

Community Survey

What we heard



September 2024



Westport is the State Government's planning program to move container trade from Fremantle to Kwinana, to future proof our economy for the next century.

This includes new container port facilities in the Kwinana Industrial Area, supported by an upgraded road, rail and logistics network.

To realise this once in a life-time-opportunity, Westport has committed to plan, build and operate the most sustainable port in Australia, which means supporting the long-term health of Cockburn Sound. [Find out more.](#)

Thank you for responding!

We know there's lots of questions about Westport. To help us understand what's important to the community, we ran a survey between 18 September 2023 and 31 May 2024. We received 812 responses.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the survey. This report summarises your feedback, reflecting the views of the community about Westport. The findings will help us address the things you care about most, inform ongoing planning, and future communication and engagement activities.



812
responses



Cities of Rockingham, Cockburn and Kwinana
top 3 most represented areas

The top 5 things we need to get right, in planning for Westport:

1



Marine environment

2



Road upgrades

3



Freight rail

4



Terrestrial environment

5



Local traffic

44%

rate their knowledge of Westport as 'good' or 'very good'

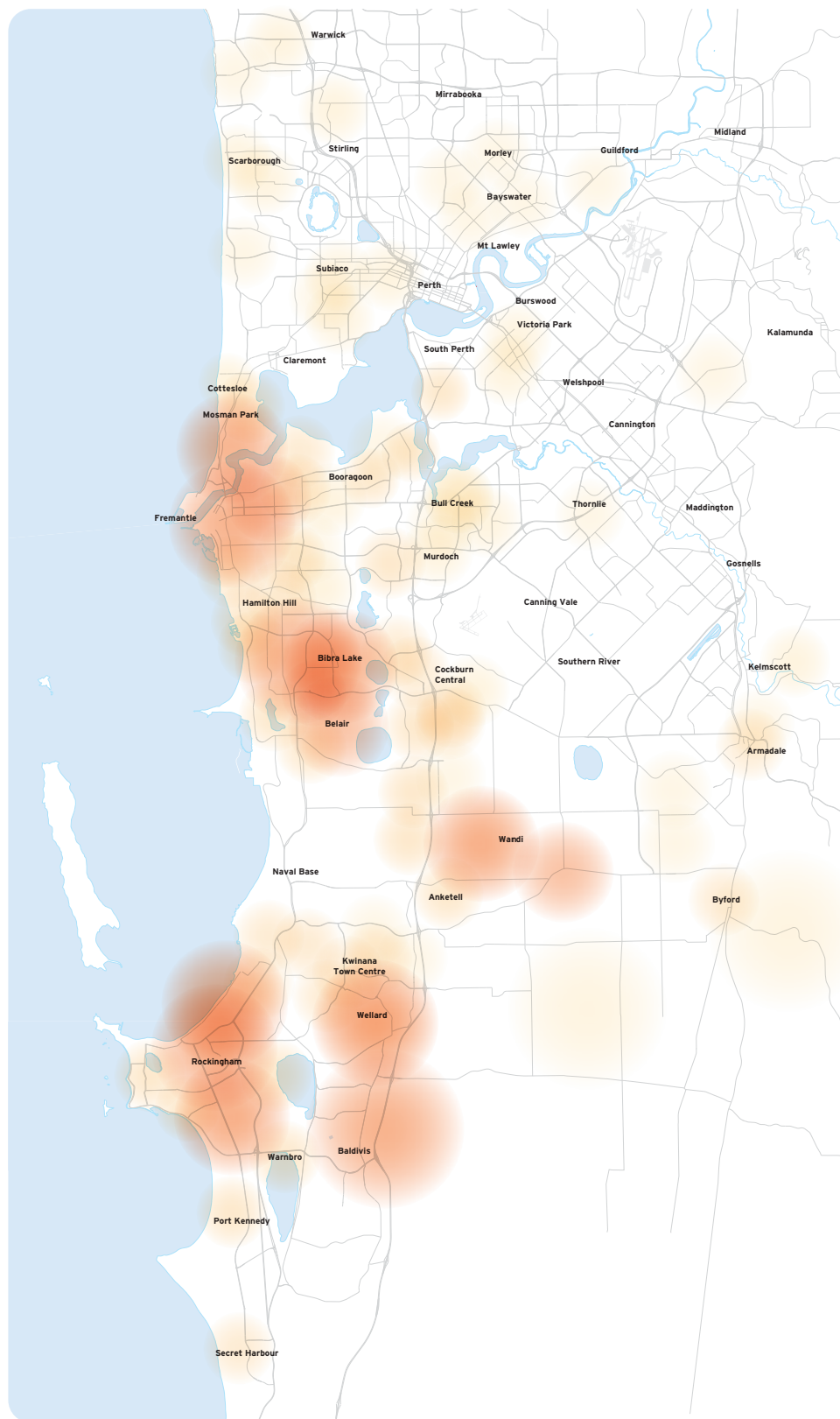
71%

think that Westport is 'important', 'fairly important' or 'very important' to WA's future



Results

Question 1: What suburb do you live in?



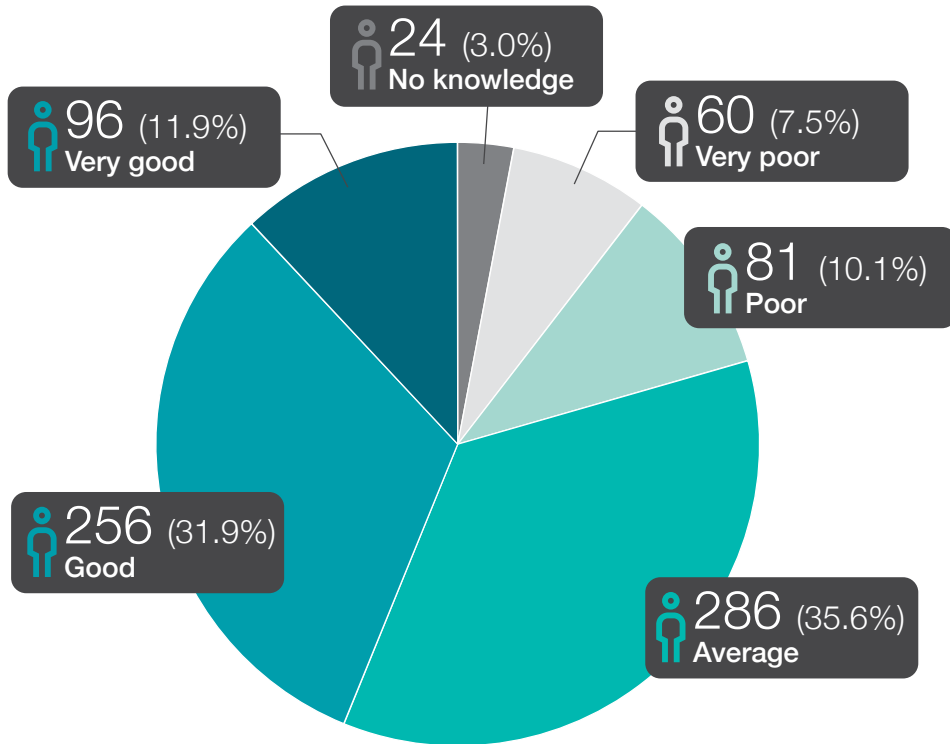
33 (4.4%)	Baldyvis
23 (3.1%)	Rockingham
22 (2.9%)	Fremantle
20 (2.7%)	Rockingham Beach
20 (2.7%)	Spearwood
20 (2.7%)	Wellard
18 (2.4%)	North Fremantle
17 (2.3%)	Bibra Lake
16 (2.1%)	Waikiki
14 (1.9%)	Wandi
14 (1.9%)	Oakford
14 (1.9%)	Beelior
13 (1.7%)	East Fremantle
13 (1.7%)	Yangebup
13 (1.7%)	Safety Bay
13 (1.7%)	Port Kennedy
12 (1.6%)	South Fremantle
12 (1.6%)	Coogee
10 (1.3%)	Hamilton Hill
10 (1.3%)	Anketell
9 (1.2%)	Warnbro
9 (1.2%)	Shoalwater
8 (1.1%)	Success
8 (1.1%)	Leeming
8 (1.1%)	Palmyra
8 (1.1%)	Cooloongup
8 (1.1%)	North Coogee
7 (0.9%)	Byford
7 (0.9%)	Bicton
7 (0.9%)	Medina
6 (0.8%)	East Rockingham
6 (0.8%)	Kwinana Town Centre
6 (0.8%)	Atwell
6 (0.8%)	Leda
6 (0.8%)	Kwinana Beach
6 (0.8%)	Secret Harbour
6 (0.8%)	Parmelia
5 (0.7%)	Armadale
5 (0.7%)	Hilton
5 (0.7%)	Cockburn Central
5 (0.7%)	South Lake
278 (37%)	Other

Note: This was an optional question. We received 746 responses. 66 people skipped this question.

'Other' included suburbs within the Perth metropolitan area with less than 5 participants, plus participants who lived outside the Perth metropolitan area, including interstate and international locations.

Question 2: How would you rate your knowledge of Westport?

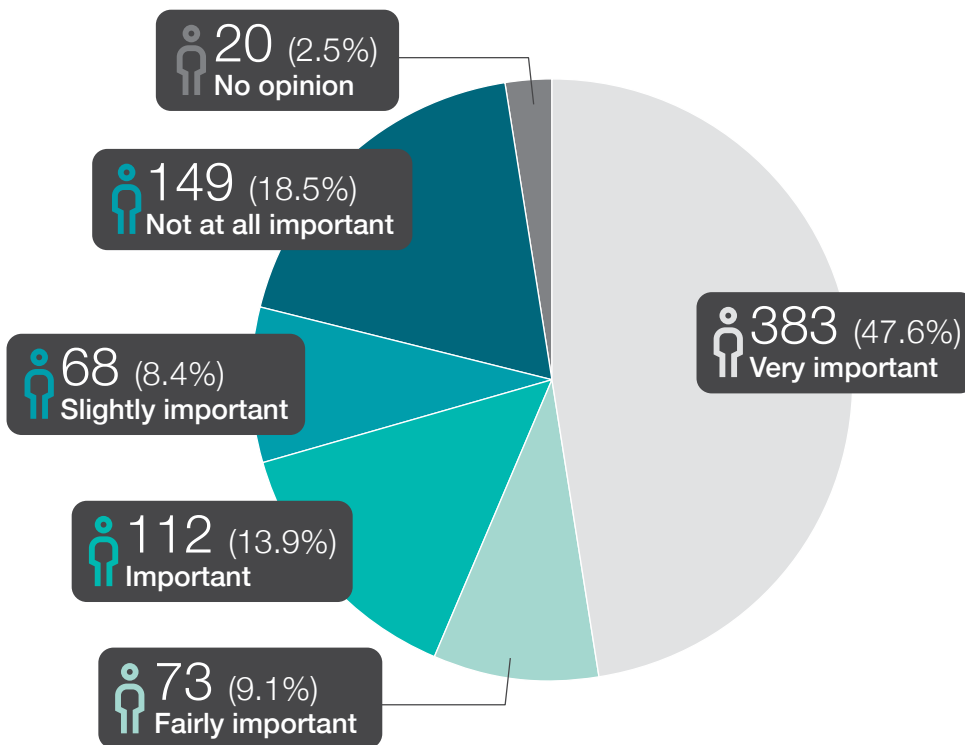
44% of people rated their knowledge of Westport as good or very good, while 21% considered their knowledge as poor or very poor. 36% identified with an average level of knowledge.



Note: This was an optional question. We received 803 responses. 9 people skipped this question.

Question 3: How important do you think Westport is to Western Australia's future?

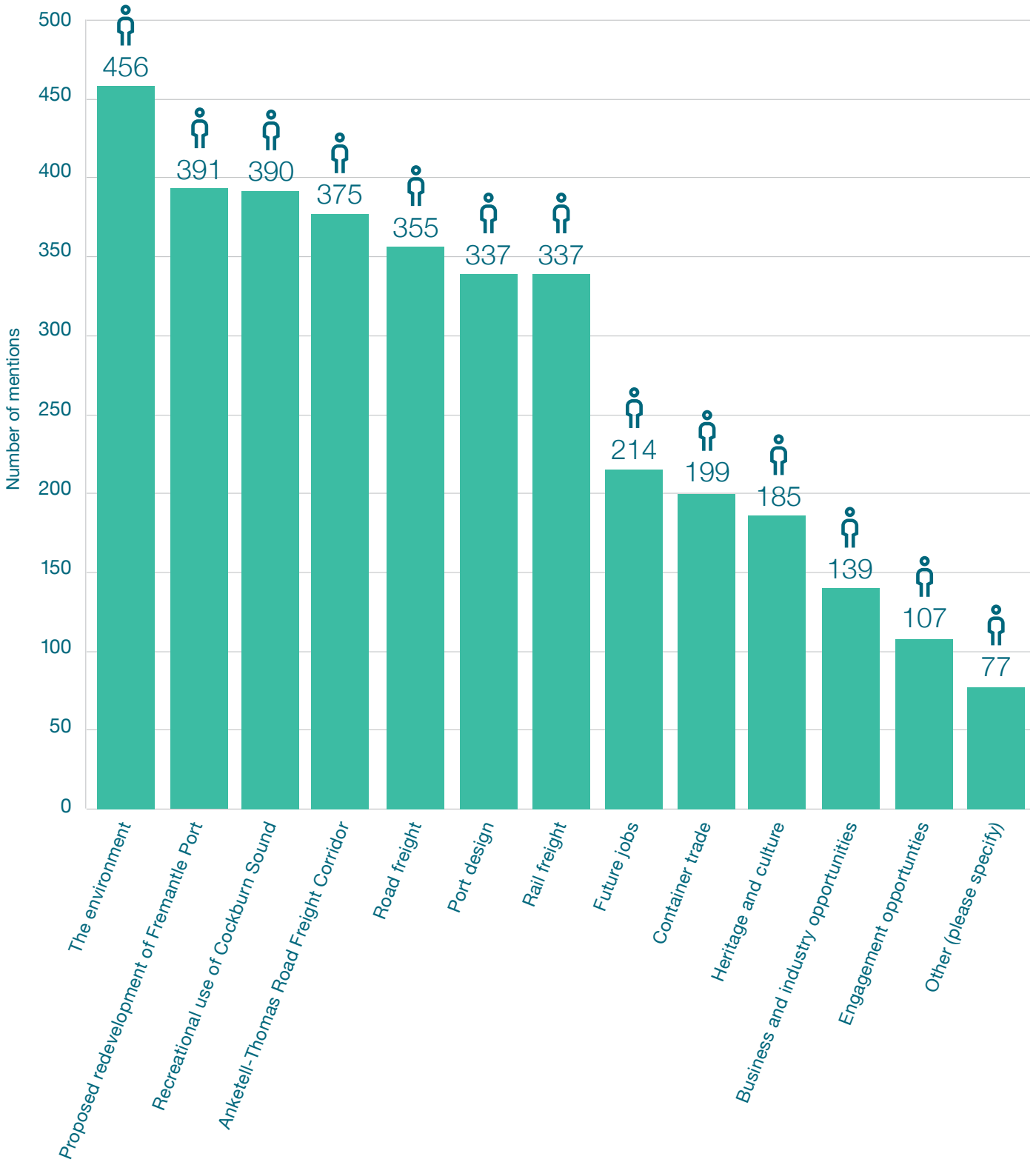
The majority of people said that Westport was important or fairly important to Western Australia's future.



Note: This was an optional question. We received 805 responses. 7 people skipped this question.

Question 4: What parts of Westport are you interested in?

Westport is a broad program of major infrastructure and the results indicated people are interested in many different aspects of this work. The environment, the redevelopment of Fremantle Port, and recreation in Cockburn Sound were the top 3 areas of interest. Road, rail and port design also had significant interest.




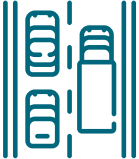



Note: This was an optional question, and people were able to choose multiple areas of interest from the listed topics. We received 799 responses. 13 people skipped this question.








Question 5: What do we need to get right, in planning for Westport?








The key themes identified below are ranked according to the number of times they were mentioned, from the highest to the lowest. Where multiple themes were included in a response, each mention of a theme was captured.

The marine environment, particularly the need to safeguard the health of Cockburn Sound, was the most frequently mentioned aspect of the program that Westport needs to get right. This was followed by road planning and increasing the freight rail capacity to get more trucks off the roads.

What you told us

Theme	What you said
<p>Marine environment</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Environmental impacts need to be thoughtfully and genuinely considered. A project of this scale has the potential to cause irreversible damage or demonstrate innovative and world leading environmental and sustainability practices in infrastructure design and construction.” • “Mitigation of the environmental impacts, particularly in Cockburn Sound.” • “Protection of the seagrass meadows from pollution and dredging the channels causing silting. The seagrass is the lifeline for all the fish and crustaceans in Cockburn Sound.”
<p>Road upgrades</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Forward planning of road upgrades, not waiting for traffic issues to arise following the project completion.” • “Ensure that the proposed rail and road links can handle the volume of traffic including non-port traffic.” • “Traffic in Perth is terrible. Westport should be designed in such a way that it improves traffic flow.”
<p>Freight rail</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “More rail transport.” • “The freight rail design. Making sure there is enough freight capacity on the line to reduce the need to get trucks into the container port will help keep traffic congestion down.” • “Rail transport is essential to keep trucks off the main arterial freeway and highways.”
<p>Terrestrial environment</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “In the creation of the new port, opportunities should be explored to create green corridors for local fauna.” • “Care for environment in construction and including impact of rail and road links for the areas surrounding those links. The impact is huge for residential and environment.” • “There will be significant impacts to the local natural terrestrial and marine environments. How will the planning and subsequent works manage/minimise these impacts, and any environmental offsets should be secured within the local area to ensure that the local community can benefit from these.”
<p>Local traffic</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The most important thing is that transport to and from the port reduces congestion not only for the goods itself but for the people who must transit through the area.” • “The design of the Anketell-Thomas Road Freight Corridor needs to be carefully considered to minimise the impact on those of us living in the adjacent suburbs.” • “Minimise the impact of freight transport on residential areas.”

Theme	What you said
<p>Future proofing</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Future proofing the port and land side freight services to minimise bottlenecks and industry/residential conflict.” • “Insight into the next 100-150 years, plan infrastructure ready for far future, not just near future.” • “Future proofing the port’s capacity as well as transport infrastructure. Please don’t build smaller roads from the start, then wait for more traffic to expand them - build them big from the beginning.”
<p>Alternatives</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “We’re thinking that Bunbury might be a better choice. There already good freeway links and would just need upgrading the more local roads to link up.” • “Optimise Fremantle port rather than build a new one.” • “Westport is not needed at all. Fremantle Port is adequate for WA’s needs for at least the next 100 years. And if it ever becomes inadequate then we should be looking at expanding other ports along the coast including Bunbury, Geraldton, Port Hedland.”
<p>Safety</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Road congestion and safety for residents. The old style of train rail track, which is on the ground, doesn’t feel safe whenever crossing by car or walking.” • “We need to see better footpaths to allow for e-mobile vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians and have SAFER crossings and intersections allowing for the increased population and vehicles.” • “Traffic lights & shared PSP [Principal Shared Path] to safely connect kids to their community and amenity is really important.”
<p>Communication and engagement</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Maintain close contact with the community. “ • “Ensure that strong and wide community consultation is undertaken for those who may be impacted along the proposed road freight corridors, including actually listening to and implementing what the local Councils suggest, as they know the local areas the best.” • “All stakeholders need to be evaluated and considered so there needs to be open and transparent decision making.”
<p>Local impacts</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Noise and vibration issues in upgrading existing train line through residential areas.” • “Minimise disruption to local residents whilst building for the future. Most developed nations build freight infrastructure away from residential areas. Where this is unavoidable, noise and impact minimisation strategies are implemented.” • “Social licence noting anticipated growth in container market and potential impacts to environment and quality of life in neighbouring suburbs.”
<p>Jobs</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Fremantle Port is critical to the WA economy and provides hundreds of jobs supporting the local community, any changes to the port need to support workers and not just maximise profit for big corporations.” • “Ensuring the port still provides many local jobs.” • “Create more business and jobs for the local area.”
<p>Recreation in Cockburn Sound</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “No impact on recreational fishing and boating in Cockburn sound.” • “Not to overlook or diminish the recreational values, historic, current, and future.” • “A balance between maintaining secure port operations and community enjoyment of (or public access to) Cockburn Sound.”







Theme	What you said
Redevelopment of Fremantle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Make Fremantle Harbour a tourist destination (passenger terminal, restaurants, bars, attractions, ferries. High speed ferries to Perth.” • “How Fremantle port will be utilised after container departure.” • “The rehabilitation / repurposing of Fremantle Port without losing the heritage this brings to the area.”
Timing and cost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Ensure the project is delivered on time and on budget.” • “Transparency on full cost, schedule, and environmental impact.” • “Overall project expense and how it’s going to be funded.”
Automation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Give thought to what future automation will look like.” • “I’m worried about automation taking wharf jobs.” • “Maximise automation and non-human equipment and infrastructure to reduce health and safety risks, human error, and any other potential downtime. Ensure the solution is genuinely appropriate for 100-year life.”
Heritage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The rehabilitation / re-purposing of Fremantle Port without losing the heritage this brings to the area.” • “Heritage and recreational values must be protected and possibly enhanced.” • “Respect for indigenous heritage.”
Security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “I have concerns regarding proximity to the Garden Island naval base in terms the risk this creates in case of war. Retaining capability to bring containers to shore should have a backup location plan.” • “Biosecurity: stronger protections are required to prevent pest and disease introductions.” • “Interaction between Westport and the Australian Maritime Complex at Henderson, particularly given that the AMC [Australian Marine Complex] is likely to undergo redevelopment in a similar timeframe and is likely to be further redeveloped in response to AUKUS [Australia, United Kingdom, and United States trilateral security partnership].”
Public transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Accessibility (frequent and well-located services) for workers through public transport.” • “Public transport to shipping and accommodation for passengers and crew.” • “Make sure there is adequate public transport for the people who work there so they don’t need to clog the area with cars and parking.”
Other 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Obtain required federal and state approvals.” • “Non international ownership of the infrastructure.” • “The proposed port design requires a breakwater at the southern end to shield the vessels from 30 knot sea breeze which will cause problems for the ships to remain alongside.”







Note: This was an optional question. We received 770 responses. 42 people skipped this question.

Question 6: Do you have any other feedback for Westport?

63% of participants took the opportunity to provide further feedback, which has been grouped into key themes.

What you told us

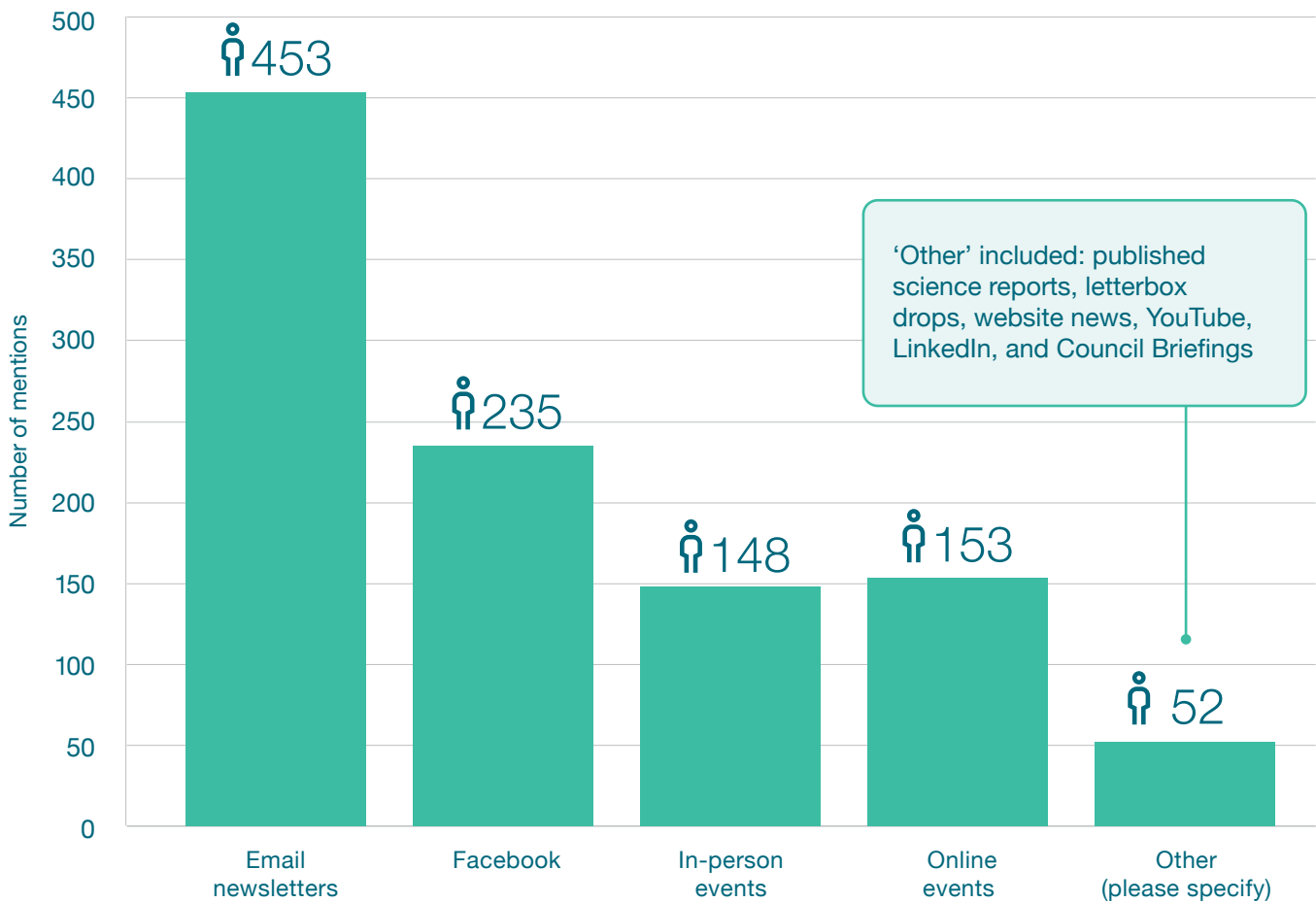
Theme	What you said
Communication and engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Please ensure you are transparent with the local and wider WA community during every step of planning and consultation.” • “The process must be transparent and pass the pub test.” • “Maintain good communications.”
Environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Environmental concerns for the little penguins, seal, and dolphin populations.” • “The environmental damage to Cockburn Sound. The blue crab and snapper breeding ground will be damaged from dredging.” • “I am still not satisfied in what I have read regarding mitigation in harm to the environment (native animal refuges and impact on significant wetlands).”
Future proofing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Don’t scrimp on infrastructure plan for the future expansion today.” • “Having a world class facility that has a future as trade grows and being able to grow accordingly.” • “Careful planning is required to ensure that the port will not outgrow it’s proposed area over time causing a range of various maritime and public related interferences.”
Jobs and automation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Make it clear how the project will benefit local employment.” • “What level of automation is planned?” • “Making everything automatic/robot is taking peoples jobs away!”
Opposition to the planning/location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “This project is not necessary.” • “Are there other potential locations which have less negative social impacts?” • “Don’t do it. Look at other better options.”
Public transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “If this project frees up the railway corridor to Fremantle, it would be good to have a passenger railway connecting Fremantle and Cockburn.” • “Transport connections for the workforce is highly undervalued in industrial areas.”

Theme	What you said
<p>Recreation in Cockburn Sound</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Preserve fishing grounds.” • “Recreational use of Cockburn Sound must be maintained.” • “Ensure local community continues enjoying the amenity of the Sound.”
<p>Redevelopment of Fremantle</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Fremantle will become a ghost town if the port is moved.” • “Please make Freo prosper.” • “Will Fremantle Port remain Tourist Friendly?”
<p>Road and rail</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “You MUST address the road congestion issues we are already seeing.” • “Reducing traffic in residential areas.” • “What rules are in place regarding noise management relating to the rail line?” • There are too many trucks in Perth delivering mining ore to Kwinana. Improve the rail network to reduce the trucks that will damage our road network.”
<p>Security</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “How does this relate to Australian Navy operations?” • “Please consider the Navy Ship building industry and future to upgrade Henderson as a working arm of HMAS Stirling including AUKUS [Australia, United Kingdom, and United States trilateral security partnership].” • “How does Westport fit in with Garden Island sub movements and defence plans when you have international shipping so close?”
<p>Support for the planning</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Sooner the better to get large trucks off the road and remove traffic congestion from Fremantle.” • “I am quite excited for this, this may benefit all Western Australians into the future.” • “Keep up the consultation and great work.”
<p>Timing and cost</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “High level timeframes would be good as well as some conceptual plans for Fremantle port.” • “I’d like to be updated on its progress and have an expected timeline.” • “Are you going to be able to complete this on time and within reasonable budget constraints?”

Note: This was an optional question. We received 510 unique responses. 302 participants skipped this question and 86 said they had no further feedback at this stage.

Question 7: How would you like to hear from us?

Email newsletters were the preferred communication channel followed by Facebook.










Note: This was an optional question, and people were able to choose multiple areas of interest. We received 682 responses. 130 people skipped this question.

Next steps

Westport is a long-term program of major infrastructure and we're still in the early stages. We look forward to working with you as planning progresses.

Opportunities to have your say will increase over the coming years, including feedback directly with our team and partners, and through consultation run by State and Federal regulators.

To stay informed on opportunities to be involved or learn more about Westport:

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