Marking milestones is important – and I’m very pleased to mark Westport’s second anniversary! When I reflect back on the past two years, I am impressed and proud of the quantity and quality of work that the Westport Taskforce has produced in just two years. There has been a lot of ground to cover in what is a complex project in terms of its geographical reach (covering more than 175km), and the analysis and assessment of road, rail, intermodal and ports; consideration of environmental and social issues now and over the next 50 years; and opportunities arising from new technology and innovation.

As well as the technical work, several major reports have been released and we’ve been pleased to also share our work through 10 issues of the Westport Beacon – with more to come! Through briefings, meetings, forums, workshops, focus groups and more, we have engaged with more than 7,500 community members, 100 different organisations, business groups, interest groups and others – it’s been a great opportunity to realise the depth and breadth of issues, opinions, priorities and views across the community.

So, what’s next for Westport? The project team is currently testing the five shortlisted port options through a second multi-criteria analysis and cost-benefit analysis. The results of this process, including which was the top-performing option (or options) will be captured in the Stage 2 Outcomes Report, which will be referred to government for review and decision in early 2020.

The Stage 2 Outcomes Report will be another significant milestone for Westport. It is the culmination of Stage 2 of our process, Options Development and Assessment, and the identification of the preferred option for addressing Perth’s freight needs over the next half a century. The report will include further important details including when a new port will likely be needed, estimates of how much it’s likely to cost, how the transition might occur, and the next steps to address environmental, heritage, Aboriginal and social considerations.

The State Government will then have the opportunity to decide if, how, and when it would like to proceed, with a sound body of information available to it. Should the Government decide to move forward, the next stage is Business Case Development, which is where the detail of corridor reservations, engineering studies, port designs, heritage studies, environmental assessments, mitigations and forward planning is undertaken, along with a great deal more community consultation.

I would like to say a big ‘thank-you’ to everyone – especially the project team, governance and working group members, partner organisations, consultants and peer reviewers – for their advice, encouragement and commitment over the past two years. I am looking forward to seeing what unfolds in the next few months and which option is revealed as the best solution for the State’s long-term requirements.

As always, your engagement and interest in the project is greatly valued. If you ever have any questions, insights or feedback, please don’t hesitate to contact us at enquiries@westport.wa.gov.au.

Sincerely,

Nicole Lockwood
Independent Chair
Westport Taskforce
Second multi-criteria analysis (MCA-2) and weightings

The second multi-criteria analysis (MCA-2) of Westport’s five shortlisted options (Westport Beacon 7: Westport’s shortlist) is well underway. This process is similar in structure to the first multi-criteria analysis, but is a much more in-depth analysis as it covers additional criteria, incorporates more granular research, focuses further on the quantitative and financial inputs, and covers low, regular and high trade growth scenarios.

The long-term container forecasts and how they were determined was discussed in detail in Westport Beacon 5: Long-term container trade forecasts. If you are interested in even more detail, Westport has now published the Deloitte Access Economics report that informed our trade forecasts on our MySayTransport site: Westport Taskforce Summary report: Macroeconomic and trade forecasts, March 2019.

While MCA-1 (see Westport Beacon 3: How Westport will assess its options) evaluated the options from an ‘end state’ perspective only (to determine if they could meet WA’s requirements in 50 years’ time), MCA-2 will evaluate transition scenarios, timings, costs and impacts as well.

It’s important to note that MCA-2 is assessing the five options with a clean slate, regardless of how they were ranked in the first MCA.

There has been some public discussion about the weightings used in Westport’s multi-criteria analysis, particularly in relation to the environmental weightings with some suggesting community feedback should have seen a greater weighting given to environmental considerations.

The facts are that environmental criteria were weighted at 21.8 – the second highest consideration of any criterion, including economic, social and operational criteria assessed in MCA-1. This demonstrates the significance and priority given to the environment in a major infrastructure planning project where one might expect, based on past experience, economic and commercial considerations to dominate. Westport Chair, Nicole Lockwood, has served for a decade on the Board of Infrastructure Australia witnessing major projects unfold across the country, and has rarely seen environmental considerations be given such high priority and weighting.

The weightings given to each consideration for MCA-1 arose from an extensive and thorough process, starting with stakeholder and community feedback. A series of workshops were then held with subject matter experts from government agencies to determine the weightings based on the feedback, Westport’s investigations, and the importance of the criteria to the overall outcome.

For MCA-2, the environmental and social criteria have been weighted even higher, which is further acknowledgement of their importance to both the community and Westport.

It is noted that some stakeholders have referenced that “55 per cent of the community wants the environment to be the highest priority”, based on submissions received in response to the Westport: What we have found so far (December 2018) report, and asked why Westport’s weightings don’t reflect that number. The numbers are not directly comparable, however Westport can assure all stakeholders that the priority placed on the environment by the community has certainly been appropriately reflected in the MCA weightings.

Westport has, and will continue to place importance on environmental considerations and strive to find win-win opportunities throughout the project. Westport Beacon 10: Preserving the marine environment, talks in detail about the ways Westport is committed to minimising and mitigating the possible marine impacts that a new port in Kwinana may have on Cockburn Sound.
As a highly visible project, it is likely and important that Westport’s work is reviewed and scrutinised from different perspectives. To that end, the need for independent peer review was identified early in the project.

A panel of very experienced professionals, chaired by respected former Under Treasurer, John Langoulant AO, was formed to conduct regular, independent reviews of Westport’s processes and outcomes. The objectivity and experience provided by the peer reviewers is useful for both Westport’s learnings along the way, as well as the overall rigour of the project.

The peer reviewers chosen are highly qualified subject matter experts with a long track record of expertise in their fields and have been matched to their corresponding Westport work streams (refer Table 1 over page).

The panel members provide both scheduled and ad hoc reviews of Westport’s outputs and answer specific questions as they arise. Additionally, the Chair of the panel is responsible to ensure that the peer review process has been satisfactorily completed by all panel members.

Westport’s outcomes have been reviewed at multiple milestones and the process has been found to be sound and reliable. John Langoulant AO, Chair of the Peer Review Panel, has this to say:

“I have been very impressed with Westport’s process and level of engagement. The range of issues being covered is appropriate. The level of analysis is sound and the attention to detail impressive. The outcomes of MCA-1 are reliable and the work being undertaken for MCA-2 is extensive.”

Similar positive support has been received from Westport’s Communications peer reviewer, Marie Mills:

“The project’s commitment to reaching as many interested parties as possible; the way it has encouraged robust debate and ensured its detailed technical work is translated into plain English is commendable. And it has certainly enabled the Taskforce to take a very diverse range of views into account.”

In addition to peer review, Westport has commissioned leading organisations to undertake research and investigations requiring appropriate specialised expertise. The reputations of these consultancies rely on the quality, objectivity and integrity of their work. This provides another layer of reassurance that Westport’s outcomes are sound.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Peer Reviewer Workstream</th>
<th>Expertise</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Langoulant AO Chairperson, Infrastructure WA Chair of Peer Review Panel</td>
<td>Extensive experience leading private, public and not for profit entities as the WA Under Treasurer and Chief Executive roles with Mitsubishi, CCIWA and Australian Capital Equity, awarded an AO in 2010 for distinguished service to business and commerce, particularly through leadership and management roles and to the community of Western Australia, appointed by the Premier as Chairperson of Infrastructure WA in July 2019.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ian Le Provost Environmental</td>
<td>Over 40 years’ experience in environmental impact assessment and management in coastal environments, with particular expertise in port and dredging developments; served as a member of the Western Australian Environmental Protection Authority and substantially contributed to the development of the Cockburn Sound Environmental Protection Policy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neil Matthews Supply Chain</td>
<td>40 years’ experience in national and global supply chain logistics in public and private sectors, providing leadership in regional and intermodal freight systems; policy development; governance and value chain analysis; demand and capacity forecasting and analysis; infrastructure performance assessment; quantitative analysis; and operations management.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greg Watkinson Commercial</td>
<td>Former CEO of the Economic Regulation Authority and current Governing Body Member, with 25 years’ experience across economic regulation, competition policy, education policy, tax policy, welfare policy and macroeconomics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dennis Koegeboehn Ports</td>
<td>Internationally renowned expert in port planning, design, development, implementation and improvement with a focus on strategic planning of integrated ports and terminals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marie Mills Communications</td>
<td>More than 30 years’ journalism, communications and engagement experience working at the highest level of public relations practice across government, corporate and not-for-profit sectors, and recognised with a number of state and national awards.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Working with the community

Westport has extensively engaged – and continues to engage – with stakeholders and the community. These groups and individuals are critical to informing Westport’s work and as such, capturing and taking on board their views throughout the process is essential.

For example, Westport understands that the recreational fishers who use Cockburn Sound are well-placed to speak about the priorities of and potential impacts on the Sound, so they’re just one of the groups invited by Westport to participate in a special focus group looking only at their key area – recreational fishing opportunities and threats.

Several other workshops have been held with relevant community groups, such as residents living along the freight rail line to Fremantle, and landowners at Latitude 32.

Westport was also involved in a meeting of the North Fremantle Community Association on 10 September 2019, where Nicole Lockwood participated in a panel discussion along with Professor Peter Newman (sustainability expert), Dr Brad Pettitt (Mayor of the City of Fremantle) and Chris Leatt-Hayter (CEO of Fremantle Ports). The community came together to discuss the future of the North Quay container terminal and put forward their views and concerns around any increase in trains and trucks visiting Fremantle Port and the potential for increased congestion, noise and pollution.

The session was well attended with close to 200 participants, including Members of Parliament and local councillors. Attendees commented on the quality of the discussion, where residents had ample opportunity to express their views and ask questions.

Several mitigation measures were discussed at the meeting, such as more trucks driving at night; installation of pollution monitors; increasing containers moved by rail; the construction of the new Fremantle traffic bridge and dedicated freight line; double glazing for windows; roof insulation; and sound walls.

Westport Chair, Nicole Lockwood said that $2.3 billion worth of road improvements – in addition to upgrading Leach Highway – would be needed for the Fremantle road network just to enable the Inner Harbour to continue operating into the 2030s.

The meeting concluded with North Fremantle residents voting unanimously for an ‘ASAP strategy’; they asked that Westport proceed urgently with planning for a new Outer Harbour port as an alternative to the Fremantle container terminal.

There was interest expressed for a timeframe sooner than the 10 years that is currently proposed.

The views of all participants who have been involved in Westport’s workshops and everyone who has provided feedback into the project, has been documented and considered. This information has been used to shape the criteria, sub-criteria and weightings for the multi-criteria analysis and even after this process is complete, there will be ongoing opportunities to ensure the community’s views and priorities are built into future strategies and work. Thank you to everyone who has participated.
During August and September, Nicole Lockwood was again very busy informing people about Westport’s work and speaking to the media.

When Westport released its shortlist of port options in mid-August, interest surrounding the announcement was significant. In the weeks following, Nicole had the opportunity to speak on radio and to journalists about the shortlist, how Westport arrived at the five options, and the road and rail constraints for Fremantle Port. If you are interested in reading in more detail about the process and results of Westport’s multi-criteria analysis, there is a bundle of Beacons available.

Westport community information events

A series of community events were held during September in Kwinana, Perth and Fremantle with a more detailed explanation of Westport’s shortlist, how and why they were selected, and the next steps, provided to interested attendees.

The events were a great success, with engaged audiences and plenty of passionate views and important questions.

It was unfortunate that the final Cockburn event was cancelled, but everyone who registered to learn more about Westport were invited to have their questions answered via different means.

Thank you to everybody who attended the sessions, and a slide deck has been sent to each person who registered. If there is anyone who was unable to get the information they required, please contact the Westport Office at enquiries@westport.wa.gov.au.
National Community Engagement for Infrastructure Forum (NCEIF)  
22 August 2019

Nicole presented at the NCEIF Forum in Sydney, where she had the opportunity to brief delegates from across the country on how Westport has undertaken our community engagement, and the growing community influence on government infrastructure projects. Her insights were very well received.

Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) State Conference  
6 September 2019

Nicole also had the pleasure of addressing the Planning Institute of Australia State Conference, which was held in Fremantle. The theme of the conference was ‘The changing face of leadership in an age of disruption’ and Nicole spoke to a group of around 250 delegates about Westport’s shortlist and the opportunities that could arise in terms of economic and land development as a result of Westport’s project.

Engineers Australia Lunch and Learn  
18 September 2019

70 highly-engaged people attended the Engineers Australia Lunch and Learn session to hear an update about Westport.

The group had many questions, including asking about the future of shipping and upcoming trends, engagement of technical stakeholders, Westport’s structure and governance, the groups who provide input into the project and details about road upgrades and island ports.

Other presentations and briefings included:

- Fremantle Chamber of Commerce and Industry on 28 August
- Marine and Engineering Think Tank on 28 August
- Surveying and Spatial Sciences Industry (SSSI) conference on 4 September
- Governor of Western Australia on 5 September
- South West Group Board on 9 September
- Chamber of Minerals and Energy of WA on 26 September
- Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA on 7 October

Western Australia Internal Audit Conference  
12 September 2019

An audience of more than 70 people at the Duxton Hotel in Perth heard Nicole discuss how large-scale projects define the scope, programs and assurance framework required. This conference had the quirky theme of ‘Who moved my cheese? – Embracing change’. A key takeaway was how Westport has put multiple frameworks in place to help ensure strong outcomes.
What’s coming up for Westport?

- 15 October 2019  
  Instructure Sustainability Council of Australia (ISCA), Annual Conference in Melbourne, VIC

- 22 October 2019  
  Property Council of Australia briefing

- 24 October 2019  
  French Australian Chamber of Commerce 2019 Business Forum

- 31 October 2019  
  Women in Economics networking event

- 7 November 2019  
  Committee for Perth member luncheon

- 14 November 2019  
  Presentation and briefing to the Regional Parks Committee

If you would like Westport to present at your upcoming event, please email your request and event details to enquiries@westport.wa.gov.au.

WA Freight and Logistics Conference

Thursday, 24 October 2019  
9.30am to 4.00pm  
Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA, together with the Western Roads Federation is holding their third annual WA Freight and Logistics Conference. This event brings together all key participants in one of the largest sectors of the WA economy.

Join Nicole Lockwood, Chair of the Westport Taskforce, in the discussion about the practical issues, strategic barriers and opportunities for the sector.

Visit the CCIWA website to reserve your ticket.

What’s coming up for Westport?