

Managing Director's Message



Hear the latest from Westport

Westport Managing Director Patrick Seares discusses the mobilisation of Westport's Rail Integrated Project Team, progress on infrastructure that will support Kwinana's future container port and the key decisions now underway as planning moves into design optimisation. He also shares how Westport is collaborating with Defence to help coordinate major projects across the Western Trade Coast.





Contract awarded to progress key freight rail upgrades

In June 2026, a contract was awarded to a consortium comprising Arup Australia and WSP Australia to progress planning and project development for key freight rail upgrades, and level crossing removals.

The companies will form an Integrated Project Team with Main Roads and Public Transport Authority to undertake the planning, site investigations and other project development activities for:

- **New rail line**
planning and project development for a new freight rail connection linking the future Kwinana container terminal to the existing freight rail network east of Rockingham Road.
- **Duplication**
planning and project development for the duplication of about 8 km of track on the freight rail line between Kwinana and Cockburn near Beeliar Drive, together with assessment of level crossing and grade separation treatments.

- **North Lake Road grade separation**
planning and development of a grade separation solution at the existing North Lake Road rail crossing in South Lake.

The project development phase will include preparation of a reference design, site investigations, environmental and heritage assessments, stakeholder engagement and progression of regulatory approvals. Community and stakeholder engagement activities will occur throughout project development and will help inform future design outcomes.

Container terminal planning moves into design optimisation

Planning for Kwinana's future container terminal has moved into design optimisation, with the Marine and Ports Infrastructure Technical Advisor now building on the Stage 3 planning work.

A six-month review of the Stage 3 work has been completed, identifying the critical areas, priorities and recommendations needed to support current master planning. The [Technical Advisor](#) is now progressing a coordinated program of work packages that will help refine the reference design, strengthen the delivery schedule and provide more robust cost estimates for future detailed design and construction planning.

Current work is focused on:

Through to 2028

Definition and verification

Design optimisation

Reference design

Phase B: July 2026 to July 2027

- 60+ work packages, 80+ decisions, 150+ deliverables
- Purpose is to optimise channel, breakwater, quay line, terminal and port precinct concept designs in preparation for Phase C: Reference design.
- Inform the updated business case.
- Progress integrated planning for construction, interfaces and future operations.



Kwinana Bulk Terminal Redevelopment update

Kwinana Bulk Terminal (KBT) is a critical trade gateway for Western Australia, supporting bulk imports and exports across the State's largest industrial precinct. KBT is nearing the end of its operational life and is expected to reach capacity and functional limits by around 2032, creating increasing pressure on bulk trade operations at Kwinana Port.

Westport and Fremantle Ports are working as an integrated team to plan and deliver the KBT Redevelopment.

The Redevelopment was previously included as part of the environmental referral for the future container terminal at Kwinana (*Outer Harbour Port Development*), but is now proposed to proceed as a separate project because it is needed earlier than the container terminal. [The amendment](#) does not change the overall location

or development envelope of the proposed *Outer Harbour Port Development*. It only removes the KBT Redevelopment infrastructure from the project scope currently being assessed.

The KBT Redevelopment was recently referred to the State regulator and is [publicly available here](#).

The project will be referred to the Commonwealth regulator later this year.

Kwinana Freeway upgrade enters delivery phase

Construction of key upgrades along Kwinana Freeway - one of Perth's busiest freight and commuter corridors - is slated to begin early next year.

A delivery contract has been awarded for the \$700 million project to add new lanes in key sections between Roe Highway and Mortimer Road, as well as new coordinated ramp signals to smooth traffic flow along the freeway northbound from Safety Bay Road.

The freeway already carries more than 100,000 vehicles a day, 10-15% of them heavy freight, and experiences congestion during peak periods.

Increasing capacity will help meet growing freight demand through one of WA's most important industrial precincts and support the development of Kwinana's future container port.

This milestone follows the recent \$1.1 billion investment to progress delivery for the first stage of Anketell Road upgrades (Leath Road to Abercrombie Road) linking the future container terminal to interstate road and rail networks.

Detailed design for the Kwinana Freeway Upgrade begins now, with construction slated for early 2027 pending environmental approvals, with completion expected in mid-2029.



Major upgrades to Anketell Road between Leath Road and Abercrombie Road moving ahead following construction funding announcement

The Anketell Road Upgrade will improve the corridor between Leath Road and Kwinana Freeway, supporting access to the Kwinana Industrial Area, the wider Western Trade Coast and the future container terminal.

Construction funding has been confirmed for Stage 1 of the project – Anketell Road from Leath Road to Abercrombie Road. It's the first in Westport's program to be funded for delivery.

Planning and development work is continuing for Stage 2 of the project – Anketell Road from east of Abercrombie Road to the Kwinana Freeway. A Project Reference Design is currently being developed to identify the upgrades needed to meet current and emerging road user and network requirements. Construction funding for Stage 2 has not yet been confirmed.

Pop-up information sessions were recently held to share project information and updates, including the latest plans, proposed intersection and interchange locations, newly created roads and access modifications.

Attendees expressed interest in the project, with discussions about local access, traffic movements, safety and maintaining access during construction being key topics of conversation. Feedback from the community, industry and key stakeholders will help to inform the Project Reference Design.

Find out more in the latest [Project Update](#), or contact enquiries@mainroads.wa.gov.au. We'll share further information and updates as construction planning gets underway.



How Westport is investigating cleaner energy for construction

As Australia responds to fuel security challenges and growing interest in electrification and domestic low carbon fuel production, governments and industry are exploring how emissions can be reduced over time in sectors that continue to rely on fossil fuels.

Westport's current modelling indicates construction machinery across marine, dredging and landside works could require around 100 million litres of fuel for delivery. Overall, fuel use is expected to represent almost one-quarter of construction emissions, representing a key opportunity to reduce the Program's carbon footprint.

Westport has assessed a range of available and emerging solutions for construction activities, considering technology readiness, deployment risks and commercial viability.

For land-based construction machinery, electrification is showing strong long-term potential, though the right solution will depend on the equipment and infrastructure available to support it.

Where electrification is not yet practical, renewable diesel and hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) have been identified as transition options that can reduce reliance on fossil fuels while supporting contractor readiness and market development.

What are advanced biofuels?

- **Biofuels** are energy sources derived from organic materials, often sourced from plants or biomass.
- **Advanced biofuels** differ from conventional biofuels because some, including renewable diesel or hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO), can act as "drop-in" replacement fuels.
- **Renewable diesel** is chemically similar to fossil diesel and can be used in many existing diesel engines without modification, making it relevant for heavy plant, generators, marine construction equipment and dredging vessels.

Similar considerations apply to dredging activities, with renewable diesel and HVO offering the most practical near-term pathway for some larger vessels, due to their compatibility with existing fleets. Other emerging fuels, including methanol and ammonia, continue to mature.

The work forms part of Westport's broader approach to understanding not only which technologies may help reduce emissions, but what is required to enable their future deployment in WA.

Iva Munro, Westport's sustainability and net zero lead, said preliminary findings suggested different technologies would play complementary roles depending on the equipment, activity and stage of delivery.

"Technologies will become viable at different points in time, which is why we are taking a staged approach to understanding future energy pathways and the supporting conditions needed for their success," she said.

Construction energy pathways are being assessed against a range of considerations, including emissions outcomes, fuel security, supply chain resilience and alignment with the State's decarbonisation objectives.

Initiatives such as the Australian Government's *Cleaner Fuels Program* and WA's *Advanced Biofuels Strategy* are intended to support domestic low-carbon fuel production while providing greater visibility of how future fuel supply pathways and markets may develop over time.

As planning continues, Westport will keep working with industry to understand the technology pathways that could support the delivery of major infrastructure while contributing to Western Australia's transition to a lower-emissions future.

Suppliers of low-emission fuels, equipment or supporting infrastructure are encouraged to contact Westport at enquiries@westport.wa.gov.au.

Innovation Hub connects industry ideas with future port priorities



Western Australia's future container port is being designed during a period of rapid change in trade, technology and supply chains. The [Westport Innovation Hub](#) provides a dedicated pathway for industry, researchers, technology providers and start-ups to put forward ideas that could support the future container port system.

Focused on real challenges

The Hub is seeking innovations that improve the efficiency, sustainability and resilience of the future port and supporting infrastructure. Current priority areas include net zero and resource efficiency, environmental outcomes, container supply chain efficiency, productivity and safety.

Ideas submitted through the Innovation Hub are assessed against Westport's goals, delivery needs and timeframes, providing an opportunity to contribute to solving real-world challenges across the future port system.

Innovation enabled by industry

Westport is enabling and accelerating innovation by bringing together the expertise of designers, contractors, operators, researchers and technology providers.

If your organisation is developing solutions that could support the future port and supply chain, we encourage you to [explore the Innovation Hub](#) and submit your idea.

Innovation in action Seagrass restoration trials

Westport is putting its innovation process to work in Cockburn Sound using early market engagement to test seagrass restoration methods in advance of the commencement of construction.

Building on independent, peer-reviewed marine science from the WAMSI Westport Marine Science Program, Westport sought multiple providers to trial both proven and emerging restoration approaches.

The first stream of trials engages delivery-ready methodologies for trial in 2026, while a second stream looks to engage emerging technologies and approaches for trial in subsequent years of the trial.

The Seagrass Restoration Trials conducted through an open market process will compare different methods, test performance in local conditions and build the evidence base needed to inform long-term restoration planning in Cockburn Sound.

First phase of marine geotechnical investigations completed

The initial fieldwork for Westport's marine geotechnical investigations has been completed.

The investigations covered the footprint for the proposed new shipping channel from the deep water channel to the top of Cockburn Sound, container terminal and the Kwinana Bulk Terminal (KBT) redevelopment.

The work began in July 2025 to collect samples from the seabed and analyse them to find out the type, depths, strength and even age of soil and rock conditions.

This data is being used to inform decision making and planning across the program, such as the design optimisation process for the container terminal, the management plan for the dredging program and the environmental impact assessment for the container terminal and KBT redevelopment.

Further marine geotechnical investigations are being planned as the design for the container terminal is refined through the work by Westport's Marine and Port Infrastructure Technical Advisor.





Side by side: Coordinating Westport and AUKUS in Cockburn Sound

Westport is the State Government's solution to a slow-burning, substantial problem – that is, how do we accommodate future container trade growth once Fremantle Port reaches capacity? While the problem has been contemplated for decades and multiple attempts at solutions were made, the State formally commenced Westport in 2017 to tackle the looming issue.

In August 2020 [Kwinana was announced](#) as the preferred new container port location following extensive engagement and consideration of over 20 options.

Just over a year later, in September 2021 the Commonwealth announced the AUKUS agreement – a trilateral security partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States that will support Australia's future conventionally armed nuclear-powered submarines. In March 2023 Western Australia was announced as being at the forefront of Australia's AUKUS Pathway, with Henderson confirmed as the location for the future Defence Precinct in October 2024.

Cross-Government collaboration

Since the first major Westport announcement in 2020, planning has continued with information shared across Government agencies – information about Westport and AUKUS – as both mega projects have evolved.

For example, Westport engaged Defence during 2023 through the process to determine the [Business Case design](#) – the optimal configuration for the future container terminal and supporting road and rail infrastructure through Kwinana. Defence was also engaged on the proposed timelines for the future container terminal. Throughout this process, no concerns have been raised by Defence.

Since 2025, there has been considerable collaboration between the proponents behind major metropolitan infrastructure projects proposed over the coming decades. Several working groups and roundtable forums have created a platform for collaboration between projects — guiding strategy on basic raw materials, procurement, project pipeline, workforce demand and materials and components.

A strategic region where multiple uses coexist

Cockburn Sound, the Kwinana Industrial Area and the wider Western Trade Coast are already home to a wide range of important activities, including commercial shipping, freight logistics, defence operations, shipbuilding, ship maintenance, industry and recreation.

This reflects the direction articulated in the [Western Trade Coast Industrial Strategy](#), which flags “critical enabler” projects including the future container terminal in Kwinana and upgrades to Anketell Road, both of which form part of the Westport Program. The Strategy also sets out a long-term vision for multiple industries and strategic activities to coexist across the Western Trade Coast, including renewable hydrogen, future-facing minerals processing, shipbuilding and sustainment, and port-related logistics.

Notably, shipbuilding and sustainment plays a considerable role for the defence sector in the Western Trade Coast context, centred on the Australian Marine Complex and linked to naval shipbuilding, vessel sustainment and AUKUS-related opportunities.

Focused on Western Australia's future

Westport remains focused on its central purpose – delivering the port facilities and freight connections Western Australia will need for future generations.

The program is progressing through detailed planning, design and environmental assessment to ensure WA's future container terminal supports economic growth, supply chain resilience and creates long-term benefits for the State.

As planning continues, Westport will keep working across State and Commonwealth Government, including with Defence, to help deliver infrastructure that supports Western Australia's future prosperity.



We answer your frequently asked questions

How is Westport learning from the most efficient ports globally to apply here in Western Australia?

Westport is learning from leading ports around the world by looking beyond the port itself and considering how the entire freight network operates. Through our integrated supply chain modelling, we're testing how port, road, rail and intermodal infrastructure work together to improve efficiency, resilience and long-term performance.

We're also bringing global expertise and operational experience into the design process early, including input from experienced terminal operators and international marine and ports specialists to help test assumptions and reduce delivery risk. At the same time, we're adopting lessons from leading ports such as Singapore, Antwerp-Bruges and Hamburg by embedding digital capability, smart-port readiness and decarbonisation into planning, ensuring the future port can adapt to changing technologies, supply chains and sustainability expectations.

Have a question for Westport? Email: enquiries@westport.wa.gov.au

