



MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP FOR THE LOWER VASSE RIVER

COMMUNITY EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Background

The Lower Vasse River is a high profile waterway in Busselton, flowing through the entrance to the town centre, and is a strong part of local history. It has extremely poor water quality as a result of increased nutrient loads from the catchment and changes to hydrology. Seasonal blooms of toxic blue-green algae are a major concern for the community. The river has been greatly modified from its original state and ecological health has declined, however it remains an important freshwater habitat supporting aquatic fauna and water birds.

In 2019, the City of Busselton, as part of the Revitalising Geographe Waterways program and in close consultation with the community and stakeholders, prepared a Waterway Management Plan to guide future management of the Lower Vasse River. The Waterway Management Plan is available for viewing at <https://www.busselton.wa.gov.au/live/environment/wetlands-and-waterways.aspx>

In 2020, the Lower Vasse River Management Advisory Group (LVRMAG) was established to maintain partnerships and a collaborative approach between the City, the community and key stakeholders when managing the Lower Vasse River. Following the resignation of a community member there is one vacancy now available in the group, and the City is seeking expressions of interest from community members interested in being part of the Management Advisory Group.

Objectives

Objectives of the Management Advisory Group are as follow:

- a. Identifying practical and implementable actions to sustainably improve the health and amenity of the River;
- b. Identifying means of funding those actions;
- c. Assisting the City with implementation of the Lower Vasse River Waterway Management Plan;
- d. Facilitating information exchange on waterway management, restoration and enhancement;
- e. Promoting and encouraging collaboration between stakeholders; and
- f. Having input into the approach and priorities for, and reviewing the outcomes of, trials, research and monitoring.

Membership

Membership of the Management Advisory Group are as follow:

- a. Three City of Busselton Elected Members and two deputy Elected Members;
- b. Two City of Busselton staff (as nominated by the CEO);
- c. A representative of each of the following agencies:
 - i. Department of Water and Environmental Regulation;
 - ii. GeoCatch;
 - iii. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions; and
 - iv. Water Corporation
- d. Up to four Aboriginal community representatives; and
- e. Up to four broader community representatives.

Meeting administration

Meetings will be held at least 4 times per year, during business hours. However, meetings are currently being held monthly, so that members can receive briefings on the work done to date and the work currently underway in relation to the river. Adequate notice will be provided prior to meetings. Notes of the meetings will be forwarded to all members after each meeting.

Membership shall be until the next Council Ordinary Elections, scheduled for October 2021.

Selection of community member

One community member will be appointed to the Management Advisory Group following an Expression of Interest process. All interested community members will be invited to provide a short summary of why they are interested in joining the Management Advisory Group and what they think they would be able to contribute. The following criteria will be used to assess applications:

1. Level of engagement in local water quality issues, especially through the development of the Lower Vasse River Waterway Management Plan;
2. Connection to others in the community interested in local water quality issues, and ability to support two-way communication with others in the community; and
3. Ability to think openly and creatively about local water quality issues and solutions.

Final decisions on memberships will be made by the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with Councillors.

If you have any queries regarding the Management Advisory Group, please contact Mathilde Breton, Senior Sustainability/Environment Officer at Mathilde.breton@busselton.wa.gov.au or 9781 0457.



**MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP FOR THE LOWER VASSE RIVER
APPLICATION FORM 2021**

Name:

Residential Address:

Post Code:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Please provide a short summary (500 words maximum) outlining why you are interested in joining the Management Advisory Group and what you may be able to contribute to the group.

Please return your nomination form by 4.30pm on Friday 9 April 2021

Via post: City of Busselton Locked Bag 1, Busselton WA 6280

Via email: city@busselton.wa.gov.au

By hand: City of Busselton, 2 Southern Drive, Busselton WA 6280