



Westport Noongar Opportunities Strategy

Actions Report:
March 2024 – September 2024

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.

About this Progress Report

Westport is committed to biannual reporting on the progress of Noongar opportunities initiatives in alignment with our Noongar Opportunities Strategy.

This is our third progress report, with the next review expected in early 2025. To view previous reports, visit our [website](#).

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.

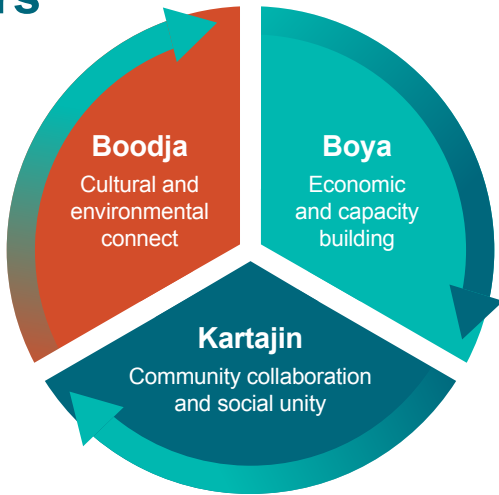
The Noongar Advisory Group brings together Noongar people from across the Perth Region, including members of Gnaala Karla Booja and Whadjuk Aboriginal Corporations.

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

Stages of Westport

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



March 2024 – September 2024 Update

As we approach the end of Stage 3 (2020 – 2024) 'Business Case and Definition Design' and the start of Stage 4 'Define and Deliver Westport' I feel a great sense of accomplishment reflecting on our work with the Noongar Community. During the last few years, we've established a community-elected Noongar Advisory Group, and in-hand with them, developed the Westport Noongar Opportunities Strategy and Action Plan. Like all areas of Westport, our Strategy is ambitious. We are seeking to set a new standard in Aboriginal participation and engagement in infrastructure delivery and operations. It's our vision a port and trade network, shaped by country and culture, that benefits Noongar people as well as wider communities.

Guided by our Noongar Advisory Group, we've completed the first ever, large-scale cultural and spiritual mapping process in Cockburn Sound, as well as lay the foundation for success in future stages of Westport. This includes mapping cultural values and commencing heritage surveys to protect sites of significance to Noongar peoples, working across Government to improve opportunities and outcomes

for Aboriginal businesses during design, construction and operations of large-scale infrastructure, as well as ensuring Noongar people are represented in the development of resilience building measures for their Country.

I'm excited for Stage 4 where we will continue to work closely with the Noongar Community. A key focus of stage 4 will be ensuring the future workforce is prepared for the opportunities a new port and supply chain provides. This includes getting kids interested at school and shaping pathways for further education, as well considering how to increase Aboriginal participation across the program.

I look forward to continuing to share this journey with you over the coming years.



Patrick Seares,
Managing Director
Westport

As of August 2024,
Westport recorded:



17 out of 28 Noongar Opportunities Strategy actions as complete.



An additional 4 actions on track for completion in Stage 3.



6 actions* to be transferred to Stage 4.



1 action** was not completed.

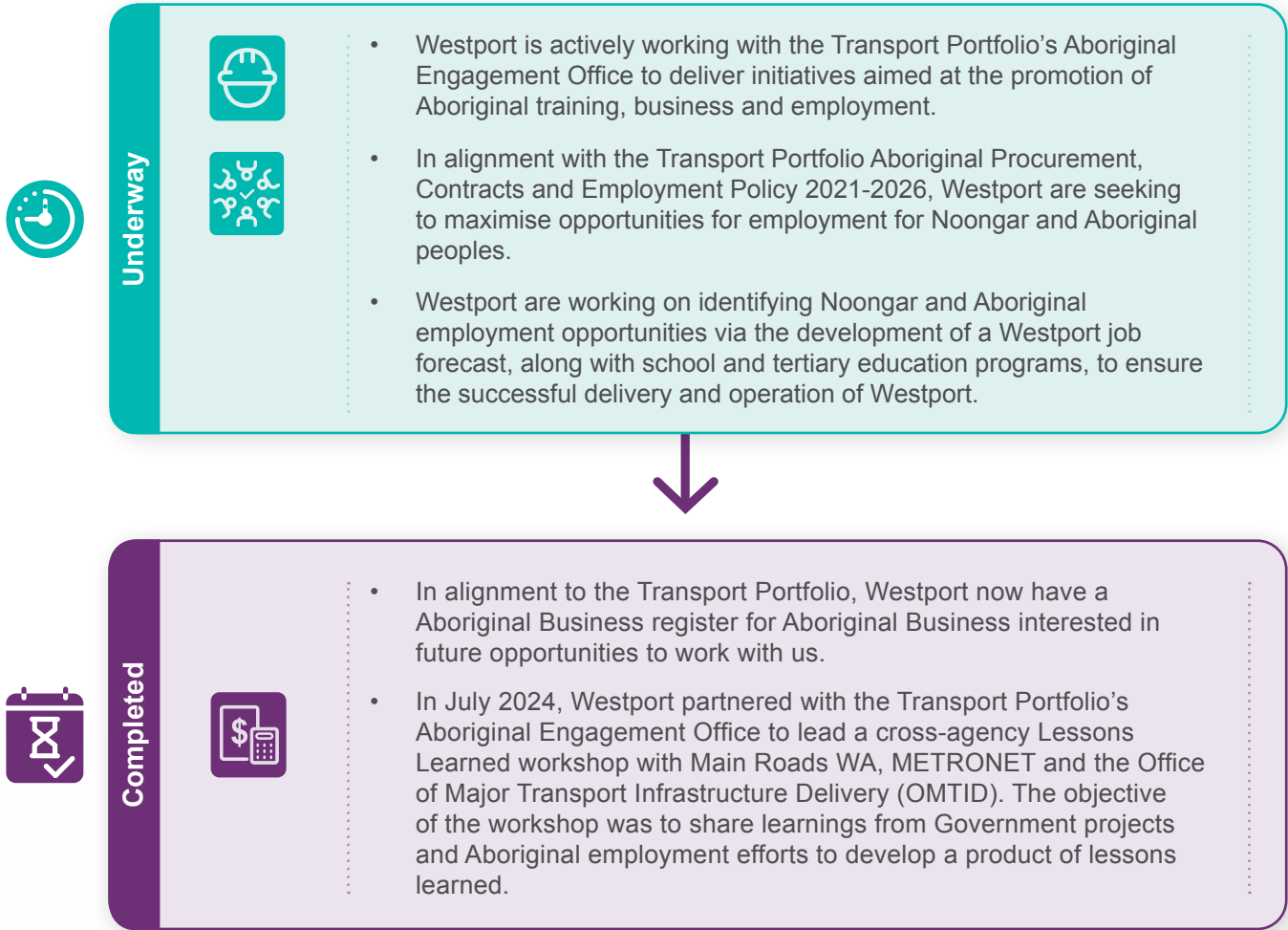


26 Stage 4 initiatives are underway for delivery in the next stage.

*Westport were unable to deliver 6 actions within Stage 3. However, we will continue to work towards delivery of these actions in Stage 4.

**Though this action was unable to be delivered, Westport will continue to look for similar opportunities in the future.

Boya - economic and capacity building actions



Boya Highlights

Lessons learned from leaders in infrastructure

In July, Westport partnered with the Transport Portfolio Aboriginal Engagement Team to facilitate an inter-agency Lessons Learned workshop, focusing on the initiatives and activities taken by agencies to boost Aboriginal participation and employment in the delivery of major infrastructure projects.

The workshop included representatives from Main Roads, METRONET, the Office of Major Transport Infrastructure Delivery (OMTID), the Transport Portfolio Aboriginal Engagement (TPAE) and Westport. Co-facilitated by Danny Ford and Helen Reid, participants were encouraged reflect on what did or did not work well to boost Aboriginal participation during major projects.

By capturing key lessons from previous major infrastructure projects, Westport is aiming to understand success factors that can be incorporated in our approach to Aboriginal engagement whilst avoiding those elements that were not effective.

These lessons learned and insights will inform Westport's approach to maximise employment and procurement opportunities for the Noongar community throughout the program's lifecycle and across industry and government. Beyond Westport, we hope our approach sets a standard for best practice, and that the lessons we capture can guide future projects to maximise Aboriginal participation in the delivery and operation of State significant infrastructure.

Calling all Noongar and Aboriginal businesses – Register with Westport!

As part of our commitment to maximise procurement and employment opportunities for the future stages of Westport, in collaboration with the Transport Portfolio Aboriginal Engagement Team, we have developed a business register of Noongar and Aboriginal businesses.

Westport also have our own [online business register](#) where companies can register their interest in receiving notifications about opportunities to work with Westport. As part of this register, businesses can identify if they are at least 50% Aboriginal-owned.

Looking to the future

Beyond the construction stage, the terminal will need a skilled workforce to operate the modern port over the next century. This will include engineers, health and safety services, traffic controllers, data management and IT specialists. Related industries near the port such as border force and customs, trucking and logistics operators and empty container park management, will also lead to new employment opportunities across the Kwinana area.

We want to invest in the future workforce early, so that we have the skills and expertise need to support Westport over the coming decades.

We are still working out what this looks like, but are considering how to get local, First Nation school kids excited about the new port and the opportunities it brings. Going forward we will investigate how we can connect students to tertiary education opportunities, so that they are ready to meet the future skills demand created by this project.

Boodja - Cultural and environmental connect



Underway



- Westport has commenced the Aboriginal cultural heritage survey process (outlined in the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972) with a submission of notice for the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC). The Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation and the Whadjuk Aboriginal Corporation have been engaged as part of Westport’s heritage surveys. Eight Noongar local elders have been nominated by SWALSC as part of the Noongar Standard Heritage Agreement and the Noongar Alternative Heritage Agreement for both Gnaala Karla Booja and Whadjuk groups. The local elders nominated will work alongside our heritage consultants to complete the Aboriginal cultural heritage survey process. Additional knowledge holders have been identified for consultation regarding the Indian Ocean.
- Through our Noongar Advisory Group, Westport’s stakeholders and contractors will have the opportunity to participate in a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony. This will be delivered by a Noongar Elder on Country if the State Government decides to proceed with Westport after consideration of the Stage 3 Business Case.
- In consultation with Government, environmental and community groups, and subject matter experts, Westport is finalising an Environment and Social Resilience Building Strategy. Resilience building measures have been reviewed by Noongar Advisory Group members, and cross-referenced with Cultural and Spiritual Mapping data. One archaeological survey day has taken place, with a further day to be arranged once further engagement has been completed and sites finalised.

Boodja Highlights

A step forward: Heritage surveys underway

The Westport Aboriginal cultural heritage process is now underway through Archae-aus, a prominent consultant in this field.

To date, three ethnographic survey and one archaeological survey days have taken place, with a further archaeological survey to be arranged in consultation with Traditional Owners.

Through this process, a Cultural Heritage Management Plan will be developed which will outline the obligations regarding the protection and management impacts to cultural heritage sites in proximity of the Westport project area. All Westport staff and contractors undertaking intrusive works will be required to comply with Westport’s Cultural Heritage Management Plan to ensure cultural heritage sites are appropriately managed during works.

State-first cultural mapping of Cockburn Sound

We now have a comprehensive digital map of the cultural and spiritual values within Cockburn Sound and the surrounding area. This includes songlines, historical sites, native flora and fauna, and contemporary uses within the Kwinana Area. Mapping of this extent is a first for Cockburn Sound and will help ensure that locations of cultural significance could be considered throughout Westport’s design process.


Westport received permission to use the data, to inform planning and decision-making including:

- Westport’s multi-criteria analysis (MCA) process to determine the preferred design option.
- The Westport Environment and Social Resilience Building Strategy.

Strong assurances were provided by Westport regarding the treatment and use of the data through Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) protocol. For more information, please visit our [website](#).



Kartajin - Community collaboration and social unity



Underway

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

Kartajin Highlights

The Westport Noongar Advisory Group

Westport continues engagement with the Noongar Advisory Group (NAG) and Regional Aboriginal Corporations (RAC). We meet quarterly with the advisory group with additional extraordinary meetings scheduled when more frequent engagement is identified as required.

The NAG was formed back in 2021 to ensure Westport was guided appropriately by Noongar people with the authority to provide Noongar cultural, spiritual, community, and environmental advice. It also provided a conduit back to the wider Noongar community.

Under the guidance of this group, in Stage 3 Westport:

- Developed the Westport Noongar Opportunities Strategy and Action Plan
- Attended a welcome to Country and smoking ceremony with Noongar Advisory Group members
- Commissioned of Noongar artwork and incorporated it across Westport's branding
- Mapped the cultural and spiritual values associated with Cockburn Sound
- Built a register of Aboriginal businesses for consideration in future stages
- Coordinated tailored cultural awareness training for all Westport staff

Our journey with the Noongar community is still in it's early stages. Over the coming decades as we move into delivery and operations, our collaboration with the community will only increase as we seek to optimise the opportunities for Noongar people created by this project and the wider growth of the Western Trade Coast.





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

