



GeoCatch

The Environment - in Our Hands

Geographe Catchment Council

Information for applicants
2024



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Information for Persons Seeking Appointment to GeoCatch

About GeoCatch

The Geographe Catchment Council (GeoCatch) is a community based natural resource management group formed in 1997 as a result of growing concern about the health of the Geographe Catchment.

GeoCatch's mission is:

To provide leadership, raise awareness and collaborate with our partners, stakeholders and the community to protect and enhance the natural values and support sustainable growth of the Geographe Bay Catchment

GeoCatch's activities are guided by the Geographe Catchment Management Strategy (2019-2029). The Strategy identifies long term issues, management objectives and an agreed approach to manage the natural resource values of the catchment. It identifies four key themes- Healthy waterways, wetlands and Geographe Bay, Sustainable Growth, Protected Biodiversity and Engaged, informed, involved community and partners.

GeoCatch is also an incorporated group and actively seeks funding from a range of sources to implement recommendations from the Strategy.

GeoCatch works in close partnership with a number of state and local government agencies, NRM groups, community groups and individuals to undertake NRM in the Geographe Catchment.

GeoCatch receives funding from a range of sources, including federal and state government, South West NRM, local government, and local industry and businesses.

Membership of GeoCatch

Ministerial Advisory Committee – GeoCatch is an established Advisory Committee to the Minister for Water, and community members are appointed to GeoCatch under the *Water Agencies (Powers) Act 1984* by the Minister for Water. As part of this role, community members are paid for attendance and contribution at standard government rates (\$309 for a half day) by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation. Fees are paid directly to the member.

Membership for Geographe Catchment Council:

- Is drawn from across the community.
- Ideally encompasses a range of experience and skills.
- Has positions held for the Shire of Capel President and Mayor of Busselton (or nominees).
- Have five positions for senior representatives of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Department Primary Industries and Regional Development, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, and The Water Corporation.
- The remaining members make up nine community members, who live in the Geographe catchment, with an interest in conserving and managing its natural resources.



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The role of a GeoCatch member

GeoCatch members are actively involved with the development of NRM project proposals, establishing priorities for projects and contributing to GeoCatch's strategic direction through GeoCatch meetings. Members can also represent GeoCatch on internal project Steering Committees and external NRM projects.

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

Commitment required of GeoCatch Members

Selection - community representatives will be appointed to the Council from applications sought from the Geographe community. The Council aims to achieve a diverse representation of community members with varied skills, knowledge and experience including members with backgrounds in agriculture, business, community, natural resource management and environmental management. GeoCatch is committed to achieving a diverse board membership that is reflective of our community and encourage applications from women, people from culturally diverse backgrounds, people with disability and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Applicants from the Capel end of the catchment or experience in the agricultural sector are encouraged to apply. Equal opportunity principles are observed during the appointment process.

National Police Certificate - Community members appointed for membership on the Geographe Catchment Council will require a National Police Certificate.

Induction – new members will be taken through an induction, which will include an information session and members' handbook.

Term – Community membership term is for up to four years. Only up to one half of community members terms on Council expire at any one time to ensure continuity in GeoCatch's work. There is opportunity for members to continue on the Council, upon successful re-appointment.

Council Meetings - members must be available to attend the full Council meetings, which are held regularly on the last Thursday of the month. Meetings are held at least 6 times per year. Meetings usually start at 9am and last for 3 to 4 hours.

To ensure effective decision making, members are required to prepare for meetings by giving thorough consideration to the agenda papers, which are provided one week in advance.

Communications - communications with members occur between meetings, particularly when an out-of-session decision or feedback on a matter is required. E-mail capacity is a requirement.

Community Involvement and Events - members are encouraged to be actively involved in community liaison events, GeoCatch updates and presentations, and other community meetings and events. On occasion, members may be required to officially represent GeoCatch.

Employment -The Council has endorsed that A) Members of the GeoCatch Council shall not take paid employment from GeoCatch Inc, and B) Members of the GeoCatch Council shall not take paid employment from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, where such work relates to the work of GeoCatch Inc.



Code of Conduct and Ethics - all GeoCatch members will comply with the Public Sector Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics.

Absences - members positions will become vacant if they are absent from three consecutive meetings, in the same financial year, without tendering a notice of apology to the presiding Chair or a leave of absence sought from GeoCatch.

Board skills, knowledge and experience

Common to all boards is the need for a broad level of understanding and some generic skills, knowledge and experience. Boards also need to have some specific skills, knowledge and experience relevant to their role. Further information on what it means to be a board or committee member can be found at [OnBoardWA: Become a board member](#)

Specific skills, knowledge and experience of applicants applying for membership of the GeoCatch board will be assessed according to following selection criteria.

Essential Criteria	Desirable Criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have links to the community (e.g. membership of existing community organisations, work associations etc.)• Good communication, interpersonal and negotiation skills.• Understanding of natural resource management issues.• Live within the Geographe Catchment.• Willing to obtain a National Police Certificate if selected as a member of GeoCatch.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understanding of and/or demonstrated skills, knowledge and experience on a community-based board• Farming and/or an agricultural background or other primary industry would be advantageous.• Experience in stakeholder engagement and communications.

Please complete the Expression of Interest application via <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/72KDPCQ> if you would like to be considered for membership. Your application should contain examples from your previous work and personal experience that best illustrate how your skills and abilities are related to the requirements in the selection criteria.

Please attach a copy of your up-to-date Curriculum Vitae (resume), including two referees with your application.

Please complete your expression of interest by **4.30pm 28 August 2024**

If you would like assistance with the application process please contact Executive Officer, Carolyn Newman at our office on 0491 069078 or e-mail geocatch@dwer.wa.gov.au



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