It has been a very busy and exciting time for Westport and a lot has happened since my last update. One noteworthy achievement has been the release of the first four editions of the Westport Beacon.

The Beacon outlines various components of Westport’s work, which together will form the evidence base that will determine the final recommendations. Upcoming editions will go into detail on the long-list of 25 options currently being assessed in the first multi-criteria analysis (MCA); the results of this first MCA and the resulting shortlist of up to five options; and the road and rail modelling that determines the current capacity of the Fremantle Inner Harbour. Please encourage others to sign up to Westport’s mailing list so they don’t miss out on these future editions.

We are now part-way through the series of free community events Westport is rolling out in the suburb most central to our strategy. So far this month I have presented to more than 165 residents in Cockburn, Fremantle and Rockingham. I have been impressed with the questions and discussions to date, and the level of interest in the project overall.

If you are interested in attending one of the remaining events in Melville, Bunbury, Kwinana, Cannington or Belmont, the details are available at the end of this newsletter, or at mysaytransport.wa.gov.au/Westport-events.

If you can’t make it to an event, you can have your say by filling in the Westport online community survey by following this link: mysaytransport.wa.gov.au/community-survey.

The next few months are a critical time for Westport as we go through the process of narrowing down the current long-list of 25 options (to be explained in the next Westport Beacon) to a shortlist of up to five options, to the final recommended option/s.

This will be done using a series of multi-criteria analyses as explained in Issue 3 of the Westport Beacon. I look forward to sharing the outcomes of these processes with you.

With Westport now progressing quickly through the final stages of our work, I am happy to speak at your events and conferences about these outcomes. Please email the speaking invitation and event details to enquiries@westport.wa.gov.au.

Thank you again for your ongoing support of the project, and stay tuned for more exciting news throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Nicole Lockwood
Independent Chair
Westport Taskforce
ON THE ROAD

Aboriginal Engagement

Westport acknowledges and respects the Traditional Custodians of the land in our study areas – the Whadjuk and Gnaala Karla Booja people of the Noongar Nation. To ensure we integrate the Aboriginal heritage and cultural values in our strategy, Westport is embarking on a comprehensive engagement process.

Westport’s Aboriginal engagement is being led by Dr. Richard Walley OAM and the Aboriginal Productions and Promotions Team. Dr Walley was the lead advisor with the Whadjuk Nyoongar Group that embedded local Aboriginal culture into Perth’s Yagan Square development. In March 2019, Yagan Square won two highly-coveted industry awards at the Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) National Awards for Excellence. The project was recognised for Excellence in Urban Renewal and won the President’s Award. Recently, Dr Walley and his team assisted in developing Gnarla Biddi, METRONET’s Aboriginal Engagement Strategy.

Over the next few months, Dr Walley will meet with Aboriginal stakeholder groups, including the Whadjuk Working Party, Gnaala Karla Booja Working Party and South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council, among others.

Dr Walley and his team will consult custodians and story-tellers about the sacred sites listed on the State Government Register of Places and Objects and develop a rich cultural narrative for Westport’s study areas.

This consultation is an opportunity for local Aboriginal community members to add to the existing knowledge base by identifying other significant locations, raising any potential concerns and sharing their history, stories and song-lines. Confidentiality will be maintained to address sensitivities related to traditional customs.

Opportunities for Aboriginal employment, economic development and cultural recognition will also be identified for Westport moving forward, and also confirm project compliance with the broader government process.

If you would like to be involved in Westport’s Aboriginal engagement, please contact the team by email on enquiries@westport.wa.gov.au.

Myth Busting

We are aware that there are numerous statements circulating about the Westport project, most of which are incorrect. We thought we’d take this chance to clear up some of the common misconceptions.

Many people are saying that the Fremantle Inner Harbour has the capacity to handle Perth’s container freight for the long-term.

Fremantle Port handled 770,000 TEU in 2017-2018, which is only 37 per cent of the port’s precinct’s estimated total capacity of 2.1 million TEU. However, this is only one part of the story – that freight must also be moved in and out of the port.

Currently, the road and rail connections to the Inner Harbour are nearing capacity. Local residents are also noting growing noise, congestion and emission concerns. With the Inner Harbour now surrounded by residential development, the options for substantially expanding the road and rail capacities are limited, while their impact on social amenity demands careful consideration.

In partnership with major stakeholders, Westport is undertaking a thorough analysis to determine the current capacities of the Inner Harbour’s road and rail networks and whether they can be expanded enough to cater for long-term container growth. These results will be released in coming months.
The location and type of port has already been decided.

No decisions have been made. However, most of Westport’s options feature a port in Cockburn Sound as, without an existing container port to work with, we can look at many different locations, port designs and sizes, supply chain connections and intermodal terminal requirements.

Westport is now embarking on the process that will determine the best option from our current long-list of 25 options using a comprehensive set of economic, environmental, social and technical factors. The methodology, criteria, weightings and results of this process will be shared in future Westport Beacons.

A new port is not needed right now, so why is the Government planning to spend $6 billion on one?

Building a new container port and all of its associated infrastructure is a complex and time-consuming process. To thoroughly plan, design, fund, build and seed a new port could take more than a decade. Westport’s process will firstly determine if and when a new port is required. If there is a need for new infrastructure, the plans can be put in place at a measured rate and then rolled out as required.

Westport’s reports are being edited to omit key details.

There has been some speculation that key information is being hidden or edited out of Westport’s reports. Westport’s publications are edited for consistency and readability, so the final version will differ from early drafts. However, our intention is to share as much information as possible – not hide it. All significant information that goes towards developing our evidence base and subsequent strategy is made publicly available. In fact, Westport is being recognised for its levels of transparency and engagement.

Want to know more?

Attend a free community event to learn more. Register your attendance at Westport Events; and sign up for the latest news.
Westport's free community events

Westport is working with Local Government to facilitate a series of free community events in May, June and July. The chosen locations are areas impacted by the current freight network and are likely to feature in Westport’s final outcomes.

Nicole Lockwood is presenting our latest progress and findings – including explaining the long-list of 25 options – at each event, and answering questions from the audience.

Events have been held in Cockburn, Fremantle and Rockingham to date. If you would like to come along, we have the following remaining events coming up:

- Wednesday 22 May  
  City of Melville – 9.30am-11.00am
- Thursday 6 June  
  City of Bunbury – 7.30am-9.00am
- Thursday 6 June  
  City of Bunbury – 5.30pm-7.00pm
- Saturday 15 June  
  City of Kwinana – 1.30pm-3.00pm
- Monday 1 July  
  City of Belmont – 5.30pm-7.00pm
- Thursday 4 July  
  City of Canning – 5.30pm-7.00pm

All events are free to attend. Registrations are essential as places are limited; please click on the links above to register your attendance. Light catering will be available.

More community events later in the year

The current round of community events mentioned in an earlier article were planned to align with the announcement of Westport’s long-list (and from July onwards, the shortlist) of options.

The next major announcement from Westport will be the results of the detailed shortlist assessment and cost-benefit analysis (CBA).

Westport will be running another round of free community events later this year. Nicole Lockwood will deliver a presentation about the multi-criteria analysis and CBA processes used to rank the options.

These events will also feature Westport’s team of technical experts, so you can discuss specific parts of Westport’s work directly with the people who did the analysis.

Registration will be essential at these events. Keep an eye out for more information in August.

What’s coming up for Westport?

- 23 May 2019: presentation at the Urban Development Institute of Australia member event
- 9 July 2019: presentation at the Property Council Infrastructure Event
- 26 July 2019: presentation at the Australian Property Institute State Conference
- 22-23 August 2019: presentation at the National Community Engagement for Infrastructure (NCEIF) Forum
- Late 2019: Westport community drop-in sessions

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