FROM THE CHAIR

It has been six months since the State Government announced the establishment of the Westport Taskforce, entrusting us with the responsibility of providing advice on securing the freight future of this State for the next 100 years.

While we have only been around for a short time, it has been a pretty action-packed journey so far.

At the heart of most successful projects you will find a dedicated, highly skilled and passionate core team of people. We made sure that we laid these foundations early by recruiting an expert, multi-disciplinary project team with personnel drawn from key State Government agencies.

Good team dynamics start with an effective project manager and the appointment of Tim Collins as Westport Project Director has definitely set the team in good stead.

Tim’s wealth of knowledge and experience in port operations is highly valuable to the Westport Taskforce’s investigations but it is his passion and enthusiasm to make sure this project contributes to the growth of Western Australia that will be extremely beneficial.

To complete the Westport governance structure and to ensure a collaborative approach to project oversight, the establishment of the Westport Taskforce Reference Group has been one of our most significant tasks to date.

The Reference Group’s 46 representatives from industry, local government, unions, environmental and community groups provide a pool of specialist advice and input that can be readily accessed.

The future of the Port of Fremantle has been the subject of modelling, planning and debate for decades. It’s a topic that indirectly impacts on all Western Australians and as Chair of the Westport Taskforce, a lot of my time has been spent meeting with industry and community members.

While everyone has different views, opinions, concerns and enthusiasms, there is clearly a strong community interest in finding solutions for a better way on how WA deals with freight and port related transport and issues.

The job of the Westport Taskforce is to ensure that we are considering every aspect when developing our advice to Government and this is why it was important to invite input on the proposed process for developing the strategy as one of our first deliverables.

We received a total of 201 submissions in response to our request and these are currently being reviewed and collated. A summary of the responses will be released shortly as part of our second discussion paper Westport: What you have told us which will also include the updated Westport methodology.

We have ensured that there are a number of formal opportunities for people to comment during this two-year process but I would encourage anyone with information or questions to contact the Westport Taskforce using the contact details within this update.

Developing the Westport Strategy is going to be a huge jigsaw puzzle and a dynamic exercise but, the feedback you provide will help us ensure we know what is important to stakeholders and the community.

On behalf of myself and that of Tim and the project team, I want to thank you for the support you have given us so far and I can assure you that we will continue to work very hard to ensure we achieve the best possible outcomes for the State.

Nicole
Westport Taskforce Chair
A briefing session for prospective environmental, engineering, planning and other technical consultants was held at Gordon Stephenson House on Tuesday 6 February.

In his first public address as Westport Project Director, Tim Collins provided the 130 attendees with an overview of the Westport project, the progress made to date and the scope of works needing to be undertaken.

The session outlined the State Government procurement process for any consultants that may be required to provide further technical expertise to the project team.

The group was also provided with the opportunity to ask questions of a panel that consisted of Westport Chair Nicole Lockwood, Tim and the Department of Transport’s Director of Procurement and Fleet Management Craig Shepherd.

A visit to Victoria Quay is a must-see for anyone interested in seeing a working port in action.

The Westport Taskforce Steering Committee took the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the operations of the Inner Harbour undertaking a tour of the facilities in late January.

The Committee members received briefings from Chris Leatt-Hayter the CEO of Fremantle Ports and visited two stevedoring terminals to see first-hand the container operations that take place in the facility.

Representatives from each of the operating stevedoring companies provided the group with an overview of their current operating models.

The Minister for Transport; Planning and Lands Rita Saffioti, also met with the Steering Committee before the tour, where she spoke about the Government’s ongoing commitment to the Westport project acknowledging it as a key priority area.

The next Westport Taskforce Steering Committee will involve a tour around the Outer Harbour.
INTRODUCING THE WESTPORT TASKFORCE REFERENCE GROUP

The Westport Taskforce Reference Group provides a high level forum to build a shared understanding of complex issues among government, industry, environmental, academic and community members.

The 46 reference group representatives will help to improve the rigour of the Westport Strategy by providing a broad range of views and issues to the attention of decisions makers. Profiles of the members will be available in future project updates.

Arc Infrastructure
Australian Marine Complex Common User Facility
Bunbury Geographe Growth Plan Partnership
Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Chamber of Minerals and Energy
City of Armadale
City of Fremantle
City of Gosnells
City of Kwinana
Cockburn Sound Management Council
Cockburn Power Boat Association
Committee for Perth
Conservation Council of WA
Curtin University Sustainability Policy Unit
Department of Agriculture and Food WA
DP World
Eastern Metropolitan Region Council
Freight and Logistics Council
Kwinana Industries Council
Latitude 32 Community Group
Livestock and Rural Transport Association
Maritime Union of Australia
Mediterranean Shipping Company

Member for Bunbury
Member for Cockburn
Member for Fremantle
Member for Kwinana
Pastoralists & Graziers Association of WA (Inc)
PATREC
Patrick Stevedores
Peel Development Commission
Property Council of Australia
Rail Tram and Bus Union
RecFish West
Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale
Sirona Capital
South West Development Commission
Southern Ports Authority
Transport Workers’ Union
Urban Development Institute of Australia
WA Fishing Industry Council
WA Livestock Exporters Association
WA Marine Science Institute
Water Corporation
Western Harbours Alliance
Western Roads Federation

The Westport Taskforce Reference Group at their inaugural meeting in December 2017

Coming soon!
The Westport Taskforce will be forming a dedicated local government reference group comprising representatives from the Perth metropolitan and South West regional areas. This group will ensure that each local government has a voice and is able to discuss and provide comment on complex issues relating to Westport that have implications for their community and environment.

The project team will shortly be approaching local governments within these areas with details about how they can register their interest in forming part of the group.
POTENTIAL IMPACT OF NEW PORT ON PINK SNAPPER BREEDING

The Westport Taskforce is in the very early stages of investigating Western Australia’s future freight capacity and the port facilities and operations required to accommodate it, which could potentially be spread between Fremantle, Kwinana and Bunbury.

At this stage, details regarding the location, size, operating model and timing for future port facilities have not been determined.

The Westport Taskforce is aware of the many environmental sensitivities of Cockburn Sound and will be exploring a range of future port options with a view to achieving the best outcomes for the state while minimising impacts on the environment.

ROWLEY ROAD RUMOURS...

Rowley Road is one of a number of options for the movement of freight that has been considered by transport and planning agencies over the last decade. A common misconception is that this project is ‘shovel-ready’. Rowley Road is a local government road and while some planning work was undertaken a number of years ago for the section west of the Kwinana Freeway, this would need to be reviewed and significant project development work undertaken prior to consideration for potential funding by Government.

The Westport Strategy will provide guidance to the Government on the planning, development and growth of the Port of Fremantle at the Inner and Outer Harbours including the required rail and road networks. Once the strategy has been completed the need and timing for associated road upgrades, such as Rowley Road will be considered by Government as part of their long-term vision to relieve freight-related congestion.

Short and medium term initiatives to improve efficiencies at the Inner Harbour are currently being developed and implemented so that it may accommodate trade until additional port facilities are viable, these include:

- initiatives to increase the rail share for container haulage;
- enabling development of the broader rail supply chain, including intermodal facilities to enhance rail system efficiencies and minimise truck movements on Perth roads; and
- upgrading road infrastructure linkages to ease congestion to the Port of Fremantle.

MANDOGALUP

In early February the Minister for Transport, Planning and Lands announced that the State Government had endorsed the findings of the Environmental Protection Authority in regard to potential health and amenity impacts of dust in determining the size of a buffer for urban development in Mandogalup.

It is intended that land use planning for the area will become the responsibility of the Western Australian Planning Commission. Initially, this will involve the preparation of an improvement plan followed by an improvement scheme. Developing the improvement scheme to guide future land use decisions for the area will involve consultation with local government, industry and landowners.

At all levels of the Westport Taskforce there is close cooperation between representatives from the project team, Department of Transport and the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH).

The Westport Taskforce will continue to work closely with DPLH as the planning progresses in relation to this matter.

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