FROM THE CHAIR

Happy new year! I hope you had a safe, relaxing festive season and are looking forward to an exciting year ahead.

2019 will be a huge year for Westport and we will be sharing our findings and progress with you throughout the year. There are going to be lots of outcomes generated by the project team as we collect the data and inputs necessary for us to weigh up our eight strategic options through a multi-criteria assessment and determine the best long-term solution/s to handle Perth’s growing freight needs.

It is timely to remind everyone that the Westport Strategy will deliver benefits for everyone in Western Australia – not just industry. Most of the freight handled by Fremantle Port are the items you use every day – clothing, footwear, electronics, furniture, toys, cars, food and beverage items, medications and more. Nearly all of our daily consumer goods are manufactured overseas, with imports for the whole State being processed through Fremantle. With Fremantle Port inevitably reaching capacity at some point in the future, it is essential that the Government has a long-term plan in place to handle the amount of imports required for future generations to maintain the standard of living we currently enjoy.

At the end of last year, we were delighted to release our progress report, Westport: What we have found so far. If you have not already seen this report, you can download a copy from mysaytransport.wa.gov.au/WWHFSF.

Due to requests from several members of the public, Westport has also extended the closing date on the WWHFSF feedback survey – it will now be open until Friday, 1 February 2019. Please take the time to provide us with your feedback on the report.

The other big piece of news impacting Westport at the end of 2018 was the Cabinet reshuffled, which saw the Hon. Alannah MacTiernan MLA take on the Ports portfolio.

While Westport will continue to work with the Minister for Transport and Planning, Hon. Rita Saffioti MLA, Minister MacTiernan will now take on primary responsibility for Westport.

Over Christmas, the Westport project team has moved into new offices at Albert Facey House, 469 Wellington Street, Perth. We are delighted with our new premises!

As always, I am eager to engage with as many people as possible and inform them about Westport. If you have any events, conferences, community days, exhibitions or otherwise planned in 2019 and would like to invite me to participate, please email the details to: enquiries@westport.transport.wa.gov.au.

And finally, I want to encourage everyone to keep leaving comments and feedback on Westport’s consultation portal and interactive map at mysaytransport.wa.gov.au/westport. The only way you can influence Westport’s Final Strategy is by providing your input, so please tell us what is important to you. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Nicole Lockwood
Independent Chair
Westport Taskforce
Westport: What we have found so far media coverage

The progress report, Westport: What we have found so far, was released by Minister Saffioti on 12 December 2018. This report encapsulated the main findings from Stage 1 of Westport’s process and outlined the eight strategic options that would be investigated in detail during Stage 2 (now underway).

The report attracted a great deal of media attention. It was covered in 26 media reports, including:
- Nine print articles, including five in The West Australian
- Eight online articles, including lead articles on WAToday and WA Business News
- TV news coverage via GWN
- Radio interviews on 6PR and ABC

Of all the media coverage the report received, more than 88 per cent was either positive or neutral in tone. In fact, the only negative articles were three opinion pieces by Paul Murray in The West Australian.

Westport is looking forward to delivering a great deal more information in 2019, so please stay tuned.

What’s on the Westport calendar in 2019?

- 26 February – sundowner with the Bunbury Geographe Economic Alliance
- 27 February – keynote presentation at the Bunbury Geographe Chamber of Commerce and Industry breakfast
- 27 February – lunch presentation for the Bunbury Leschenault Rotary Club
- 1 March – Urban Development Institute of Australia Leaders Forum
- 5-7 March – presentation at the Australian Logistics Council Forum 2019
- 20-21 March – presentation at the 10th Annual WA Major Projects Conference 2019

If you are interested in having Westport present at your upcoming event, please email your request and event details to enquiries@westport.transport.wa.gov.au.