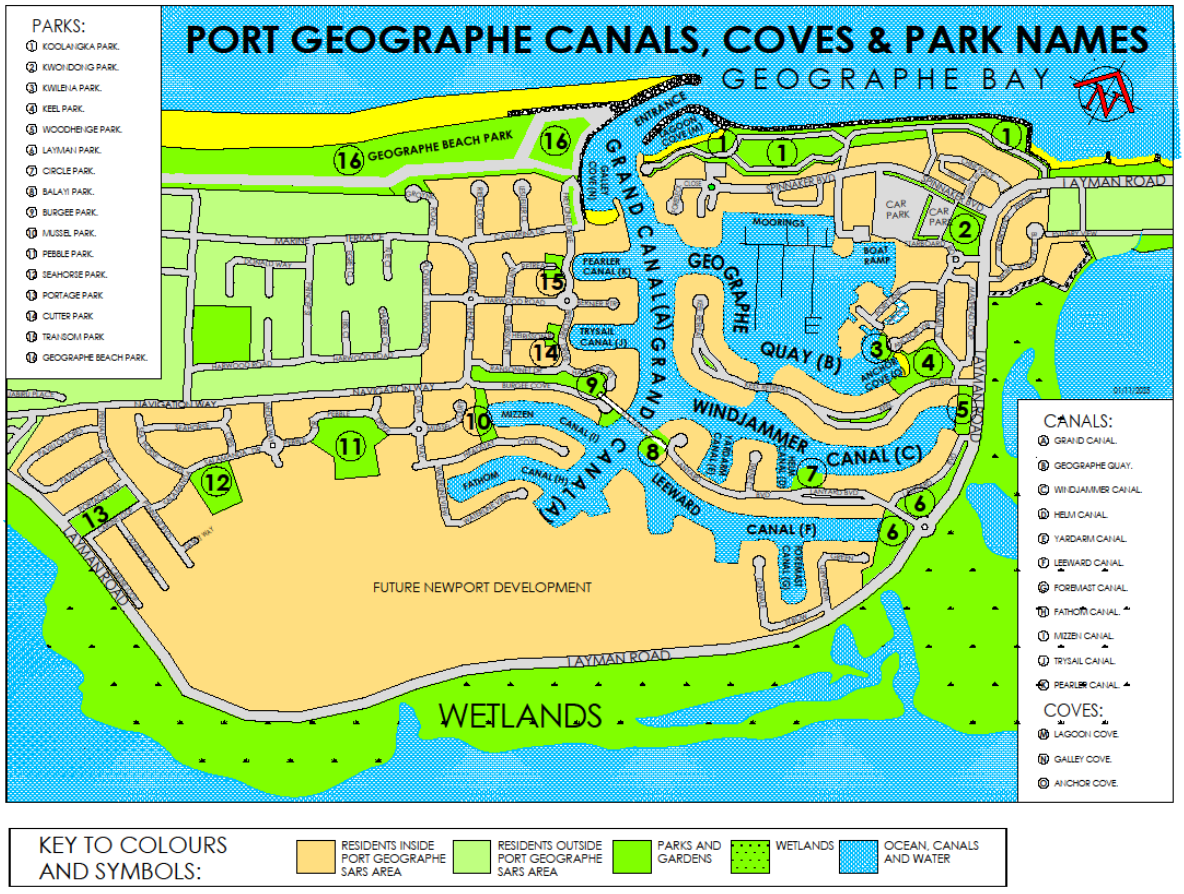
Port Geographe Landowners Association (including Residents, Wonnerup and Geographe Beach Affiliates) Newsletter October 2026

Image by P Brinsden.



Happy 25th Anniversary

The PGLOA was Incorporated in 2001. This is the 25th Anniversary Year.

Whispering Dredge

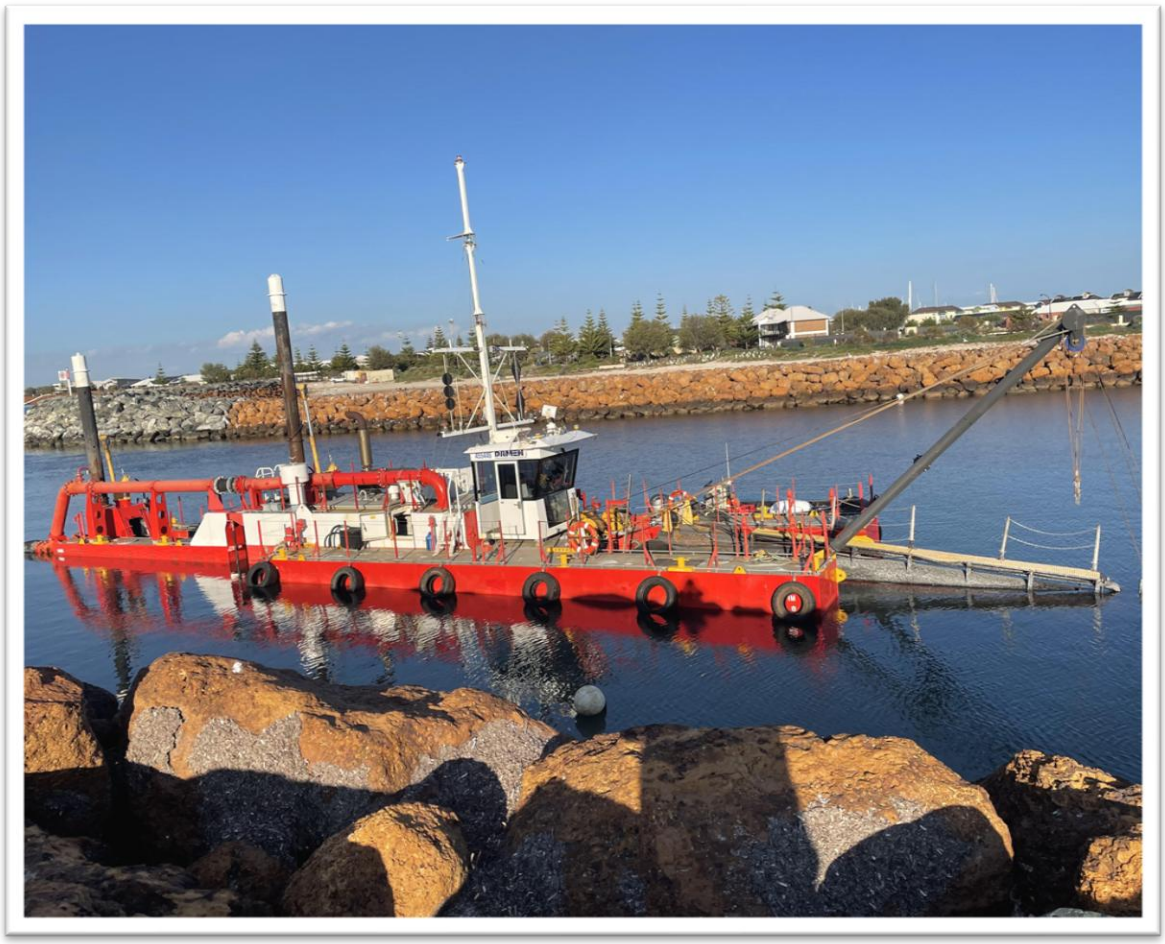


Photo by J Cocks 2026 09

Dredging of the Entrance to Port Geographe is an annual event and lasts for 5 to 6 months. The dredging contract is managed by the Department of Transport and Major Infrastructure (DTMI). This year saw a new dredge mobilised by the dredging Contractor. Those living near where the dredge is operating, will have noticed how much quieter this dredge is compared to previous years.

Another positive is the greater efficiency of the pump on the dredge. Operation this year has been possible, without the noisy, and visually intrusive booster pump (with its hay bale noise barrier) in Koolangka Park. I am sure residents in Spinnaker Boulevard are pleased to say goodbye to the booster pump.

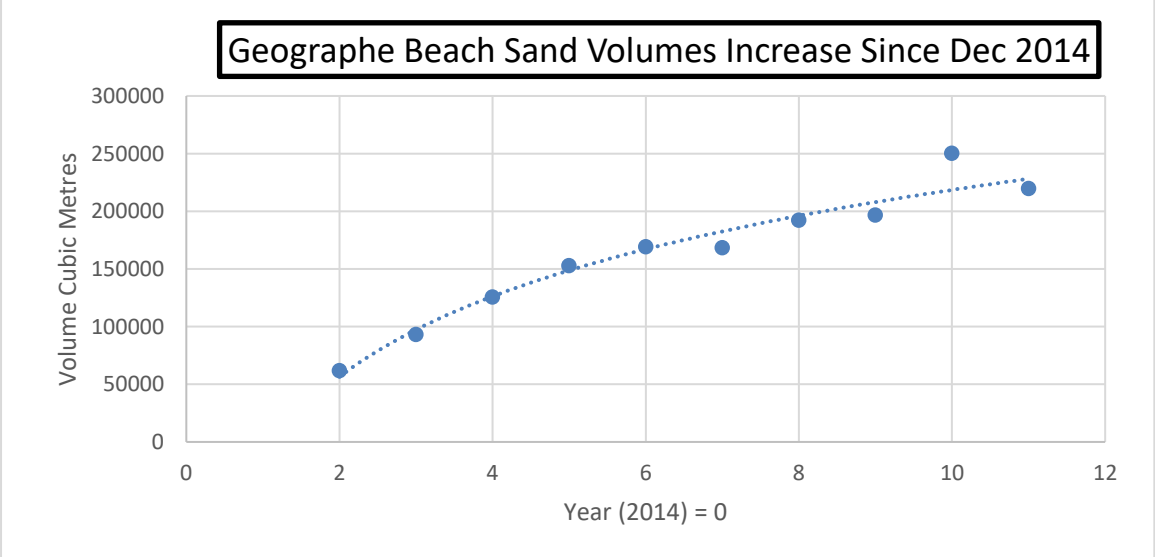
I am sometimes asked why annual dredging is required. The Geographe Bay seagrass meadows are some of the largest in Western Australia. Each year as water temperatures drop and Autumn and winter storms stir up the ocean; the seagrass sheds many tonnes of leaves. The seagrass leaves are transported into the Port Geographe Entrance by an incoming tide where they settle in the calmer water. If you live next to a forest, you should expect some leaves in your garden!

Footpath Lighting

PGLOA has for several years been advocating for better lighting of footpaths in Keel and Kwilena Parks. It is pleasing to see that the City of Busselton has installed solar powered bollard lights on the footpaths in Keel and Kwilena Parks. This will improve safety, particularly when walking adjacent the water.

Geographe Beach

Since the Port Geographe breakwaters were realigned in 2014, DTMI has had a survey carried out to measure the increase in sand volume on Geographe Beach. There has been an accumulation of almost a quarter of a million cubic metres of sand. The issue of seagrass wrack accumulation on the beach each winter is expected to be less problematic when the final beach profile is achieved. In the meantime, the greatly increased beach width provides better protection against extreme storms for the houses in the Geographe Beach area.



What is Unusual about the Tide in Geographe Bay

In most places on Earth there are two high tides 12 hours and 25 minutes apart. The occurrence of the primary high tide is commonly explained by the gravitational pull of the Moon (with a lesser influence of the Sun) creating bulge in the ocean closest to the Moon. On the opposite side of the Earth, the gravitational force from the Moon is less, and there is a counterbalancing bulge in the ocean. These bulges move as the Earth rotates.

There are some complications. The orbit of the Moon about the Earth is on a plane that is angled to the plane of the Equator, so the maximum bulge is not at the same hemisphere on the opposite side of the Earth to the Moon. Earth is not entirely covered in water and continents interfere with the uniform progression of the bulge in the ocean surface. Throw in the effect of ocean currents and there are a few places on Earth where the tidal range is close to zero. These near zero tide locations in the ocean are called amphidromic points and we are lucky enough to have one in the Indian Ocean West of Cape Naturaliste. Geographe Bay has small tides and often has only a single

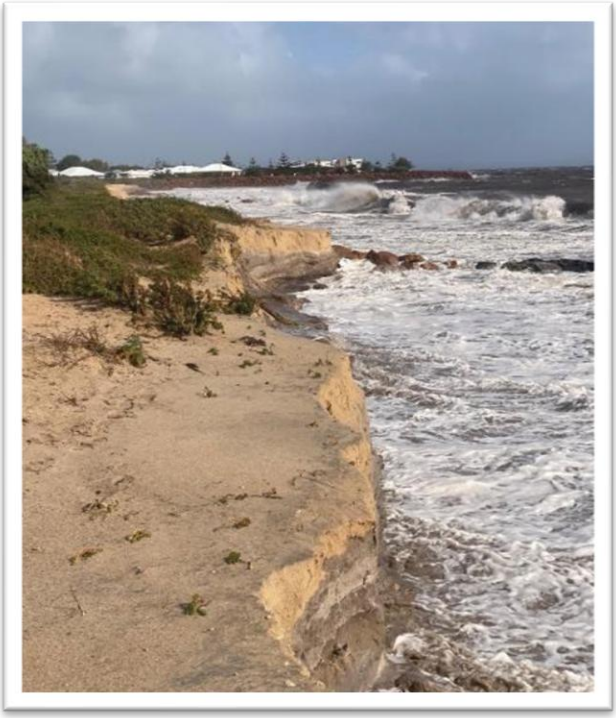
high tide (when the Moon is on our side of the Earth) in a 24 hour period. When there is a second high tide, it is very small. The small tidal range makes canal and marina developments much simpler.

A sample tide prediction chart for Geographe from Willy Weather is shown below.



Severe Storm Erodes Wonnerup Beach.

In late May/early June, a severe storm hit Geographe Bay. There was serious erosion at Wonnerup Beach. The resulting erosion scarp at Wonnerup is a safety concern and makes access almost impossible for anyone with mobility issues. Photo of Wonnerup Beach in early June 2026 by L Shreeve.



It is disappointing that the DTMI has deferred replenishment of the Beach using sand from the Bunbury Port sand trap, until February 2027. Birds were found nesting in the Bunbury Sand Trap Area and excavation was delayed.

Membership Renewals

PGLOA is setting up a direct debit system so you can (if you chose) have your annual membership fee deducted automatically from your nominated bank account. Further information is coming.

If you are an existing member and haven't already paid to renew your membership for 2026-27, please do so ASAP. Membership is $30 per household per year.

If you are not a member and would like to join, there is an application form attached to this newsletter.

Annual General Meeting

The PGLOA 2026 Annual General Meeting was held at The Deck on 27 July with 52 members present. The Guest Speaker was Lisa Shreeve who gave a great presentation about the Busselton Jetty.

Thanks are extended to PGLOA Committee members who retired in 2026, Michelle Wiseman and Stephen O'Brien.

PGLOA COMMITTEE 2026-27

Chair	Geoff Cocks (chair@portgeographe.com.au)
Deputy Chair	Mike Cann
Secretary	Brooke Neal
Treasurer	Pete Keynes
Committee	David Eyres
	Tanya May
	Lisa Shreeve
	Andrea Hesling
	Darren McNab
	Peter Jodrell
	Peter Maccora (ex Officio, Coastal and Waterways)
	Anton McLachlan (ex officio, Coastal & Waterways)
Website:	portgeographe.com.au
Email	info@portgeographe.com.au

Application for PGLOA Membership 2026-27

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, including Wonnerup residents and residents near Geographe Beach, 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).