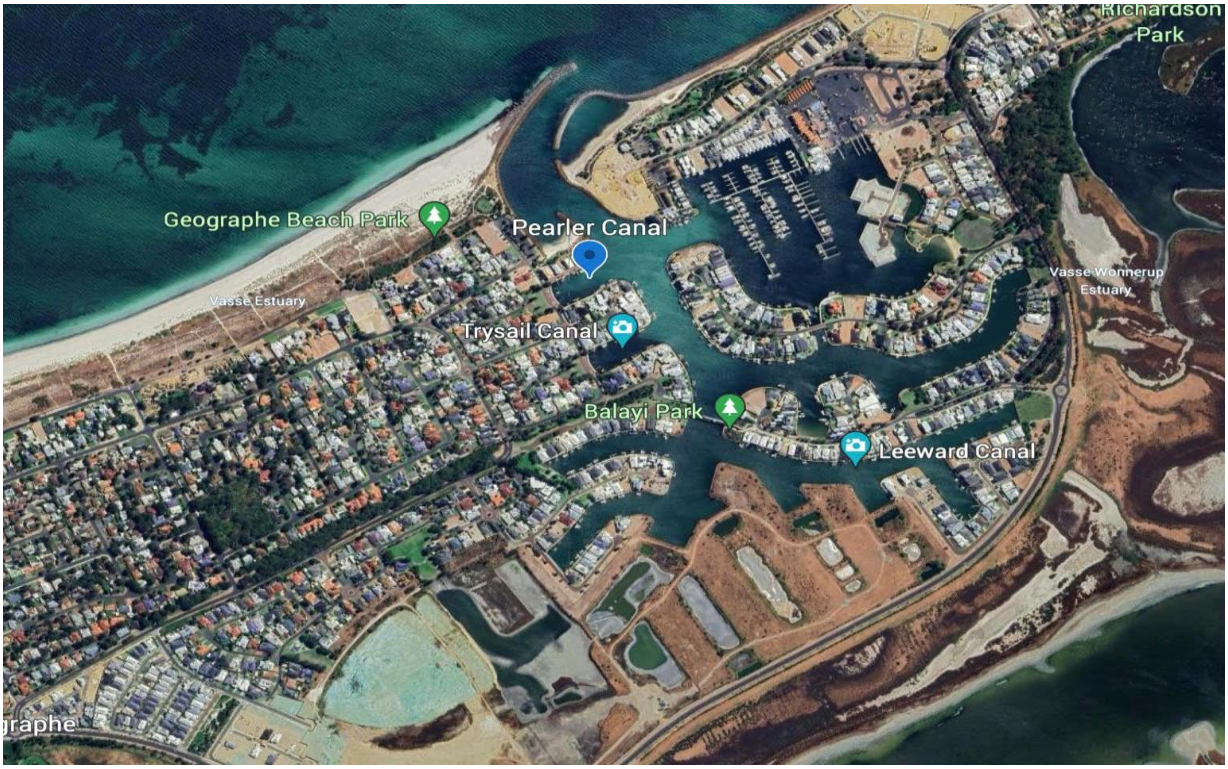
Waters Edge

PORT GEOGRAPHE LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION INC. WRA & WBA NEWSLETTER **December 2025**



CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME:

Hello and welcome to the Christmas PGLOA newsletter. I hope this finds you well, enjoying the warming weather, Christmas Lights and the festive season.

Some of the committee members attended the recent meeting at the Deck where road closures and access out of PG and Wonnerup during the event were presented. Whilst there was a fair bit of negativity from some people, who may or may not be a minority, it was hard to ignore the amount of concern, so the PGLOA will continue to push for improvements in the future, as we have been for some time now.

A question was raised at the AGM about sewer infrastructure here, and I've now received a response from Water Corp with more details of their future infrastructure plans. It is included below in this Water's Edge.

We are planning a mid-season get together on 22nd March at the Deck. We hope this will be like the AGM, with PGLOA contributing food and we plan we can get the Deck to provide their screened-off outdoor area. It will be for financial members and affiliates only, so Watch this Space!

Mike has an update on the expanded Christmas Lights comp

Steve and the volunteers have been busy working on the parkland area north of Spinnaker, removing weeds, etc. His report is included.

Geoff as usual has some updates on Coastal and Canal matters

Membership has now reached a new record of 110 plus 15 affiliates!

Also, in an effort to improve communication to members and affiliates, we intend to launch a dedicated private members and affiliates only Facebook Page early next year.

Happy days, here in the best place in the world to live!

Sincerely,

P.D. (Pete) Keynes,

PGLOA Chair

CONTENTS:

Chairman's message (above)

Christmas Lights

Parks and Gardens

Coastal and Canals

Water Corp letter

Port Geographe as a separate suburb

Your committee

Membership application form

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS CRUISE & COMPETITION (Mike Cann)

The Christmas lights competition is now open and there are now 40 entrants (up from 24 last year) and is turning out to be one of the best showings from our local community to date.

Also, I went on the first cruise last Friday and was incredibly impressed to see so many people dress up and come down and greet the boat. I think there were 4 or 5 separate houses that dressed up or came down to greet the boat, it was really lovely to see. One family went all out, I think they had 2 adults, 2 kids and 2 dogs all dressed up!

Not just the number but also the quality of the displays has improved massively over last year and it's really a very impressive show now so make sure you book your cruise tickets ASAP to avoid disappointment! Tickets for the cruise are booking up fast. The website and map are live: https://portgeochristmascruise.com.au/map

Here's what's new for 2025:

Enhanced Prize Structure

We've been collaborating with Aigle Royal to make this year's competition bigger and better than ever. The total prize pool is an impressive $20,000! In an effort to make the competition more inclusive and fair, we've added two new prize categories alongside our traditional Best Display and New Entrant awards:

- On-board Favourites: Each vote in this category is tied to a boat ticket purchase, ensuring that voters have actually experienced your display in person.

- Most Jolly: This new category aims to encourage the festive atmosphere we saw last year, where residents dressed up, welcomed the boats, and created a truly special experience for everyone.

Technical Improvements

We're developing a new website that requires users to log in, allowing votes to be tied to email addresses for better tracking and prevention of duplicate voting. The website will also feature an interactive map, enabling participants to see their location and vote for displays in their vicinity.

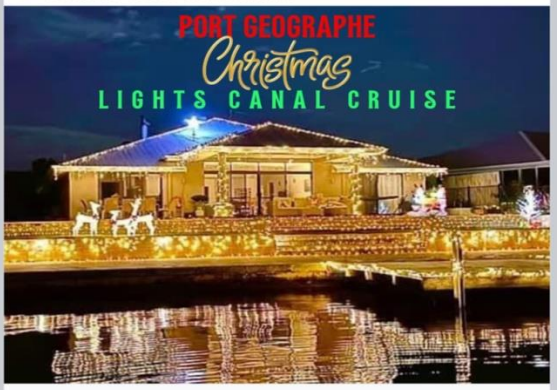
To improve visibility, we'll be providing signs for competition entrants to display outside their homes. These signs will show their entry number, making it easier for passing boats to identify and vote for their favourite displays.

Route Expansion

We're addressing last year's issue where the cruise boat was unable to fit under certain bridges. Aigle Royal is working closely with the boat company to resolve this limitation, which will hopefully make more of the canal accessible for this year's route.

Epic Marine Charters
Sponsored ·

✨ Busselton's Christmas Lights Canal Cruises are back! ✨
Cruise all the canals right on sunset this December 🎄
🎠 Family-friendly festive fun from just $25
🥂 BYO drinks & nibbles
🎶 Classic Christmas tunes onboard
🎟️ 45-min & 1-hr cruises available nightly, 1–24 Dec
👉 Book now before seats sell out!



www.epicmarinecharters.com.au
Busselton's Most Magical Christmas Cruise
Book now

60 24 comments 8 shares

Like Comment Share

PARKS and GARDENS (Steve O'Brien)

Following a presentation at the PGLOA AGM a new group has formed to tackle the decline in the Port Geographe Eastern Foreshore Landscape Reserve - Lot 5142.

The new group is called the Port Geographe Garden Group and as such has become Friends of City Reserves under the control of the City's Environmental Manager.

The Foreshore Reserve is the coastal strip that runs from the western side of the Entrance Channel to the marina and canals to Wonnerup.

It was installed during the Groyne Reconfiguration Project in 2014/15. This Reserve complete with public barbecues, a children's playground, a fitness station and a lagoon was compensation for the loss of two pocket beaches previously positioned along this strip which have been replaced with a rock seawall stretching along the Reserve length.

In recent time the shrubs and groundcovers have been ravaged by the self -sown wild geranium which has suffocated many of these plants. Spraying of the evasive wild geranium has killed the plant it has smothered leaving unsightly bare patches. This has led to the introduction of self - sown weeds, three in particular the Sea Spurge, Onion weed and the Geraldton Carnation weed.

The Garden Group has about twelve volunteers and has held three maintenance session to date to rid the Reserve of these weeds before they throw their seeds. Then work will focus on removing the wild geranium.

These two hour maintenance session are held on Fridays and during the hotter months will start at 7.30am. Volunteers meet at the carpark at the western end of Freycinet Drive adjacent to the public barbecues.

In winter it is intended to plant about 750 plants supplied by the City from the Geographe Community Landcare Nursery. Most of these plants will be groundcovers or low lying shrubs so that they do not impact the ocean view from housing along this strip.

With the linking of the Port Geographe Garden Group to Friends of City Reserves volunteers have insurance coverage through the City. It also gives the group access to expertise, equipment and plants.

Any Port Geographe member can join the group. Just contact Steve on 0412 439 436.





COASTAL and WATERWAYS (Geoff Cocks)

This report provides an update on Coastal and waterway issues at Port Geographe.

Wonnerup Beach
Some minor earthworks to create temporary access were undertaken for Department of Transport and Major Infrastructure (DTMI) in late September. Further work will be deferred until placement of dredge spoil is complete.

Placement of dredge spoil at Wonnerup commenced 10th November 2025.

The following matters have been referred to City of Busselton (CoB) and DTMI since the last newsletter.

- A request to bring forward the study for an artificial reef.
- Beach shaping to cut through and smooth out the scarp to get a more accessible profile.
- The safety issue related to large voids in the exposed rocks.



Figure 1: Wonnerup Beach 29 Oct 2025 **Photo by G Cocks**

Estuary

Water level in the Estuary remains quite high. Algae are present along the bank near Estuary View Drive. There have been less problems with odour so far this year. The work carried out under DWER and Water Corp in April 2024 has led to a significant improvement in resident amenity.

Lagoon

The following matters have been forwarded to CoB:

- A request to carry out water quality testing.
- A request to clean up the Lagoon using a cutting head on a long reach excavator.
- PGLOA continues to try and find a more permanent solution for the Lagoon.

Dredging

The dredge (Cooper II) commenced dredging in early September 2025. The dredge was stood down on about 27 October for repairs and maintenance then returned to the entrance channel on 31 October 2025, commencing dredging again on 2 November.

The Port has remained open to Social Sailors this year.

PGLOA will continue to push for electrification of the booster pump. It is understood that the design study (required as a precursor to dealing with Western Power) was

commissioned by CoB in mid-November.

There has been a significant reduction in water depth in Pearler and Trysail Canals due to the accumulation of seagrass. These canals are outside the Port Geographe Coastal Manage ment Area, within which DTMI manages the dredging.



Figure 4 Sand Dredge Spoil Deposited at Wonnerup 2025 11 15 photo by G Cocks

Galley Cove

Since realignment of the Port Geographe breakwaters, the beach at Galley Cove has been eroding at a rate of about 0.75m per year. In 2024, the CoB installed a roll out mat to provided better beach access for the elderly and disabled. On going erosion means that the mat would have to be shorter and steeper (non-compliant for wheelchair access) if installed in 2025. It is anticipated that the roll out ramp will be used elsewhere in Busselton.

Geographe Beach

Seagrass wrack arrived on the beach in late May 2025. The wrack dispersed briefly with strong Easterly winds and then accumulated again. Since Late September, the seagrass wrack has been dispersing from the West. A block of wrack remains between Lesueur Close and the Western Breakwater.

The use of a dozer to break up the face of compacted wrack was planned to commence on 24 October 2015. This work did not proceed as red capped plover nest(s) were identified in the proposed work area. The chicks may not leave until January.

It is likely that there will be no mechanical intervention to move seagrass wrack this

summer.



Figure 7 Plover Nesting Area 2025 10 30 **Photo by G Cocks**

Dune Resilience Project

The City of Busselton recently won an award for coastal management, including the dune resilience project. PGLOA congratulates Director Darby and his team.

Coastal Path (West of Port Geographe)

The coastal path between in the vicinity of Groyne Road is rough and cracked. The magnitude of deformation (up to 300mm) indicates that there is highly compressible material (buried seagrass?) below the path. CoB has advised that the path will be repaired in 2026.



Figure 8 Coastal Path near Groyne Road **Photo by G Cocks**

Beach and Breakwater Access

PGLOA has had success in the past with requests to the City of Busselton for improved beach access from Captain Baudin Reserve, Galley Cove and several locations on Geographe Beach.
The following requests have been forwarded to CoB:

Construction of a path from the North end of the Galley Cove carpark to Geographe Beach near the Western Breakwater.
Clear vegetation that is restricting access along the Western Breakwater.

Water Quality in the Canals, Lane Cove (Pond) and Marina

A diesel spill occurred in Port Geographe in late October 2025. Enquiries with DTMI, Maritime Constructions (Contractor) and the City of Busselton identified that:

The Contractor notified DTMI and Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) immediately the diesel slick was observed.
The Contractor had a fuel spill cleanup kit and the cleanup protocol was activated.
The source of the diesel leak was identified.
The City of Busselton place signs warning to avoid direct contact with the water (no swimming). These signs were removed after the slick dispersed (on or about 2025 11 07).

Traces of diesel in the beach sand at Keel Park and the Lagoon may still be present. While the slick spread over a wide area, the total volume of diesel may only have been quite small (Diesel slicks spread out to be about 0.01mm thick).

PORT GEOGRAPHE as a separate SUBURB

Letter from me to the Minister for Lands and the reply:

Dear Minister Carey,

Our residents' group which had its 23rd AGM recently, is very keen to advance the idea of our sub - suburb as a separate stand-alone suburb.

At present we are part of Geographe which stretches from near Busselton CBD out to the edge of the Port Geographe subdivision area bordering on Wonnerup.

As the area is distinctly different to the rest of Geographe to the west of here and is still very rapidly growing with new residential subdivisions being built and in the forward planning (see picture below) we submit our request to you to begin the process of becoming a separate and distinct suburb.

Please advise me of the steps we need to take to begin this process.

Thank you in anticipation of your assistance.
Sincerely,

P.D. (Pete) Keynes

Hon John Carey MLA
Minister for Planning and Lands; Housing and Works; Health Infrastructure

Our Ref: 78- 29240

Mr P.D. Keynes
PGLOA Chair

Email: peter@portgeographe.com.au

PORT GEOGRAPHE 6280 AS A SEPARATE SUBURB

Dear Mr Keynes

Thank you for your email dated 3 October 2025 regarding the process to change the boundary for the locality of Geographe and create a new locality to encompass the Port Geographe development.

Any request to change a locality name or boundary first needs the support of the relevant Local Government, in this instance, the City of Busselton (the City). If the City are supportive, they can submit a proposal to Landgate for assessment.

All locality name and boundary change proposals are assessed against the *Policies and Standards for Geographical Naming in Western Australia*.

Locality names and boundaries are intended to be enduring, as any change has a significant impact on property owners and the many service providers that rely on a property address. For a proposal to be supported, the City would need to demonstrate a compelling reason for the change, and overwhelming community support.

If you would like to discuss the process further, I encourage you to contact Landgate's Director Data Collaboration, Peter Birkett at peter.birkett@landgate.wa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

CLAIRE COMRIE
CHIEF OF STAFF
24 NOV 2025

Level 11, Dumas House, 2 Havelock Street, West Perth, WA, 6005
Telephone: +61 8 6552 5300 Email: minister.carey@dpc.wa.gov.au

Question about adequacy and future planning or Sewer Infrastructure:

Water Corp's response to my query:

Hi Pete,

Following on from the email below, Water Corporation acknowledges that in the past there have been challenges with the management of wastewater in the Port Geographe area, and tankers were used to remove wastewater from locations on Navigation Way and Marine Terrace on a daily basis. This occurred particularly following high rainfall in July and August 2024. In November and December 2024 Water Corporation worked to install a new pump in an access chamber in Navigation Way, and this removed the need for daily tankering. The community was provided with a final update of these improvements in February 2025, as per the attached communication.

The marina area of Newport Geographe is serviced by a vacuum sewer network, which is not as simple to operate as a gravity sewer network, and requires more frequent maintenance. The vacuum sewer network is more susceptible to blockages from incorrect items entering the sewer network. In order to undertake maintenance or repair blockages when they occur tankering may still be required.

Water Corporation continues to work with the developer of the Newport Geographe regarding timing of future development to ensure that sewers and the pump station have adequate capacity for the ongoing growth and will undertake upgrades as required.

Water Corporation is constantly reviewing the planning for the wastewater servicing in Busselton, acknowledging that significant growth continues across the city. The planning provides input into the prioritisation of our capital investment program so that we can set aside funding and deliver asset upgrades when required. We would be happy to address any further specific concerns that the residents of the Port Geographe Landowners Association might have.

We believe it would be beneficial to reconnect on this matter following the summer period. Should you be open to it, I would be pleased to arrange a meeting at a time that is most convenient for you to discuss any questions or feedback you might have.

Kind regards,
Jodie

Jodie Nolan
Senior Advisor Customer & Stakeholder
Southwest Region

E Jodie.Nolan@watercorporation.com.au
T (08) 9791 0460

PGLOA COMMITTEE 2024/5

Chair	Pete Keynes: peter@portgeographe.com.au
Deputy Chair	Mike Cann
Secretary	Tanya May
Treasurer	Geoff Cocks: pgloa6280@gmail.com
Coastal Issues portfolio	Geoff Cocks
	Anton McLaughlin (ex-officio)
	Peter Jodrell
	Peter Maccora (ex-officio)
Membership	David Eyers
Landscape, Parks and Gardens	Steve O'Brien: pebble5@bigpond.com
AGM and Social	Michelle Wiseman
Committee	Brooke Neal
	Lisa Shreeve
Website:	portgeographe.com.au
Email	info@portgeographe.com.au

Application for PGLOA Membership 2025-26

Membership of the Port Geographe Landowners Association Inc. is open to all landowners and residents over 18 living within the Port Geographe development. If you pay a Special Area Rate for Port Geographe or the property you live in is subject to the Rate as part of Council rates, then you are eligible to join. Persons from outside the Special Area Rate zone especially including Wonnerup Residents and Landowners, are welcome to join as Affiliate members.

I/WE……

RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS:

……

……

POSTAL ADDRESS (if different to residential address):
…….

……

BEING THEOWNERS/RESIDENTS OF:

……

……

PORT GEOGRAPHE, 6280 (If not Port Geographe, please show suburb and postcode)
Mobile:……..

Email:……

I/WE WISH TO APPLYFOR MEMBERSHIP/AFFILIATE (cross out the non applicable category) MEMBERSHIP OF THE PGLOA. I HAVE PAID THEMEMBERSHIP FEE OF $30 BY BANK TRANSFER. Email this form to pgloa6280@gmail.com

……

(SIGNED)

…….

(DATE)

To pay by direct debit, our bank details are:

BSB 036-123

Account Number 186479.

(Please reference your name and street if paying by Electronic Funds Transfer or over the counter at the bank and email info@portgeographe.com.au when payment is made)