Port Geographe Landowners Association Newsletter Mar 2026

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Hello again,

I trust you're once again enjoying the summer season on our beautiful beaches, marina, parks and oceanfront. If I got paid every time someone told me that they'd been all over the world, but choose to live right here, I'd be rolling in it! How lucky are we?

In this issue you'll find this year's wish list called Pride in our Place of works we'd like to see, which has been sent to the City, with preliminary discussions already had with the Mayor, Phill Cronin and Chief of Infrastructure, Oliver Darby. The City's response (as it usually is) has been quite positive.

We are pushing for the installation/reinstatement of better speed controls and policing of speeding boats in the canal and Port entrance. A quote has been received for a solar-powered marine grade Sad Face/Smiley Face digital radar sign of around $8000

This is beyond our budget, so we will be seeking sponsorship to help pay for it. We are also petitioning the Dept. of Transport, Marine Safety to take more action (including a sign like this)



I had a meeting with Rob Baird form Aigle Royle recently to get an update from him on future subdivision releases. I asked him to send me an updated map that he had but I haven't received it yet. The next stage is quite large, perhaps nearly half of the remaining undeveloped land and he hopes it will be on the market inside 2 years. It includes quite a large area of parkland, a new road entering/exiting Layman and upgrades to the sewer infrastructure. PGLOA asked for a community hall and playground to be included.

We will miss Michelle Wiseman, who has stepped down from the committee and we thank her for her contribution. She leaves a space on the committee for a social and meetings co-ordinator if someone would like to step up, please get in touch. Talking of Social – ***put this in your diary:***

SUNDOWNER now CANCELLED

Very sorry to anyone who was already aware of this and had booked the date.

Here's another ***date for your diary*** – This year's **AGM**, at the Deck as usual: Monday 27th July

Peter Jodrell (Wonnerup) and I met with the Mayor and the City's head of Infrastructure recently to discuss the Pride in our Place. A couple of things of interest came out of that meeting:

1. Anyone can request repairs or maintenance of footpaths, kerbs, public toilets, etc by clicking on the button on the home page of the City's website: https://busselton.wa.gov.au
2. In response to a specific question, I was assured that the City's budget for everyday works, maintenance, etc., is and will be, unaffected by the costs incurred building the Saltwater which are contained in a separate 20 year cost recovery plan.
3. No flights Busselton Regional to Bali just yet ☹

4. Parking signs will be put up on Keel Rt islands. As there will be an expected response from interests against this, it is **VERY IMPORTANT** that you express your positive response to the City if you are happy with this change. (Do it on the link in 1. Above)

Other than that we received a positive response to our requests.

Geoff and the Coastal team have also prepared reports on the Lagoon and on other coastal matters which are a bit long to include here, but you're welcome to contact him, it you'd like to see them

All the best,

Pete

PORT GEOGRAPHE LANDOWNER'S ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED
with Wonnerup and Geographe Beach Affiliates

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Pride in Our Place – 2026

March 2026



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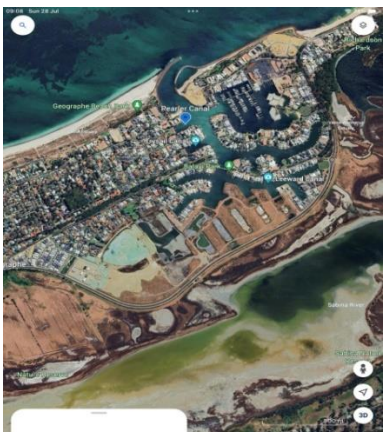

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Geoff Cocks (Coastal)

Foreword

Pride in our Place 2026 is the ninth in a series of periodic reviews of the state of the parks, gardens, streets and amenities within or adjacent to the Port Geographe precinct for which the City of Busselton has responsibility for installation and maintenance.

It follows *Pride in our Community 2015*, 2017 - 2020 and *Pride in Our Place* in 2023, 2024 and 2025 which made suggestions for maintenance and capital works. We are pleased to say that over the years many of our suggestions have been adopted by the City of Busselton. Others have yet to be implemented.

Actions on parks, gardens, beaches, footpaths and streets that we highlight are those that would normally be expected from our rate contributions, augmented by funds from the Port Geographe Development Reserve Fund (PGDRF). The objective of the PGDRF is to provide additional extra capital and maintenance costs for development works within the Port Geographe collection area.

We have grouped items under five broad headings:

- Maintenance Items
- Capital Items (low cost)
- Capital Items (high cost)
- Planning and long-term projects
- ***Coastal and Canals (see sep. report/letter)***



MAINTENANCE ITEMS

Low cost

- Coastal Path between Freycinet Drive and Groyne Rd: Trim the vegetation back to 1m behind the fence line to improve visibility and safety for cyclists and pedestrians

Medium and High-Cost Maintenance Items

- Clean up the Lagoon sea floor (suction pump on long reach excavator) See also Appendix (1.)
- Continued greening our suburb (more trees – not just bushes or shrubs).
- Topdressing grass in Keel and Kwilena Parks plus upgrade sprinkler systems which are not sufficient to avoid the grass dying during the summer
- Apply pressure to the State Government department/s involved to better maintain the bund along Layman Rd next to the Wetlands
- Replenish sand in Galley Cove, which is eroding away approximately .5 - .75m per year
- Repair/upgrade dual use coastal path east of the marina entrance and trim back bushes and shrubs from Lesueur Close pathway to more permanently improve visibility
- Controlled burn or other measures to reduce fire hazard in Captain Baudin Reserve

CAPITAL ITEMS

Low-Medium-Cost Capital Items

- Solar Lights for walkway in Keel Park. The cost for a set of 4 including freight from Melbourne would be about $2300. With installation the cost to the City would be about $3000. These are stainless steel for coastal environment and 1m high (gets the electronics above high tide). They could be bolted to a concrete base to deter theft with "theft proof" bolts. (We have been told these will be installed this year)



- Lighting for footpath along the beach between Anchor View and Keel Retreat. The footpath along the back of the beach between Anchor View and Keel Retreat would benefit from some lighting. The path has significant night use (particularly on a Friday).
- Improve access to Geographe Beach from the carpark at the North End of Freycinet Drive (now that the beach is stable)
- Assist PGLOA to install or have DoT install Signage and “Smiley Face” speed cameras in the Port Geographe main entrance canal to reduce the incidence of speeding boats which are a safety hazard and cause damage to residents’ boats and jetties

- New groynes along Wonnerup Beach east of existing groynes to protect already eroded coastline close to houses

- Footpath from Port Lane through to the boat ramp. There is considerable pedestrian traffic on a Friday night with residents gathering at The Deck. A simple limestone track would make the walk easier. The route could be selected to match a future permanent walkway when the land is developed.

- Electric scooter drop-off places be defined and hirers be encouraged/penalised when scooters are not returned properly. (Cost of this should be funded by scooter hire co.)

- Install parking signs as previously agreed, on the islands in Keel Retreat

High-Cost Capital Items

- Permanent treatments for the Lagoon (Aerators, pumps, pedestrian access on or adjacent to the breakwater etc. *See separate Coastal report*

- Build a "Nature-based" playground suitable for children up to teen years in Geographe Beach Park (North End of Freycinet Drive)

- Work together with the Developer (Aigle Royle) to include more and better community facilities located in the POS of the new subdivision area.

- Almost Every year (in summer), access to the beach opposite the Wonnerup Hamlet is lost with trucks hauling in sand and dredge spoil being placed to replenish the beach. There is noise, vibration, traffic disruption by trucks and earthmoving equipment as well as odour from the dredge spoil.
  A preliminary study by MMA Offshore suggests that an artificial reef located parallel to the coast and about 100m to 200m offshore would dissipate wave energy and reduce the amount of replenishment required. At low tide the structure may not be submerged and would operate as a permeable nearshore breakwater. At high tide, with the structure submerged it would operate as a reef.
  It is recommended that a detailed study be commissioned urgently. The University of Western Australia would be the logical supplier of the service as they have experience in modelling seagrass wrack accumulation at Port Geographe. Supporting a PhD student to carry out the study over a period of 3 to 4 years is estimated to cost about $200,000.
  A detailed study is required due to the combination of erosion by longshore drift and by storm waves. We understand that CofB has put this on the forward plans, but we want to see this brought forward.



- Pave road shoulders 1.5m wide on Layman Road between McCormack Street and Forrest Beach Road (a) Provides a safer path for cyclists without the need for land acquisition or the extensive clearing needed for a separate cycleway, (b) Safer for Ironman and Triathlon events).



- Connection to Western Power for supply to the dredge booster pump (See Appendix 2.)

PLANNING AND LONG-TERM PROJECTS

- Reserve land for a walkway for access to Boat ramp area from Port Lane/ Anchor View.

- Reserve land for Community Batteries/Virtual Power Plant in future stages of land development

- Wonnerup Beach artificial reef (see body text)

- Lagoon upgrades (see sep report)

- Community storage batteries for solar power
  It is recommended that land be set aside in future subdivisions at Port Geographe for community batteries to store excess solar power collected in the day and feed this back into the network at night.



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APPENDIX 1.

Power supply for dredge booster pump

A diesel-powered booster pump for the dredge is located on the ocean side of houses in Spinnaker Boulevard. The diesel engine is noisy and unsightly. As Geographe Beach approaches saturation, more sand will accumulate at the Port entrance, in addition to the seagrass that is the current focus of dredging. As a result, the dredging will take longer in the future. More houses are being built close to the booster pump, so more noise and visual intrusion complaints can be expected.

Powering the pump off the electrical grid would reduce the noise and visual intrusion of the booster pump.

PGLOA understand that a Western Power study has been set in motion, so we will be looking for the results of that when it is finished.

The current booster pump is a noisy direct drive diesel pump. As an interim measure DoT could be requested to direct the Dredging Contractor to supply a quieter diesel electric pump.



PGLOA Volunteer Committee 2025/6

Chair:	**Pete Keynes**
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Deputy Chair:	**Mike Cann**
Secretary:	**Tanya May**
Treasurer:	**Geoff Cocks**
	pgloa6280@gmail.com
Coastal Portfolio:	**Geoff Cocks**
	Anton McLaughlin (ex-officio)
	Peter Jodrell
	Peter Maccora (ex-officio)
Membership:	**David Eyres**
Landscape, Parks and Gardens:	**Steve O'Brien**
	Pebble5@bigpond.com
IronMan/events team:	**Brooke Neal**
	Lisa Shreeve
Web:	**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 and Geographe Beach 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)