



# Westport's Noongar Opportunity Strategy

Published in March 2023, the Westport Noongar Opportunities Strategy is guiding Westport to ensure that the development of the new port facilities and supply chain infrastructure benefits Noongar communities.

The Strategy was developed in collaboration with Westport's

Noongar Advisory Group, who comprises Traditional Owners, Elders and Leaders of local Noongar people elected by Noongar communities.

The Noongar Advisory Group brings together Noongar people from across the Perth Region, including members of Gnaala Karla Booja and Whadjuk Aboriginal Corporations.

## About Westport

Westport is the State Government's planning program to develop a future modern container port facility in the Kwinana Outer Harbour, which currently services heavy industry, and transition container trade from Fremantle to Kwinana. The proposed design encompasses marine infrastructure and a freight network, including road, rail, and logistics hubs.

We are currently in Stage 3 of Westport, which covers design, planning, environmental review, and business case, to be delivered to the State Government for consideration in mid-2024.

## October 2023 – March 2024 Highlights



Westport Managing Director, Patrick Seares, presenting to key stakeholders

**It was a busy 6 months for the Westport Program between October 2023 and the end of March 2024. We reached a massive milestone, with the release of a preferred design for WA's future container supply chain.**

The preferred design was a result of an extensive assessment process, which included significant engagement and data gathering. Westport's Noongar Advisory Group was engaged throughout this process. Their input and actions from the Noongar Opportunities Strategy helped inform the preferred design.

For example:

- Data from cultural and spiritual mapping, a project requested by the Noongar Advisory Group, helped ensure that the preferred design avoids significant sites identified by cultural knowledge holders.
- Westport staff underwent a cultural awareness training program developed with input from the Noongar Advisory Group, which provided knowledge specific to the Traditional Owners of the project area.

- The Noongar Advisory Group was briefed on the preferred design concept and had an opportunity to provide feedback.

The role of the Noongar Advisory Group in Westport's design process was recognised at an event for key stakeholders in November 2023

At the event, the Deputy Premier and Westport Managing Director unpacked the preferred design to a room of key people representing diverse expertise and knowledge, who had contributed to the design process and helped us get the best outcome for WA.

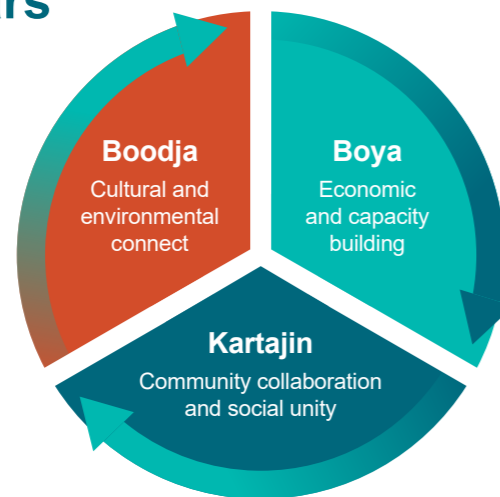


**Patrick Seares,**  
Managing Director  
Westport

## Our strategic pillars

Our initiatives will be guided by our 3 strategic pillars:

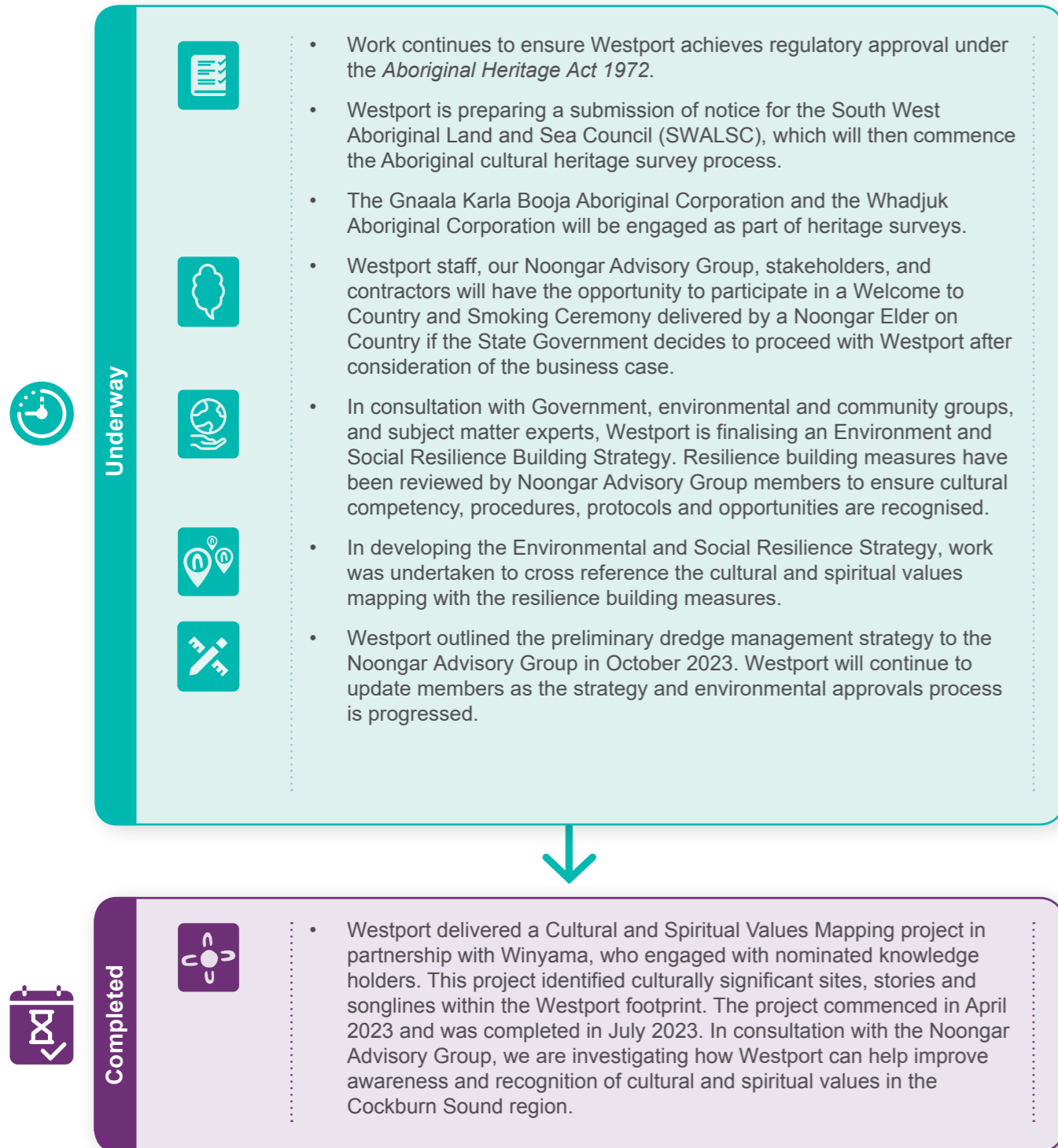
- Boodja - Cultural and environmental connect
- Boya - Economic and capacity building
- Kartajin - Community collaboration and social unity



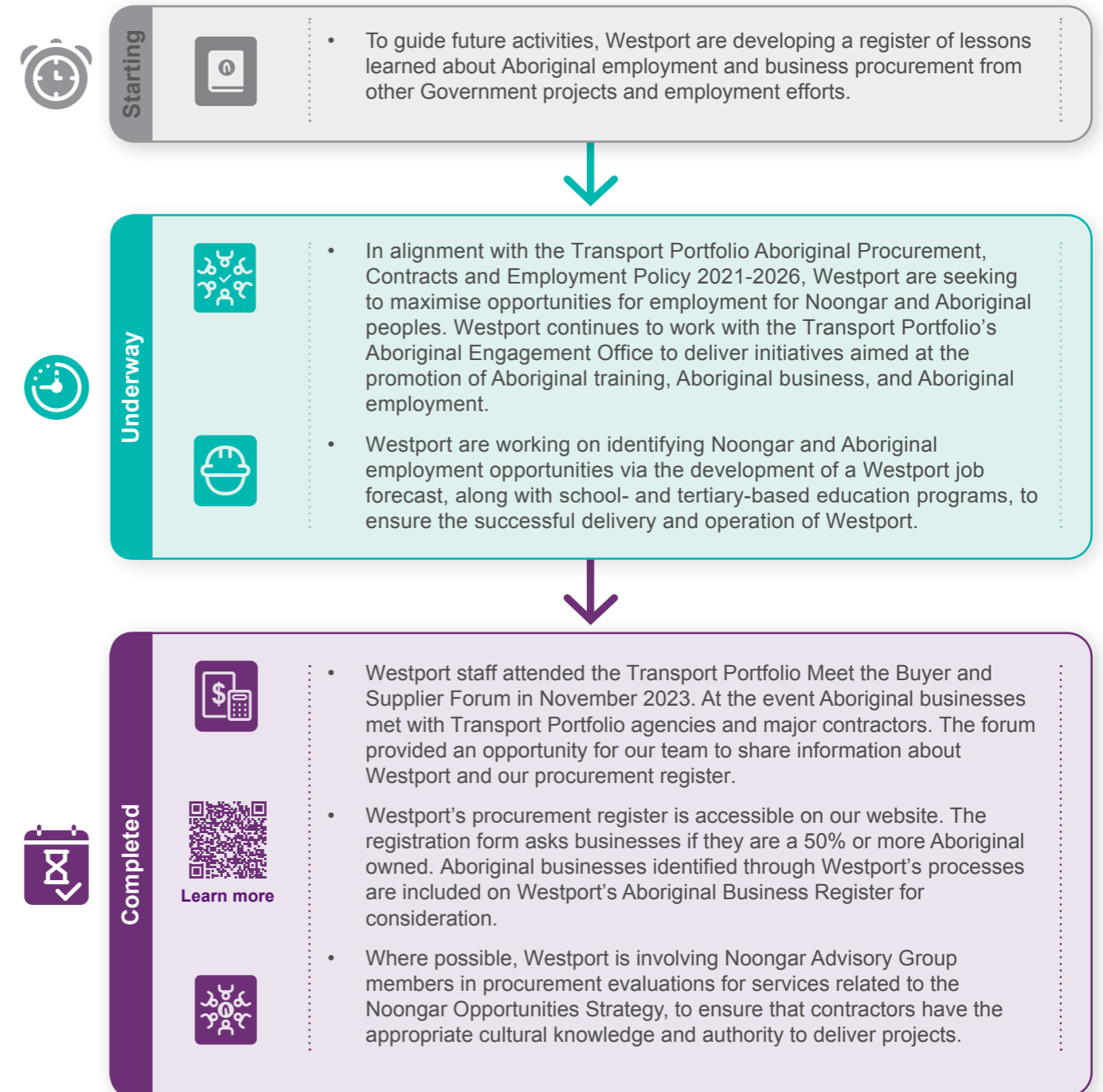
These pillars are connected as are Noongar people's culture, country and economy.

Pillar	Boodja	Boya	Kartajin
<b>Outcomes we want to see</b>	<b>The port and landside design are shaped by country and culture</b>	<b>Noongar businesses have a significant opportunity in the project's development and operational stages</b>	<b>Local Noongar peoples are helped to re-connect with culture and country</b>
<b>Key directions for</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mapping of storylines, songlines and heritage places</li> <li>Building country and cultural features into engineering consultancies</li> <li>Ensuring cultural values influence priorities for mitigation and offset programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Including Noongar people in Stage 3 projects (where possible)</li> <li>Building capacity for participating in the construction project</li> <li>Identifying jobs for the future operations and start training for the Noongar community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wide-ranging engagement with the Noongar communities</li> <li>Sharing cultural mapping and science on totems with communities</li> <li>Understanding what local people want protected and enhanced</li> </ul>

## Boodja - cultural and environmental connections actions



## Boya - economic and capacity building actions



2023 Transport Portfolio Meet the Buyer and Supplier Forum



## Kartajin – community collaboration and social unity actions



Underway



- Aboriginal economic opportunities will form a key aspect of the Westport workforce strategy. The contract to progress this Strategy has been awarded, with work expected to continue into Stage 4.



Completed



- Westport workstream leads and consultants continue to meet with representative from the Noongar Advisory Group on Country.
- Westport partnered with Optimal Personnel Services for the delivery of Cultural Awareness Training (completed in August 2023). The training module was tailored to Westport, with content informed by the Westport's Noongar Advisory Group. Following the training the team was invited to provide feedback on the experience.
- Westport have committed to cultural awareness and safety training for construction sub-contracts and contractors in Stage 4.
- The Westport Noongar Advisory Group continue to meet regularly to provide Westport with advice on Noongar Opportunities Strategy initiatives.
- The Marine Mitigation Working Group, Terrestrial Mitigation Working Group and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Reference Group were established in 2023. These groups include a representative from the Noongar Advisory Group so that related initiatives can be informed by cultural knowledge.



Westport team participating in cultural awareness training

## Westport's Cultural Awareness Training – what the team said:

“ The patience and openness to talk about difficult subjects was deeply appreciated, as was their ability to make the learning experience fun and engaging. I haven't stopped talking about how impactful this session was, can't wait for more opportunities to learn from Marilee and Dennis.”



Westport staff at cultural awareness training deliver by Optimal Services



“ A wonderfully interesting and engaging experience. The facilitators did an amazing job in presenting vital information dealing with heavy, intense issues. They provided a safe and welcoming space that allowed and encouraged Westport staff opportunities to actively engage and ask important questions relevant to our work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.”

“ I found this training immensely informative, and it highlighted to me that we have an obligation as non-indigenous people in Australia to understand connection to country and play a part, where we can, in supporting the recovery from generational trauma and ensure mistakes of the past are not allowed to be repeated.”



Throughout this report we feature artwork from Noongar artist, Peter Farmer.

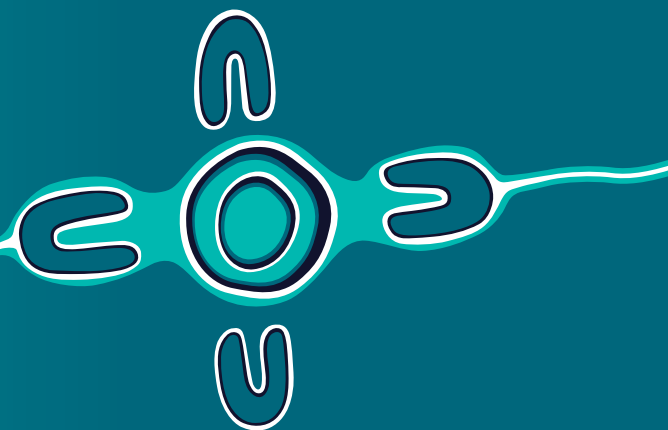
In 2022, Westport commissioned Peter to create an artwork exploring the journey of Westport and the Noongar Community.

Westport came together with the Noongar Advisory Group for guidance on the inspirations for the artwork.

“ The three lines throughout the artwork represent our journey together through the ‘past’, ‘present’ and ‘future’. It includes strong Noongar Totems for each of the canvases.

“ This includes the Yonga for resilience and tenacity. It also includes the special Noongar Ocean Totems that are of great significance to the region and the Noongar people.”

**Peter Farmer**



## Further Information

To find out more about the Westport Program and our Noongar Opportunities Strategy, visit [www.westport.wa.gov.au](http://www.westport.wa.gov.au)