

Managing Director's Message

The release of Infrastructure Western Australia's (IWA) assessment of the Westport business case marked an important milestone, providing independent assurance for the WA Government to proceed with planning a new port.

IWA's role is to advise Government whether business cases contain sufficient information to progress an investment decision. In Westport's case, IWA found there was sufficient information and justification to proceed with the next stage of development for the preferred 'Westport Now' option, ensuring a new container port at Kwinana would be ready for transition when Fremantle reaches capacity in the late 2030s.

Westport also flagged in its Business Case that its operating environment had changed with major projects now potentially being developed in a similar timeframe that could create risks if not managed properly. These projects include:

- the Australian Government's investment in a consolidated defence precinct at the Henderson shipyard and expansion of HMAS Stirling
- the redevelopment of the Kwinana Bulk Terminal and the expansion of Kwinana Bulk Jetty – integral to WA's critical supply chain for bulk commodities including fuel, fertiliser, and cement clinker
- planned State Government investments in Water Corporation's Perth Seawater Desalination Plant and Kwinana Strategic Industrial Area

IWA noted and repeated that risk in its advice to Government on the Business Case. Our Westport Office has worked with IWA to bring together major State, Commonwealth and private infrastructure projects, as well as industry, to explore how we can manage this pipeline over the coming decade.

This initiative aims to establish a framework where the various 'mega-projects' collaboratively identify and manage shared risks, while leveraging joint opportunities, such as in workforce planning and material sourcing, to optimise successful program delivery.

IWA's advice provides the WA Government with the confidence to continue detailed planning and design, including the procurement of specialist advice to support this major undertaking.

I welcome the State Government's recent commitment of an additional \$17.4 million to support community and environmental initiatives in the Cockburn Sound area, including artificial reefs, seagrass restoration, and improved horse-riding amenities in the region.

This month marks a significant milestone for the Program, with the commencement of marine geotechnical investigations.

A \$22 million contract has been awarded to WSP Australia to carry out this essential work, which plays a critical role in advancing the design of marine infrastructure ahead of construction.

I am encouraged to see that this is being delivered with the support of primarily local subcontractors, including:

- CMW Geosciences partnered with WSP Australia to deliver the works
- Soil Mechanics, delivering geotechnical drilling
- Australian Barge Hire, supplying jack-up barges
- Probedrill, delivering cone penetration testing
- Jetwave Marine, providing support vessels and marine operations coordination.

In this edition, we also highlight our ongoing collaboration with industry and government to explore the use of recycled materials and better manage the materials pipeline needed to support Western Australia's infrastructure future.



**Read the
IWA Report here**

[Major infrastructure proposal
summary assessment report
Westport](#)

Patrick Seares

Managing Director, Westport

Redefining Construction Practices

As one of the largest infrastructure projects ever undertaken in WA, Westport will demand a significant share of the state’s raw construction materials including concrete, asphalt, steel and aggregates (like rock and sand).

Such demand poses challenges. For example, how do we proactively manage the quantity of materials required for the timely delivery of Westport, whilst alleviating undue pressure on the market and conserving scarce resources?

To address these challenges, Westport is collaborating with other major infrastructure initiatives to coordinate material requirements.

Partnering with Infrastructure WA, Westport recently convened forums with Defence, Perth Airport, and industry bodies such as Civil Contractors Federation (CCF), Cement Concrete & Aggregates Australia (CCAA), and the Concrete Institute of Australia (CCA), to assess the extensive pipeline of upcoming projects within the Western Trade Corridor and beyond.

This proactive approach seeks to provide the market with clarity on lead times and prepare for the accelerated pace of construction.

Beyond managing immediate needs, Westport is seizing a unique opportunity to innovate. We are exploring alternative technologies and materials for use in major road, rail, and port marine and land construction projects. This includes investigating the use of safe recycled materials and industrial by-products, such as Incinerated Bottom Ash Aggregates (IBAA), Lithium Mining Waste (DBS), manufactured sands, nickel slag, crushed recycled concrete (CRC), biochar, and calcined clays.

These initiatives not only aim to reduce reliance on imported, high-emission materials but also seek to foster a more sustainable and resilient local material supply chain.

This is a once-in-a-generation chance to rewrite the playbook—challenging the status quo and setting a new standard for sustainable infrastructure development.

Next stage of design for state-critical infrastructure

Work is underway on the definition planning for the new Kwinana Bulk Terminal (KBT).

In collaboration with Fremantle Ports, Westport is leading the delivery of the marine structures for the new Kwinana Bulk Terminal (KBT). The two agencies are working together to identify the functional requirements for the new facility and how it will integrate with existing landside facilities.

Studies include the structural form and the types of materials needed for the infrastructure, market engagement and solutions to de-risk the schedule and minimise environmental and heritage impacts.

Enabling works, including supply and stockpiling of long lead items, will be determined during the design development studies.

Construction works are expected to commence in the late 2020s.

KBT is critical infrastructure for WA, serving as the import facility for all of the state’s clinker, a key component of cement production. Now approaching the end of its operational life, redevelopment of this ageing infrastructure will be integrated into the future Westport container terminal.



Beneath the Surface

Marine geotechnical investigations propel planning

To support the next stage of design for Westport ahead of procurement, we have commenced marine geotechnical investigations in Cockburn Sound and up through Gage Roads to the open water channel.

Marine geotechnical investigations involve drilling below the seabed to collect soil and rock samples, allowing us to assess the underground composition and condition of the project area.

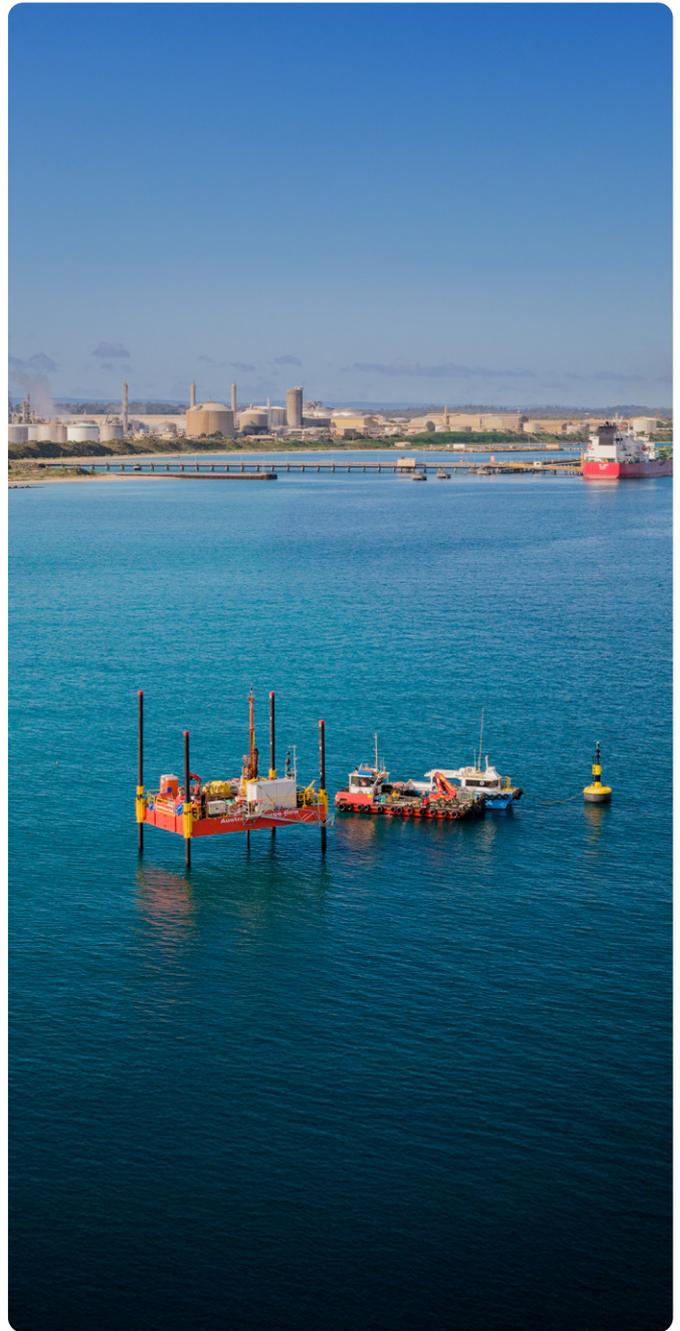
These investigations mark an exciting step forward for Westport. The information and data gathered is essential to further refine the design of the marine infrastructure for future construction.

The investigations are being carried out from two jack-up barges, scheduled to operate across the area until late 2026.

The investigations are being coordinated with Fremantle Ports and have minimal impact on existing commercial and recreational activities. However, there is a buffer zone of approximately 50m applied around the survey operations to ensure the safety of works and other water users.

The marine geotechnical investigations were formally launched at Cockburn Sound with a Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony led by Nick Abraham of Warrang-Bridil, who shared stories about Noongar history, including the movement of the Rainbow Serpent throughout Perth and Derbal Nara (Cockburn Sound).

For more information [click here](#).





Road network planning underway

A dedicated project team has been established to progress detailed planning and development for upgrades to Anketell Road.

Main Roads, through the Office of Major Transport Infrastructure Delivery (OMTID), has established a *Westport Roads Integrated Project Team (IPT)*. Over the coming 18 months, the team is undertaking a range of activities to define the scope and design for the upgrading of Anketell Road west of the Kwinana Freeway.

This is the first stage of the future Anketell Thomas Road Freight Corridor (ATRFC) – the long-term plan for a strategic east-west freight link between Kwinana and Tonkin Highway in Oakford. Main Roads and the IPT will also complete planning for the section east of Kwinana Freeway to inform a future planning scheme amendment.

The Anketell Road upgrade is currently not funded for construction, however definition will ensure the upgrade is ready to proceed following a Government investment decision.

For more information and to sign up for **Anketell Road project updates**, visit the [project page](#).

Working with Westport

Many businesses have expressed an interest in working with Westport. Westport sits within the WA Department of Transport and Major Infrastructure and is subject to all State Government procurement processes. While we're not always able to accommodate individual meetings, we welcome your interest and are keen to hear from businesses who want to engage with Westport.

Businesses interested in being involved with Westport are encouraged to subscribe to receive procurement and tender updates at: westport.wa.gov.au/contact/subscribe.



Latest tender award

WSP Australia has been awarded a \$22 million contract to deliver marine geotechnical investigations for Westport, providing critical seabed and sub-seabed data to further refine the design of the marine infrastructure.

This work is being delivered with the support of mostly local sub-contractors including CMW Geosciences, Soil Mechanics, Australian Barge Hire, Probedrill and Jetwave Marine.

For more information and to read the State Government statement [click here](#).

Join the Conversation on more sustainable materials!

Are you an innovator, business or supplier interested in low carbon, more circular materials?

We want to hear from you! Reach out to us via enquiries@westport.wa.gov.au to register your interest for future engagements.

