

Freight Rail Upgrades

Community update



October 2025

Improving capacity of our freight rail network

Freight rail is the safest and most efficient way to transport containers. Freight rail currently moves around 20% of shipping containers in and out of the Fremantle Inner Harbour, the highest percentage of containers on rail in Australia.

By the mid 2030s, without additional infrastructure upgrades, Fremantle's single-line freight rail network will reach capacity. In the long-term, there are limited options to increase Fremantle's freight rail capacity due to existing constraints.

By moving container trade to the Kwinana Outer Harbour, we have an opportunity to improve the connectivity of the freight rail network and increase the overall percentage of containers on rail.

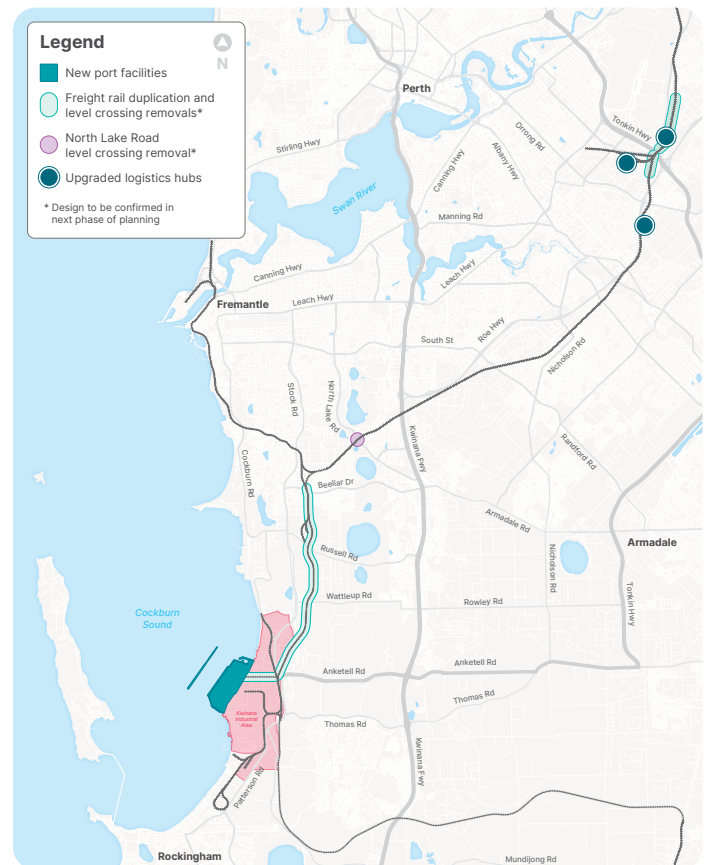
Proposed upgrades to the freight rail network

Westport's preferred design for the new port facilities in Kwinana and the container trade supply chain includes upgrades to the existing freight rail line between the Kwinana Industrial Area and Perth's north-east logistics hub.

The freight rail upgrades include:

- A new freight rail line connecting the new port facilities to the existing network east of Rockingham Road.
- Duplicating approximately 8.4km of the freight rail line between Kwinana and the Cockburn Triangle, near Beeliar Drive in Cockburn.
- Removing the road and pedestrian level crossings at the freight rail line intersections between Kwinana and Cockburn.
- Removing the North Lake Road freight rail line level crossing.

As part of Westport's preferred design, additional freight rail duplication near Forrestfield will also be required some time in the 2050s to support connection with the Kenwick, Kewdale and Forrestfield logistics hubs.



Rail upgrade benefits

The freight rail network upgrades will improve efficiency and safety.

Removing road and pedestrian level crossings improves safety and prevents freight trains from causing traffic delays. Increasing the capacity and efficiency of the freight rail line will also support and enable a higher "mode share" - the percentage of containers transported by rail rather than road.

These upgrades will:



Make our roads safer and reduce congestion



Reduce the carbon footprint of transporting containers



Increase the efficiency of transporting containers, and therefore the cost of goods moved by containers

Frequently Asked Questions

What percentage of containers will be moved by rail?

Preliminary modelling suggests we can increase the number of containers on rail from 20% to 30%. Based on trade forecasts this would result in an average increase of 1 train (round trip) per day when the new Kwinana port facilities commence operations in the late 2030s.

These numbers refer exclusively to containers and exclude other commodities transported by rail. The actual number of container trains could be influenced by several factors including train length, train destination and commercial decisions by freight operators. While preliminary planning has been completed, this will be further explored during project definition.

How will freight rail noise be managed?

Noise impacts for new or upgraded freight rail lines are managed according to the Western Australian Planning Commission State Planning Policy 5.4 Road and Rail Noise

www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/state-planning-policy-54-road-and-rail-noise

Community consultation about freight rail noise will be a key component of the project planning definition phase.

Next steps

2025 - 2026

Procurement of a rail project design team

2026

Rail project design team begins multi-year "definition stage" activities, including:

- Community and stakeholder engagement
- Geotechnical and environmental site investigations
- Detailed engineering design and construction planning
- Noise assessment
- Determination of noise mitigation requirements

Late 2020s / early 2030s

Construction likely to commence following a final investment.

Late 2030s

New port and rail upgrades operational

Register for Community Consultation



Community consultation will commence in 2026, during the definition phase of the rail upgrades project.

To register your interest and to complete our community consultation planning survey, please scan the QR code or visit <https://westport.wa.gov.au/planning/rail-network/>

If you have specific questions or would like to speak with us directly, please email enquiries@westport.wa.gov.au



Register for the Westport Freight Rail Upgrades Project consultation



Westport WA



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