



## Factsheet: 1 **Lower Vasse River**

# Vasse Taskforce

| May 2015 |



The Lower Vasse River flows through the centre of Busselton into the internationally significant Vasse-Wonnerup Wetland System. The river is highly valued by the local community and has historically been an iconic feature of the town and focal point for recreational and social events. Improving the visual amenity and water quality of the Lower Vasse River is a priority for the wider community.

Water levels in the Lower Vasse River over summer are maintained by the installation of check boards at the Butter Factory, forming a still pool. This section of the river in recent decades has poor water quality with annual blue-green algal blooms over summer months leading to severe declines in visual amenity over the peak tourism season.

The City of Busselton will coordinate the implementation of projects to improve water quality and long-term management of the Lower Vasse River.

### **Key initiatives include:**

- nutrient reduction trials
- urban stormwater and drains
- management plan for the Lower Vasse River
- appointment of permanent asset manager



## Project Spotlight

# Nutrient reduction trials



This project will investigate options for improving the visual amenity of the river over summer by trialling innovative products such as flocculating natural and phosphorus binding clays. The project will also evaluate past water quality treatment trials undertaken by the Department of Water in 2000 to 2007 and the City of Busselton in 2013 to assess the cost effectiveness of a range of water quality improvement actions.

Information gained from this project will be incorporated into the Lower Vasse River management plan and provide options for long-term management.

## Project Spotlight

# Urban stormwater and drains

The catchment area of the Lower Vasse River has been significantly reduced, with the majority of water flowing into the river from urban and semi-rural stormwater runoff. A major source of nutrients to the Lower Vasse River is from urban areas, with new urban areas predicted to be a major source of nutrients to Geographe Bay. This project will build on the momentum and capacity gained within the City of Busselton and GeoCatch to undertake a number of targeted stormwater upgrades. These will reduce nutrient runoff into the Lower Vasse River from urban and industrial stormwater. The project will also investigate options for ensuring water sensitive urban design principles are incorporated into all new developments in the Lower Vasse River catchment.



## More information

More information about the Vasse Taskforce and projects delivered under the Vasse Geographe strategy is available on the GeoCatch website

[www.geocatch.asn.au](http://www.geocatch.asn.au)

## Be involved

Community members will have opportunities to be involved in events and workshops as work progresses. Information on how you can be involved will be available on the GeoCatch website

[www.geocatch.asn.au](http://www.geocatch.asn.au)