protecting the estuaries and fencing waterways.

Discussion

GeoCatch will formulate policies on many issues in the catchment as soon as information on the issues is available to make considered decisions. Interim policies may be developed as issues arise.

2.1.2.9 Submission comments - education and information

There was support from several submissions for the role of GeoCatch as an educator, particularly for school groups and volunteers working in the catchment.

Discussion

It was proposed that when disseminating information and reporting annually to the community all forms of media should be used. The Water and Rivers Commission and the Steering Committee believe that GeoCatch will have access to and ability to use all suitable forms of media to liaise with the community. Radio, television, newspaper, video, written material, the internet and community meetings are all suitable tools and GeoCatch will decide which is most appropriate for each situation.



2.1.2.10 Submission comments - others already working in the catchment

One submission wanted to know whether GeoCatch would take over those groups already working on catchment management issues.

Discussion

The major role of GeoCatch is to be a coordinating agency in the catchment. It will not take over those groups already working in the catchment; rather it will assist them and ensure that their work is coordinated with other groups in the catchment, resulting in improved catchment condition.

2.1.2.11 Submission comments - landowners' rights

One submission was concerned that GeoCatch could not achieve its aims without in some instances introducing forms of regulation in the catchment which will have a "detrimental effect on land values and incomes". It was suggested that adequate compensation be paid to landowners where GeoCatch's activities in the catchment result in a loss of income to the landowners or a loss in capital value of the land.

Discussion

GeoCatch will not have a major role as a regulator or enforcer of activities in the catchment. The Water and Rivers Commission is aware that a large part of the income in the catchment is from primary production and it is the Commission's and GeoCatch's role to help ensure that landowners have a viable and sustainable income and that the catchment condition does not deteriorate. GeoCatch can only come to an agreement with landowners on what will happen on private property. It is GeoCatch's role to work with the community on their ideas and concerns to come up with solutions for improved catchment management. If the landowner is unwilling to cooperate with GeoCatch then there is no power to force landowners to change land use activities, unless they are contravening any Act. GeoCatch will be willing to listen to any concerns that stakeholders have on their decisions and it will provide a forum for people to discuss how these concerns may be best addressed.

2.1.2.12 Submission comments - bureaucracy

There was some concern by a number of submissions that GeoCatch may become another level in the "bureaucracy".

Discussion

It is believed GeoCatch will avoid becoming another level in the "bureaucracy" as it will be mainly a coordinating and advisory body and not a regulatory body. In addition, all except major statutory referrals will be dealt with by the Water and Rivers Commission according to the policies which GeoCatch develops. This will allow GeoCatch to address priority catchment management issues.

2.1.2.13 Submission comments - catchment audit

The Steering Committee recommended some initial tasks for GeoCatch to consider. It was recommended that GeoCatch should carry out or commission a catchment audit. Several submissions identified a number of already existing documents, including Geographe Bay Advisory Committee recommendations, the Environmental Protection Authority's wetlands study and LCDC's surveys, as data already available. It was also recommended that the audit start at the top of the catchment.

Discussion

The catchment audit would make use of data already collected and one of its first roles would be to collate all relevant studies. This will determine where further studies need to be commissioned and which areas or issues should be given priority.

2.1.2.14 Submission comments - GBAC's role

The Steering Committee and Water and Rivers Commission recommended that the Geographe Bay Advisory Committee's role would change once GeoCatch was established. A submission suggested that the current charter of the Geographe Bay Advisory Committee is to advise the Shires of Capel and Busselton and this role would need to be further discussed. Another submission asked for further clarification on GBAC's new role. CALM suggested that, due to the anticipated significant lead time for the establishment of a marine park, the reduction of the role for GBAC due to the formation of GeoCatch should not be linked to the timing of establishment of the marine park.



Discussion

The Steering Committee saw that once GeoCatch was established it would be the advisory committee to all stakeholders including local government. It would have access to technical information, expert advice and all community and agency stakeholders. After the change over period, having only GeoCatch would avoid confusion over who would be the key advisory body. It was originally thought that during the set up phase of approximately six months GBAC would have the opportunity to help review GeoCatch's performance. It was recommended by the Steering Committee that GBAC would still continue to lobby for the formation of a marine park and other issues related to the bay. The Department of Conservation and Land Management has indicated that it intends to establish a marine park in order to manage Geographe Bay, but that this may take some time. In the proposal it was suggested that GBAC should continue until the park is up and running (at least six months after the major portion of the bay is under management by CALM). Due to the uncertainty of the marine park establishment time frame it may be best that GBAC and GeoCatch negotiate how long they will coexist, taking into account factors such as lobbying for a marine park and possible confusion of roles.

RECOMMENDATION 2

That GBAC and GeoCatch negotiate the time frame for which they should coexist.

2.1.3 The membership of GeoCatch

2.1.3.1 Submission comment - size of GeoCatch

It is clear from the submission that there needs to be clarification on the size of the GeoCatch council, as there is confusion over the recommendation in the proposal. In addition, several respondents recommended that the council should consist of between 9 and 12 people as a maximum.

Discussion

The current proposal provides for up to 11 community members and four agency members. Of the 11 community members two of these positions should be reserved for the Shires of Busselton and Capel. There will not necessarily be 11 community members, as the number of members will be determined on the skills and experience of the members. It is recommended

that the proposal remains unchanged as it provide flexibility.

2.1.3.2 Submission comments - the agency representatives

A number of submissions recommended that the Department of Conservation and Land Management should not be a member of GeoCatch.

Discussion

The Water and Rivers Commission and the Steering Committee strongly believe that the Department of Conservation and Land Management should be represented on the council as it is responsible for managing some land within the catchment and is a key partner in the management of the bay. CALM will also bring expertise on land management issues which will be extremely valuable to the council.

2.1.3.3 Submission comments - community members

The report recommends that the community member should be, as a guide, five rural landholders and six other community representatives. The proportion and number of community representatives will depend on what skills are required on GeoCatch. It was recommended the GeoCatch should have an Aboriginal person/s from the Geographe Bay catchment representing an incorporated Aboriginal body such as Aboriginal Legal Services of WA, Noongar Land Council, Noongar Language and Culture Centre Aboriginal Corporation, Kaata Wangkinyiny Regional Council or the South West Commission of Elders.

It was also recommended in one submission that a member of Geographe Bay Advisory Committee be represented on the council.

It was also recommended that there be a balance of conservation-oriented people and development orientated people.

One submission suggested that there should be a good representation of community members who were long time residents and those who had either lived outside the area or were recently living in the catchment, to avoid parochialism.



Discussion

The GeoCatch council should comprise members who generally fulfil the recommended selection criteria listed in the proposal. Water and Rivers Commission believes that GeoCatch should have an understanding with the local Aboriginal people through other agencies such as the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and the local Nyungah Corporations to ensure that Nyungah views are represented in coordinated catchment management. It is recommended that there not be a reserved position on the GeoCatch council for Aboriginal representation. Rather, the proposal should include in the desirable selection criteria for GeoCatch's membership a criterion that provides for knowledge and experience of issues important to the local Nyungah people.

It is important that GeoCatch have links to all the experience and knowledge of GBAC. Members of GBAC will be eligible to nominate for a position on GeoCatch; however, GBAC's role be to continue as a lobby group for better management of the marine waters of the bay and as a member of a possible review committee of GeoCatch's performance. Several people in the Geographe community have already indicated their interest in being on GeoCatch. All nominees will be considered and equal opportunity principles will apply, once the positions have been advertised.

The types of views that are represented on the council will need to be carefully balanced so that good catchment management will be achieved. It is important that they meet the selection criteria and that the council be representative of the community and agency positions.

RECOMMENDATION 3

That desirable selection criteria for GeoCatch's membership should provide for knowledge and experience of issues important to the local Nyungah people.

2.1.3.4 Submissions comments - the initial selection panel

There were a number of submissions which supported the proposal that the inaugural GeoCatch council be selected by a committee comprising the head of LIMA, representation from the Blackwood Catchment Coordinating Group, the Shire Presidents of Capel and

Busselton, a member of the Water and Rivers Commission Board and the chair of the Geographe Bay Steering Committee or their nominees. One submission wanted to know why the GeoCatch members would be "appointed" and not elected by the community.

Discussion

The initial selection will be made from the applications and the Water and Rivers Commission Board will appoint GeoCatch members recommended by the selection committee. It was believed by the Steering Committee and the Water and Rivers Commission that anyone who fitted the selection criteria could apply to be on the council. To ensure that there is a good cross section of skills on the council, it was believed necessary that the council should be selected against criteria and appointed. The two Shire representatives who were democratically elected by the community would ensure representation of the community's views.

2.1.3.5 Submission comments - review of GeoCatch members

A number of submissions recommended that all members of GeoCatch be reviewed after the first two years.

Discussion

It was recommended in the report that all members of GeoCatch serve terms of two years, except one half of the initial members appointed to the inaugural council. This will ensure continuity when members leave. Water and Rivers Commission Board supports the submission that all members of GeoCatch be reviewed after the first two years and this should be done as part of the total review of GeoCatch's performance.

2.1.3.6 Submission comments - GeoCatch members payment

It was questioned whether the members of GeoCatch would be paid.

Discussion

The GeoCatch members would be paid the standard sitting fees of Water and Rivers Commission committees and boards. They will also be paid for travel expenses.



2.1.4 The resource requirements

2.1.4.1 Submission comments - shop front

There was general support for the recommendation that GeoCatch have an office/shop front at Busselton. One submission suggested that GeoCatch did not initially require a "shop front" as it had no product to sell or display. Another submission suggested that they share the administrative structure of another group or agency in the catchment or become a "business unit".

Discussion

The Water and Rivers Commission believes that it is important that there be an office or shop front where people can come with catchment management issues, to obtain education material, or to find other contacts in the catchment. The Water and Rivers Commission has considered the options of GeoCatch sharing administrative staff and office space with another organisation. It would be desirable if this could be arranged and Water and Rivers Commission staff are currently investigating accommodation options.

2.1.4.2 Submission comments - Ribbons of Blue

It was suggested by one submission that the Geographe Bay Ribbons of Blue Coordinator could work out of the GeoCatch office/ shop front. Ribbons of Blue has an important role as an educator on the values of our waterways. It was suggested that Ribbons of Blue could bring an additional network and support to the education role of GeoCatch.

Discussion

The Water and Rivers Commission provides support to Ribbons of Blue Coordinators in several other waterways management areas in the form of administrative support or funding. The Geographe Bay RoB programme is funded by both the community and Water and Rivers Commission. By providing the Geographe Bay Ribbons of Blue Coordinator access to GeoCatch's office or shop front there would be mutual benefit.

RECOMMENDATION 4

That the support of the Water and Rivers Commission to the Geographe Bay Ribbons of Blue coordinator take the form of providing room for the coordinator in the GeoCatch office in addition to the present funding.

2.1.4.3 Submission comments - access to expert advice and onground staff

One submission reinforced the report recommendation that GeoCatch have access to expert advice to help assist decision making. It was also recommended in a second submission that there be "real" people able to do the "on ground work".

Discussion

GeoCatch will have the ability to call or invite staff from various government agencies and other experts to their meetings. Initially GeoCatch will have a coordinator and a full time technical officer. Other staff could be contracted as required by either GeoCatch or the agency responsible for the project.

2.1.4.4 Submission comments - volunteers

One submission suggested that GeoCatch should consider volunteers for running the shop/front and also helping with onground works. For example it was recommended that help for rehabilitating corridors along waterways and the oceanside could be attracted by organising picnics, early morning breakfasts and sundowner activities, and fauna watching days to encourage participation.

Discussion

The Steering Committee and Water and Rivers Commission support this submission's idea, as volunteers play a key part in catchment management around the State. They provide essential on the ground work and also help encourage community interest and knowledge of catchment management processes. It is essential that work done by volunteers is recognised by GeoCatch and the community.

2.1.4.5 Submission comments - Data storage and accessibility

It was recommended by a number of submissions that all data relevant to the catchment be stored and made available at the GeoCatch office. It was also recommended that there should be a register of expertise in the catchment.

Discussion

GeoCatch will collect as much information as possible on the Geographe Bay catchment. This would be made available to help all stakeholders assist in good catchment management. Data could be accessed from the shop front and may eventually be accessed via the



internet. A register of expertise in the catchment would greatly assist GeoCatch and all stakeholders involved in catchment management.

2.1.5 Funding arrangements for initial operations

2.1.5.1 Submission comments - funding

One submission suggested that funding for GeoCatch's projects should come from all sections of the community including government agencies. A second submission suggested that the future reliance on Federal funding would be rather "precarious".

Discussion

The Water and Rivers Commission will fund the administrative and staffing costs of GeoCatch. An agreed work program will be determined by all stakeholders. The agencies will control their own, agency funded budgets and resources and will manage these programs. Federal funding is an important resource and the Federal government is committed to funding catchment management projects through such programs as the Natural Heritage Trust. Projects are assessed on their merit and Water and Rivers Commission can help in the preparation of applications that ensure that the projects meet strategic priorities, have interagency commitment, are scientifically rigorous and can achieve the desired outcomes within a set time frame.

2.1.6 Boundaries of interest for the management body

2.1.6.1 Submission comments - boundary

The Water and Rivers Commission and the Steering Committee recommended that GeoCatch's area of management will include the natural boundary of Geographe Bay as its land-based boundary and it should also include in its area of influence the water body of Geographe Bay as shown in the report. One submission has noted that the catchment boundary as determined by the WAWA, *Country Drainage - Busselton Drainage District*, 1994 includes the Five Mile Brook Diversion which extends into the Busselton urban area as shown on Figure 1. In this report, the Carburnup subcatchment ends at Quindalup, and does not include Dunsborough and Eagle Bay.

A second submission suggested that Eagle Bay should be included in GeoCatch's area of influence, as there are several drains from urban areas which enter Geographe Bay.

Discussion

The Water and Rivers Commission had used the Ministry for Planning October 1995 map of the Geographe Bay catchment boundary. This includes the area up to Rocky Point which is not included on the WAWA catchment area. It is recommended that this area should remain as part of GeoCatch's management area.

It is also recommended that the Five Mile Brook Diversion also be included in GeoCatch's management area as shown in Figure 1.

RECOMMENDATION 5

That GeoCatch's management area include the Five Mile Brook Diversion.

2.1.6.2 Submission comments - marine area

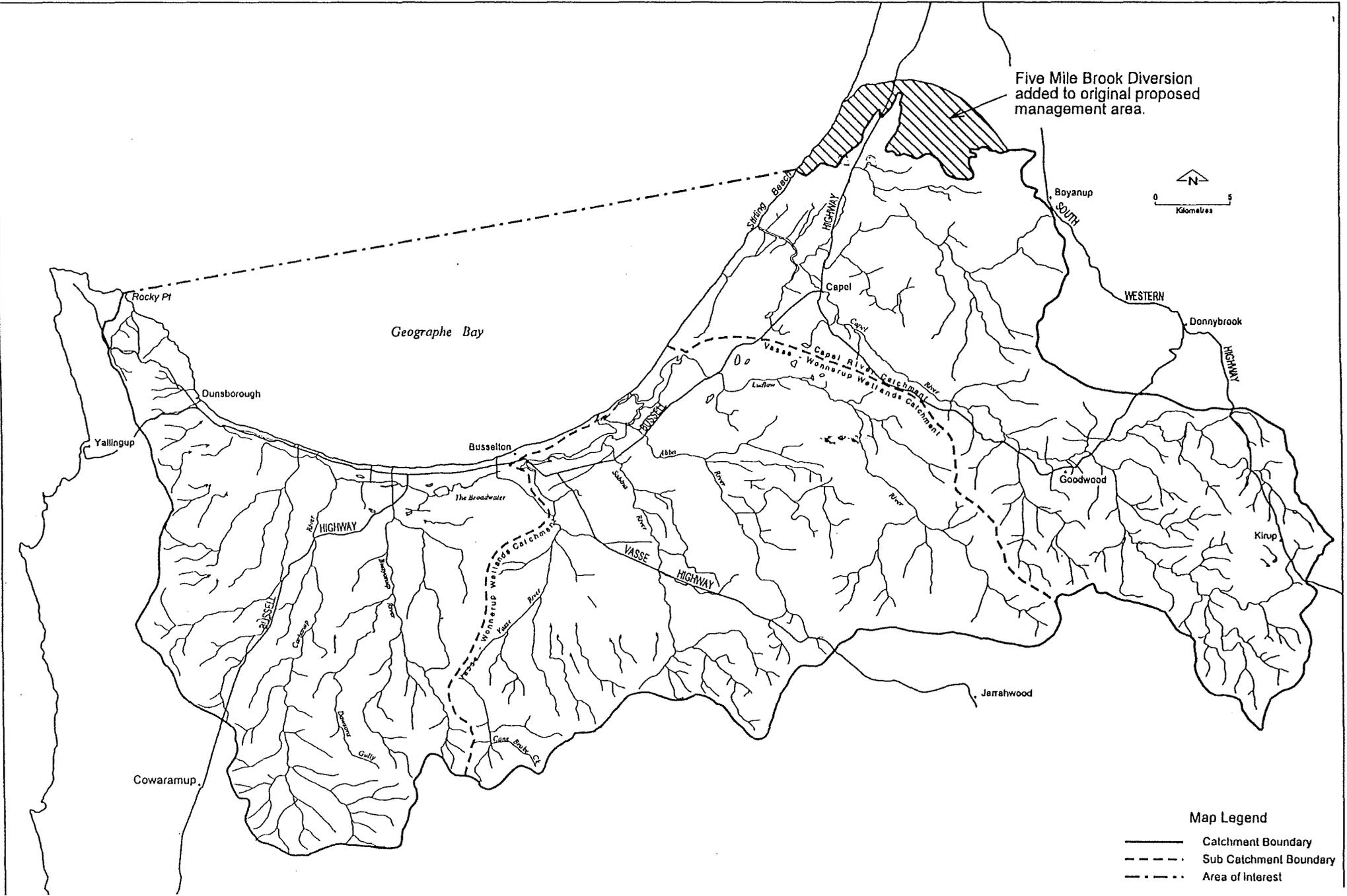
One submission proposed that GeoCatch should include in its management area the bay itself and that this area should become a marine park. Another submission recommended that GeoCatch be only involved in observations of the bay and not in its management.

Discussion

The Water and Rivers Commission and the Steering Committee carefully considered the extent of GeoCatch's role in the bay. Conservation and Land Management has discussed the establishment of a marine park in the bay, however, there will be a significant lead time before a marine park might be established. GeoCatch would take into consideration the effects of catchment-based activities on the water quality in the bay. The report recommends that the management of the marine park should be closely linked to catchment management and the two bodies will need to develop close links. The Water and Rivers Commission and CALM support this recommendation.



Figure 1 : Amended Management Area for GeoCatch



Five Mile Brook Diversion added to original proposed management area.

3. Submissions Raising Issues of Catchment Management

3.1 Submissions raising management issues which GeoCatch can address

The following section summarises the many catchment management issues raised which did not directly address the recommendations of the report but will be useful for GeoCatch in determining its priorities and actions.

The issues are listed under headings identified originally by GBAC and used the report of the Geographe Bay Steering Committee. The powers that GeoCatch would have to address these issues are identified.



Major issues identified by submissions	Major stakeholders	Powers GeoCatch has to address these issues
<p>Nutrient enrichment (eutrophication)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommended monitoring the nutrients etc which run off farms into the catchment. • The possibility of monitoring the Capel and Vasse River conditions • The use of special septic which do not contribute to nutrients in the catchment. • Recommended monitoring and need for action on wetland nutrification. • Recommended the time of year considered most suitable for fertiliser applications. • Concern over the residential use of fertilisers. • Farming practices such as contouring land. 	<p>Landholders LGAs AgWA WRC WC EPA/DEP LCDC CALM GeoCatch</p>	<p>WRC Act 1995 section 10.2 (e) gives power undertake coordinate, manage and provide assistance to activities and projects for the conservation management or use of water resources.</p> <p>WC Act 1976 section 48 Control of pollution, the use of waters.</p> <p>GeoCatch would be able to collaborate in preparation of management plans and carry out actions on site nutrient management in the designated area using WRC Act 1995. Memoranda of Understanding could be established with other agencies or groups GeoCatch under the WRC Act 1995. GeoCatch would be able to ensure that waterways in management area would be maintained, and control activities which contravene regulations such as causing pollution or disturbance of the banks foreshores under the WC Act 1976.</p>
<p>Riparian vegetation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern about clearing of fringing vegetation to the extent that undesirable effects are occurring. • Concern about stock grazing on riparian banks causing degradation. • Increase in weeds with negative ecological effect. • Protection of existing vegetation. • Recommended fencing of all waterways from cattle etc. • Recommended planting native vegetation in the catchment where possible. 	<p>GeoCatch Landholders LGAs AgWA WRC WC EPA/DEP LCDC CALM</p>	<p>WRC Act 1995 section 10.2 (e) gives power undertake coordinate, manage and provide assistance to activities and projects for the conservation management or use of water resources.</p> <p>WCA Act 1976 section 48. Control of pollution, a the use of waters.</p> <p>GeoCatch would have the means to come to arrangement with "landowners & managers" on the management of riparian vegetation using the WRC Act 1995. WRC Act 1995 would allow GeoCatch interpret "conservation of water resources" to include the beds which are described as beds and banks of waterways. Memoranda of Understanding could be established with other agencies or groups 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 WC Act 1976.</p>



Errata

Corrections to the "Summary of Submissions"

Various inconsistencies and omissions were contained in the table pp 24-28. Please substitute the following:

Major issues identified by submissions	Major stakeholders	Powers GeoCatch has to address these issues
<p>Nutrient enrichment (eutrophication)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommended monitoring the nutrients etc which run off farms into the catchment. The possibility of monitoring the Capel and Vasse River conditions The use of special septic which do not contribute to nutrients in the catchment. Recommended monitoring and need for action on wetland nitrification. Recommended the time of year considered most suitable for fertiliser applications. Concern over the residential use of fertilisers. Farming practices such as contouring land. 	<p>Landholders Shires AgWA WRC WC EPA/DEP LCDC CALM GeoCatch</p>	<p>WRC Act 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>WC Act 1976 section 48 Control of pollution, and the use of waters.</p> <p>GeoCatch would be able to collaborate in preparation of management plans and carry out actions on site for nutrient management in the designated area using the WRC Act 1995. Memoranda of Understanding could be established with other agencies or groups by GeoCatch under the WRC Act 1995. GeoCatch would be able to ensure that waterways in the management area would be maintained, and to control activities which contravene regulations such as causing pollution or disturbance of the banks or foreshores under the WC Act 1976.</p>
<p>Riparian vegetation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern about clearing of fringing vegetation to the extent that undesirable effects are occurring. Concern about stock grazing on riparian banks causing degradation. Increase in weeds with negative ecological effect. Protection of existing vegetation. Recommended fencing of all waterways from cattle etc. Recommended planting native vegetation in the catchment where possible. 	<p>GeoCatch Landholders Shires AgWA WRC WC EPA/DEP LCDC CALM</p>	<p>WRC Act 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 Act 1976 section 48. Control of pollution, and the use of waters.</p> <p>GeoCatch would have the means to come to an arrangement with "landowners & managers" on the management of riparian vegetation using the WRC Act 1995. 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. 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 WC Act 1976.</p>



Major issues identified by submissions	Major stakeholders	Powers GeoCatch has to address these issues
<p>Wetlands management of wetlands on private properties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The issue of wetlands being filled in for development and subdivision. The issue of increasing subdivisions with golf and canal estates on privately owned properties with wetlands. 	<p>Landholders Shires GeoCatch CALM</p>	<p>WC Act 1976 section 31 gives power to enter into agreements with the owner, lessee or licensee of any area of land for the control or management of land under this Act.</p> <p>WRC Act 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 “landowners” on the management of wetlands on private property. 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 waterways in the management area were not degraded, under the WC Act 1976.</p>
<p>Sedimentation, erosion & associated problems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The loss of good farming land due to erosion and farming practices. The filling of the estuaries by sedimentation and the increased flood risk due to “shallower” channels. 	<p>GeoCatch Landholders Shires AgWA WRC WC LCDC</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 to carry out investigations into the causes and extent 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. Memoranda of Understanding could be established with other agencies or groups by GeoCatch under the WRC Act 1995. GeoCatch would be able to ensure that waterways in the management area were not degraded, under the WC Act 1976.</p>
<p>General water quality (criteria)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The need to monitor the water of the rivers and streams which drain into Geographe Bay. 	<p>DEP/EPA GeoCatch Landholders Shires AgWA WRC LCDC</p>	<p>WC 1976 -section 31, 32,33,34 give power to enter into agreements with landholders, 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. The monitoring and establishment of water quality criteria is best dealt with by WRC/DEP with a Memorandum of Understanding detailing agreement for the DEP to enforce criteria. GeoCatch can develop management programs and carry out investigations in relation to maintaining good water quality.</p>



Major issues identified by submissions	Major stakeholders	Powers GeoCatch has to address these issues
<p>Wildlife, ecosystems and habitats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition that the waterways and catchment have important animal habitats which need to be conserved. • Bird life of the catchment was identified as important by Ramsar Convention and by the local people. • Concern that many of the flora species such as orchids are slow to recover from clearing, grazing and fire in the catchment. 	<p>GeoCatch Landholders CALM DEP/EPA WRC Shires LCDC WC</p>	<p>WRC Act 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 will be able to ensure that wildlife habitats, and ecological values are protected in management programmes. Also the management body is able to conduct an education programme.</p>
<p>Mosquitoes and midges, & vermin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern that the weirs and dams restrict water flowing in the waterways and allow mosquitoes to breed. • Concern about rabbits and foxes and call for appropriate control methods to be employed. • Concern over the increasing population of maned geese over indigenous bird species. • Concern over introduced species entering the marine waters through boat bilges and boat surfaces. 	<p>WA Health Dept Shires CALM EPA/DEP WRC GeoCatch,</p>	<p>WC Act 1976 Section 31, 32,33,34 Give power to enter in agreements with land holders, local government and other bodies on joint action.</p> <p>The issue of mosquitoes etc would be best dealt with by a Memorandum of Understanding with the Health Department, CALM & GeoCatch.</p> <p>The issues of other vermin and introduced species would be best dealt with by Memoranda of Understanding with AgWA, WA Health Department, CALM, LGA's & GeoCatch.</p>
<p>Land use and development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many submissions were concerned with the number of subdivisions occurring in the area and their effect on the local character and amenity, tourism value, water supply, and loss of environmental value. 	<p>GeoCatch WRC CALM Shires</p>	<p>WC 1976 sections 36 gives power to request a town planning authority, WA Planning Commission or any responsible body to submit a referral.</p> <p>WRC will get all statutory referrals and only the major issues will be referred to GeoCatch</p>
<p>General pollution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern over waste being dumped in the drains. • Concern over sheep and cattle bodies in the waterways. • Concern that many land uses are possibly contributing to pollutants in the waterways such as rubbish dumps, market gardens, gravel pits and dairies. • Recommendation that general pollution monitoring is required in the catchment. 	<p>GeoCatch EPA/DEP Shires WRC</p>	<p>WC Act 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 enforces legislation.</p> <p>WC Act 1976 sections 61, 62,63,64, 65 give power of inspection of private properties to inspectors and honorary wardens. Police enforcement is also provided for.</p> <p>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</p>
<p>Landscape</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation that style guidelines for buildings be developed to preserve the amenity of the catchment and the character which attracts tourists to the region. 	<p>GeoCatch Shires WRC CALM</p>	<p>WRC Act 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 could ensure that landscape values are included in their management plan and in MOUs.</p>



Major issues identified by submissions	Major stakeholders	Powers GeoCatch has to address these issues
Preparation of management programmes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendation that there are many sources of data which have already been collected in the past and would be a valuable resource for preparation of management programmes. Groups like the LCDCs, GBAC and the Busselton Historical Society could provide previous studies to GeoCatch. 	GeoCatch other stakeholders	<p>WC Act 1976 section 35 allows the body in consultation with local and other government authorities and public to prepare management programmes in relation to waters and associated land placed under control of the management body and any land and waters subject to agreement of landowner, lessee or licensee.</p> <p>GeoCatch can prepare management programmes</p>
Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for education on catchment management issues, particularly for school children. Support for education on catchment management issues for the general community. 	GeoCatch Shires LCDC WRC CALM WC EPA/DEP	<p>WRC Act 1995 section 10.2 (d) allows for the promotion of the efficient use of water resources.</p> <p>WRC Act 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>
Licensing, artesian wells & others	WRC	WRC is responsible under WRC Act 1995 section 10.1
Tourism/Increasing people impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendation that there should be tight control on tourism development in the region and possible levy from tourism operators to the local councils to help pay for costs incurred by the shires associated with tourism. The need for rehabilitation and protection of natural features which attract tourists to the regions. Concern over the amount of water used by the tourist industry when the region has water restrictions on general drinking water use. 	GeoCatch LCDC WRC Shires CALM Fisheries Tourism industry	<p>WRC Act 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>WC Act 1976 - sections 31, 32, 33, 34 give power to enter into agreements with landholders, local government and other bodies on joint action.</p> <p>GeoCatch can address these issues in its management strategy.</p>
Salinity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern was raised on the issue of saltwater inundation over agricultural lands. 	GeoCatch WRC WC CALM EPA/DEP Landholders Shires	<p>WRC Act 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, 32,33,34 Give power to enter into agreements with land holders, local government and other bodies on joint action.</p> <p>GeoCatch can address these issues in its management program</p>



Major issues identified by submissions	Major stakeholders	Powers GeoCatch has to address these issues
<p>Coastal and shoreline changes</p> <p>Climate change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation to examine the location and effects of groynes. • Concern over development setbacks from the coastline because of coastline changes due to storm events and greenhouse effects. • Suggestion to put in place artificial reefs. • Recommendation to improve beach environment. 	<p>GeoCatch</p> <p>Shires</p> <p>DOT</p> <p>CALM</p> <p>MfP</p>	<p>WRC Act 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>WC Act 1976 -Section 31, 32,33,34 Give power to enter into agreements with landholders, local government and other bodies on joint action.</p> <p>GeoCatch can work with planning agencies to ensure that predicted effects can be planned for and managed.</p>
<p>Crown land management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation to improve the environmental condition of Crown land. 	<p>GeoCatch</p> <p>Landholders</p> <p>Shires</p> <p>AgWA</p> <p>WRC</p> <p>WC</p> <p>EPA/DEP</p> <p>LCDC</p> <p>CALM</p>	<p>GeoCatch would have the means to come to an arrangement with “landowners and managers” on the management of reserves and crown land using both WC 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>
<p>Geographe Bay as a marine park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several submissions suggested that the Geographe Bay marine area be managed as a marine park. 	<p>CALM</p> <p>GeoCatch</p>	<p>CALM is responsible for establishing and managing marine parks.</p> <p>Memoranda of Understanding could be established with other agencies or groups by GeoCatch under the WRC Act 1995.</p>
<p>Access Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern over 4WD vehicles and motor cross type bikes using reserves and State forest areas. • Concern over power craft using the estuaries and inland waterways. • Suggestion to provide a service jetty near Quindalup for professional fishers. 	<p>GeoCatch</p> <p>Shires</p> <p>AgWA</p> <p>WRC</p> <p>WC</p> <p>EPA/DEP</p> <p>DOT</p> <p>CALM</p>	<p>GeoCatch would have the means to come to an arrangement with the land managers on the management of reserves and Crown land using both WC Act 1976 and WRC Act 1995.</p> <p>Memoranda of Understanding could be established with other agencies by GeoCatch under the WRC Act 1995.</p>



References

The following documents are referred to in this report:

Task force for the Review of Natural Resource Management of Agriculture in Western Australia. 1996. *Review of Natural Resource Management and Viability of Agriculture in WA. A discussion Document.* June 1996.

Water Authority of Western Australia. 1994. *Country Drainage - Busselton Drainage District.* Publication Number RS0042.



Appendix A: List of Written Submissions

NAME	ORGANISATION/ AFFILIATION
R.J. Priest	Private
M Dowson	Private
Jocelyn Elphick	Private
Willem Fransseu	Private
Leon English	Water and Rivers Commission
L Dempsey	Private
Ray Wallace	Noongar Language and Culture Centre Aboriginal Corporation
Alan Hill	Water and Rivers Commission
Greg Davis	Water and Rivers Commission
P.D Forrest	Busselton Jetty Preservation Committee
Paul Frewer	Ministry for Planning
R.P. Evans	Private
John Eley	Private
B Oates / D Kemp / H Scott	WA Farmers Federation (Inc)
Roberta Davies	Private
V.J. Bussell	Private
Anthony Saunders	Private
Terry Taylor	Private
Jim McKechnie	Busselton Shire Council
Helen Redman	Private
Tim Rigden	Private
Basil Hand	Wonnerup Residents Association
M.W. & E.M. Lightowers	Private
Maureen Robinson	Private
John Lightowers	Private
Elizabeth Andrew	Geographe Bay Ribbons of Blue
G.W. Edwards	Abbey Progress Association
Brod Meredith	WA Planning Commission
Mike Sier	Private
Frank Mouritz	Busselton Naturalists Club
Colin Rouse	Private
Cale Parsons	Private
Jim & Val Bell	Private

NAME	ORGANISATION/ AFFILIATION
Trevor Mackinnon	Private
Noeline Carlson	Private
Sandra Bate	Quindalup Rural Preservation Association
Clive Cooper	Private
Gordon Cuthbert	Private
P Norns	Private
P.A. Morey	Private
V.M Hughes	Private
Kirby	Private
Darryl Featherston	Private
R.J. Griffiths	Private
A.E. Ayres	Private
Marion Donnelly	Private
A O'Connor	Private
Diana Carter	Busselton Business & Professional Womens Club
Robert Goble	Private
Donna Finlay	Private
Robin Fisher	Private
B & P.A. Kirby	Private
Ted & Betty Packard	Private
Roy Dedman	Private
Mara Griffiths	Private
F.M. Weston	Private
Anthea Evans	University of Third Age Busselton Branch
Jill & Jon Wall	Private
Warren Richards	Private
R. Hammond	Private
Herbert Wynne	Private
Ken Macleay	Private
Don & Eileen Williams	Private
Eileen Browning	Australian Pensioner League of WA Inc.
Paul Martin	Private
Mike Hill	Aboriginal

Appendix B: Community Meeting

A community meeting was held at the Vasse River Resort, Causeway Road, Busselton on Saturday 22 February 1997. Below is the outline of the meeting proceedings and outcomes.

Introduction

A community workshop held on 20 July 1996 titled *Streams, Dreams and Solutions* was initiated by the Geographe Bay Steering Committee to encourage community input into their task of determining the most appropriate means by which the waterways of the area could be managed.

A clear outcome from the workshop was the recognition that community-based catchment management focusing on land and water issues is desired.

Accordingly the Steering Committee worked, together with the Geographe Bay Technical Committee, to produce the report *Future Management of Geographe Bay Catchment and Marine Environment - the Proposal*.

A commitment from the Streams, Dreams and Solutions workshop was to provide another forum through which to extend the community consultation process. Accordingly a community meeting - *Management of Geographe Bay Catchment* - was held in Busselton on Saturday 22 February 1997. The purpose of the meeting was to:

- clarify any aspects of the Geographe Bay proposal
- encourage members of the community to submit comments
- obtain feedback on the proposal.

The event was sponsored by the Water and Rivers Commission. This report outlines the organisation and proceedings of the meeting.

Publicity

Members of the Steering Committee were invited to attend a lunch prior to the meeting where it was explained how they could assist with the running of the meeting. Over 120 invitations were sent out to community groups, council representatives and attendees of the previous workshop. Advertisements were coordinated by officers from the Hyatt Centre, Water and Rivers Commission. A general news advertisement as well as classified advertisements were placed in *The West* on Sat 15 and 22 Feb, *The*

Busselton-Margaret Times and the *Busselton Dunsborough Mail* in the week prior to the meeting. A media release was circulated to media outlets in the catchment. In addition a local radio campaign was run from Sunday 16 to Saturday 22 February.

A further promotional enterprise was the establishment of a shop front display at the Busselton Boulevard Shopping Centre, courtesy of Vasse MLA Bernie Masters. The display was staffed by Claire Thorstensen for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday prior to and after the meeting. An interview between Roger Payne (CEO Water and Rivers Commission) and Sharon Palfrey-Jones (ABC) was broadcast on ABC Regional radio on Friday 21 February. While the meeting was mentioned, the interview was primarily addressing other issues.

Format

The agenda for the meeting is outlined below. The format was designed to encourage public participation.

Meeting Agenda

1. Introductions and meeting objectives
(Mr David Reid)
 2. Explanations of key points of Geographe Bay Management Proposal
(Mr Don Crawford)
 3. Questions and answers relating to the proposal
 4. Group work on the proposal
 5. Plenary session
 6. Afternoon Tea
-

David Reid (standing in for Wayne Tingey at short notice) welcomed attendees and outlined proceedings for the afternoon. Don Crawford (Manager Regional Services, Water and Rivers Commission) then defined the objectives for the meeting. These were:

- To give the community opportunity to clarify any aspect of the Geographe Bay proposal
- To encourage members of the community to submit comments about the proposal.
- To obtain some feedback on the proposal from the members at the meeting.

Mr Crawford gave an explanation of the key points of the Geographe Bay management proposal.

Time was then dedicated to taking questions from the floor, with most questions being answered by members of the Steering Committee. A summation of who asked what questions is given in Table A. While many questions were forthcoming from the floor the session was terminated in order to adhere to the specified time frame for the meeting.

The attendees broke into five groups of about ten to discuss the positive aspects of the proposal, aspects which could be improved and other comments. The group work was guided by members of the Steering Committee. The process enabled considerable input from all attendees at the meeting. In summation each group displayed and presented the notes that had been taken (Table B).

Outcomes

Approximately 50 people (Table C) attended the workshop. Many were participants from the previous *Streams, Dreams and Solutions* workshop.

Questions raised during the open session were answered fully with no altercations or confrontations developing. It appeared the attendees were generally very supportive of GeoCatch and are keen for it to be established. Many positive comments came out of the group work sessions. Recommendations for improvements were primarily of an administrative nature and could therefore be dealt with relatively easily.

Table A: Questions Raised in General Question Period

David Kemp, Vasse Wonnerup LCDC

1. Why is the Water and Rivers Commission the most appropriate agency to be leading this?
2. What powers will be delegated to GeoCatch?
3. GeoCatch will address issues in the catchment - Others are already working in the catchment. Is WRC going to take over these roles?
4. Shop front - What is the justification for setting up a shop front at such an early stage?

Barry Oates, WA Farmers Federation.

1. Comment of his opinion - the letters sent by the Shire to the Minister as the result of the problem to resolve the drainage issue.
2. Dr Paul McCloud's Agriculture WA report has recently been presented to the Minister. Isn't it a bit premature to set up GeoCatch with Ag WA ideas not yet discussed?
3. The communities need real power - will GeoCatch give this power?

Phil Tickle, Sussex LCDC and Geographe Bay Advisory Committee

1. Will GeoCatch supersede GBAC?

Sussex LCDC chairman.

1. It is important that GeoCatch is an intermediary between community groups and the government organisations, and that the groups don't feel cut off from the government groups by GeoCatch.

Isabelle DeVoy, Busselton Shire Council

1. To clarify a point, the Shires made a submission to the Minister because of the problems with the Vasse River. They employed Martinck to write a management plan for the Vasse-Wonnerup area. This raised a number of issues which needed a whole catchment approach. The council therefore asked for the appointment of a committee to address these issues.

Evelyn Brand - Vasse-Wonnerup LCDC.

1. Why are the representatives "appointed" and not elected by the community?



TABLE B: Points raised during group work

POSITIVES:

- Shop front - important focus for people to go to for information.
- General community voice - shop front is positive.
- Coordinating role.
- Independent committee - No affiliations and expertise.
- Recognition of the need for action.
- Democratic process.
- Honest attempt to bring the agencies together.
- Landholders having the input to look after their own land.
- Community to make decisions.
- Communication links to authorities.
- GeoCatch will have more chance to influence a GBAC.
- Doing not talking - something might get done.
- Hopefully it will be a vehicle to fill a void.
- Appropriate focus for environmental issues organisation in its own right.
- Seen as combining influence for sectional interests - not an individual vested interest.
- Coordination of all stakeholders - community involvement.
- Accountability - honesty and integrity.
- Learn from past mistakes.

IMPROVEMENTS:

- Concern over bureaucracy, bogged down over red tape. Is this addressed? How do we avoid this?
- Clarification over coordination role required.
- Where does it sit in the big picture? - Pecking order.
- Regular information to the community - media, schools.
- Has the minister overriding say? - If so, maybe a review board is necessary.
- Needs a review process every 2 years - everything.
- Busselton Shire hold on planning - GeoCatch establishment may take time.
- Have the youth groups/organisations been invited to comment?
- Too big - not council size (review after 2 years).
- Agency should be on board- but see after 2 years.

- Shire/GeoCatch powers - roles won't change but both will have say.
- Will there be enough funds?
- Selection of committee not on academic qualifications (local knowledge).
- Meetings open to public and public forum for particular issues.
- A feed in mechanism - Will it solve big issues? eg. Vasse River Sewage.

ISSUES AND OTHER COMMENTS:

- Marine worm in bay - large boats anchor in the bay.
- Planning process in the set-up phase.
- Education opportunities.
- Tourism - water restriction.
- Aboriginal advice will be needed.
- Too much power to - CALM?
- Monied interests/developers.
- Need for annual report and update.
- Knowledge bank - encourage community members (not just experts, historical input).
- Future membership - public ballot ?
- Shop front environment centre.

COMMENTS:

- Data storage and accessibility - where, how, who?
- Consistency of agency responses and requirements - Will GeoCatch deal with this?
- Covenants and trusts for the establishment of conservation areas and vesting of lands.
- Possible establishment of an expertise 'register' for the catchment.
- Recognise what is already here.
- Respect from agencies is essential.
- Needs to strike a balance between conservation and productivity/development.
- Hopefully a bridge to cover water issues as landcare groups look after landcare issues. This will provide a link between land and marine areas.
- Need to clarify responsibility over marine areas and relationship between GeoCatch and GBAC.
- Recommendation that agency reps must be present at all meetings - councillors also.
- Very important for GeoCatch to have a high profile quickly.



**TABLE C:
ATTENDEES - 22 FEBRUARY 1997**

NAME	AFFILIATION/ ORGANISATION	NAME	AFFILIATION/ ORGANISATION
Don Crawford	WRC Perth	Basil Hand	Wonnerup Residents Association
Lisa Chalmers	WRC Perth	Don Keynes	Sussex LCDC
Claire Thorstensen	WRC Bunbury	Evelyn Brand	Councillor, Vasse-Wonnerup Landcare
Kathryn Hardcastle	WRC Bunbury	Jim Bell	BSN
Paula Taylor	Steering Committee, Sussex LCDC, GBAC	Julia Bligh	BSN-Dunsborough Environment Centre
David Reid	Steering Committee	Pauline Clay	Dunsborough
Vern Haley	Steering Committee	Brian Clay	Dunsborough, Sussex LCDC
Ian Carter	Steering Committee	Darren Oates	BSN
Roseanne Sharp	Steering Committee	Will Oldfield	AGWA LCDC Project Officer
Bill Scott	Steering Committee	Jocelyn Elphick	BSN
Bernie Masters	Steering Committee	Dick Shore	BSN
Graham Edwards	Abbey Progress Assn.	Doug Weir	BSN
Ted Packard		Mike Mervin	Water Corp
David Kemp	Yoongarillup, BSN	Fred Oldfield	Ratepayer
Susan Prater	Councillor Augusta/Margaret River	Edwin Browning	BSN
Max Barrett	Ratepayer	Shirley Rouse	Wonnerup Res Assoc
Margaret Blackmore	Ratepayer, Peace and Environment Group	Colin Rouse	Wonnerup Res Assoc
Frank Mouritz	BSN Naturalists Club	Bob Evans	Councillor BSN
Leo Rose	Marybrook	Phil Tickle	Yacht Club
Keith Rose	Marybrook	Frances Barrett	BSN
Isabelle Devoy	Shire Council	Cyndy Glencross	Dunsborough
Colin Ricketts	Wonnerup Residents Association	Ron Glencross	Dunsborough
Colin Porteous	Wonnerup Residents Association	Barry Oates	WAFF

