FROM THE CHAIR

Regional Development Australia last month released the report *Lithium Valley*, which sets out the case for energy metals and battery manufacturing in Western Australia. It’s an interesting read and provides evidence and recommendations for why Lithium Valley could be established in WA, just as Silicon Valley was established in California.

This topic dominated some of our meetings in May, with a concerted push by both industry and the Government to investigate the logistics of value-adding to minerals prior to export. Westport Project Director Tim Collins met with Kristin Berger, from the WA Lithium Taskforce, to help ensure the Westport Taskforce is closely engaged with this development for Western Australian export. Tim and I also had the pleasure of meeting senior Tesla Executives at the U.S Consulate on 22 May to discuss lithium battery technology and the role WA can play in growing this technology. We are also in the process of meeting with all of the key lithium producers in WA to understand their growth forecasts and operational needs. This is a very exciting field and we look forward to being involved in discussions in the future about how WA can be involved in this industry.

In addition to our lithium-dominated meetings, defence has been another key topic for the Westport Team. We met with senior defence officials as well as representatives from Defence West and the Australian Marine Complex to discuss and identify important opportunities and future needs of defence in Western Australia.

The Westport Taskforce continues to meet with community leaders including Senator Linda Reynolds, Minister Simone McGurk, the City of Cockburn, Kwinana Industry Council, and Western Harbours Alliance, to increase program awareness and to discuss how our specific work streams will be delivered.

In late May, we attended a half-day tour of Fremantle Inner Harbour and Kwinana Industrial Area, which was also attended by the Westport Project Control Group, Steering Group members and Reference Group members.

As promised, consultation and continuous communication is a key driver of the Westport Strategy and we will soon be announcing a series of community workshops. We look forward to meeting some of you in person and getting your feedback face-to-face.

Nicole
Westport Taskforce Chair
ON THE ROAD

Over the past few months, members of the Westport Taskforce have continued to actively meet with businesses and community groups.

Highlights include:

- **26 April** – Westport Taskforce site tour of Australian Marine Complex
- **27 April** – First meeting of the Local Government Reference Group
- **2 May** – Visit by Hon. Rita Saffioti MLA, Minister for Transport, Planning, and Lands to the Westport Project Office
- **3 May** – Westport Taskforce Chair, Project Director and Assistant Project Director met with Rear Admiral Raydon Gates - WA Defence advocate in Canberra
- **3 May** – Briefing by Westport Taskforce Chair to Port Operations Taskforce
- **14 May** – Project Director meeting with Senator Linda Reynolds
- **15 May** – Presentation by Westport Taskforce Chair to Cockburn Council
- **16 May** – Westport Taskforce Chair and Project Director meeting with the Australian Defence Force Chief (WA)
- **22 May** – Westport Taskforce Chair meeting with senior Tesla executives
- **29 May** – Westport Project Control Group, Steering Group members, Reference Group members and Chair participating in half-day tour of Fremantle Inner Harbour and Kwinana Industrial area
- **5 June** – Westport Taskforce Chair meeting with Major General Jeff Sengleman - Defence advisor to State Government

Nicole Lockwood, Minister Saffioti and A/Director General of the Department of Transport (DoT) Nina Lyhne at a signing ceremony in the Westport Project Office.

Westport’s Anika Chhabra, DoT A/DG Nina Lyhne, Fremantle Ports Ainslie de Vos and Nicole Lockwood participating in the Fremantle Inner Harbour tour.
What’s on the Westport calendar?

The Westport Team would like to get to know you! We will be releasing information in our next Project Update about a range of opportunities throughout July for you to learn more about the Westport Project and share your views.

REZONING IN WEST MUNDIJONG

Premier Mark McGowan and Minister for Transport, Planning and Lands Rita Saffioti announced on Sunday 3 June that approval had been granted to rezone 449ha of rural land in West Mundijong to industrial.

The State Government has identified the area as an important future employment site that is strategically located near a freight rail line and major roads. In developing its strategy on the long-term freight and trade needs for Western Australia, the Westport Taskforce is reviewing a number of options for the inner and outer harbours and surrounding areas.

You can read the formal announcement on the rezoning here.