

Taking a closer look at some of the science, thinking and technical processes behind one of Western Australia's largest ever infrastructure projects.

Managing Director's Message

The Westport team is on track to deliver a business case to Government in the middle of this year. While this is our focus, we are also preparing for what comes next.

The next stage of Westport – definition and delivery – will generate significant opportunities for local and Australian businesses and suppliers. We will be seeking expertise from a range of disciplines to design and deliver major infrastructure works across the full Westport Program, which includes:

- 1 **New port facilities in the Kwinana Outer Harbour**
- 2 **Upgrading Anketell Road between the new port and Kwinana Freeway**
- 3 **Widening and upgrades to sections of Kwinana Freeway and Roe Highway**
- 4 **Rail duplication and level crossing removals along the freight rail network**
- 5 **Upgrading the existing shipping channel and dredging a new channel into Cockburn Sound to accommodate larger ships**
- 6 **A breakwater parallel to shore to maximise port operability**

Throughout Westport Stage 3, we've received significant interest from the consulting, engineering and construction industry. We've done our best to respond directly to enquiries and keep industry informed.

However, with under 6-months until Westport's Business Case submission, we are limited in the time we can offer meetings about future procurement opportunities.

Recognising that industry is keen to learn more about Westport, on 14 May we are holding an online Consulting, Engineering and Construction Industry Briefing to provide information about the upcoming conclusion of the business case stage and expectations for the definition and delivery stage, should Government decide to proceed. This session will be recorded and uploaded to our YouTube channel.

To register for this webinar, visit our website: <https://westport.wa.gov.au/resources/news-and-updates/westport-s-consulting-engineering-and-construction-industry-briefing/>

I'd also encourage industry service providers and specialist providers to register their services via our procurement register: <https://westport.wa.gov.au/contact/procurement-register-of-interest/>

This information will be used to develop a database of interested persons with specialist skills, who would like to be considered for future tendering opportunities with Westport.

We look forward to future collaboration that will shape WA's container supply chain for the next 100 years and beyond.

Patrick Seares
Managing Director, Westport



Getting the timing right for Westport’s Business Case, science program and environmental approvals

What is a business case?

A business case helps Government decide if, how and when a project should be delivered. Part of a business case is the ‘deliverability’ assessment which demonstrates the feasibility of a project by considering things like environmental approvals, construction materials and market capacity.

Some people have asked why we are delivering a business case *before* the science program is finalised? And why have we referred the project to the EPA *before* the business case?

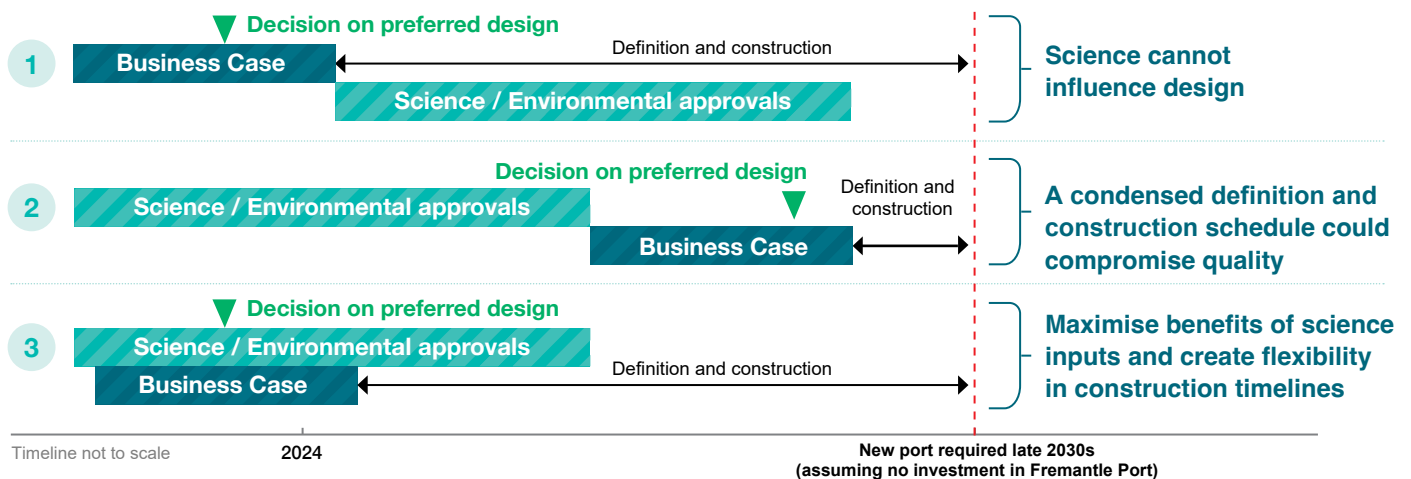
The order in which we deliver science, complete environmental approvals, and submit a business case has big implications on design, construction and environmental outcomes:

1. If we completed the **business case before the science and environmental approvals commenced**, the preferred design provided to Government would not be informed by science which may lead to suboptimal environmental outcomes.

2. Completing the **business case after the science and environmental approvals** would result in a tight timeframe to deliver the port in time for the State’s needs. This could create pressure to condense the schedule and compromise quality, again leading to suboptimal environmental outcomes.

3. By **delivering the science and commencing environmental approvals whilst developing the business case**, we can maximise the benefits of key science inputs and create flexibility in construction timelines.

These scenarios are outlined below.



Benefits of Westport’s approach

Delivering the science and commencing environmental approvals whilst developing the business case allows for:

1) Science to influence the design

We’ve strived to create nature positive outcomes with a focus on minimising environmental impacts. Critical science inputs, delivered in partnership with WAMSI, informed the port layout and design to help minimise impacts.

The data provided by WAMSI over the past 2 years has informed key design decisions, resulting in a substantial shift in the layout of the port footprint to avoid direct impact on seagrass, and significantly minimise impacts on water circulation in Cockburn Sound. If we delayed the science until *after* the business case, the design provided to Government for an investment decision would not have minimised these impacts.

2) Flexibility to deliver critical infrastructure when needed

A business case will be submitted to Government *before* the EPA has made a final determination on the proposal and *before* some aspects of the science program are completed. This sequencing will provide enough time to plan and deliver the port infrastructure carefully, pending a Government funding decision.

Our current planning suggests a new container supply chain through Kwinana will be required by the late 2030s, without further investment in Fremantle Port. Westport’s proposed development schedule would allow us to achieve this milestone, while fulfilling our commitment to plan, build and operate the most sustainable port in Australia.

It also provides flexibility for Government to proceed slower to address other unforeseen issues, which are common in major infrastructure projects.

Environmental approvals process underway

In March, the Deputy Premier announced that Westport had referred the proposed marine and landside port infrastructure to the WA Environmental Protection Authority (EPA).

Following a 7-day public comment period the Referral stage of the assessment is now complete. The EPA's referral decision determined that the proposal will be subject to the highest level of assessment, Public Environmental Review, with an 8-week public comment period expected in 2025.

The next step is to develop the Environmental Scoping Document, to specify the form, content, indicative timing, and procedure of the Public Environmental Review process.

The EPA has determined that this scoping document will be prepared by Westport and subject to an additional 2-week public comment period expected in 2024.



Next steps

Westport has commenced work on the scoping document which will be reviewed, updated and approved by the EPA following consideration of public submissions.

Following approval of the scoping document, Westport will prepare the documentation required for the Public Environmental Review. This will outline the research, data and insights that underpin the impact assessment of the proposal, including how the \$13.5 million Westport-WAMSI Marine Science Program has informed design and the environmental impact assessment.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the public comment process for Referral. We will continue to update you on upcoming EPA consultation opportunities.



Watch a short video for more information about the EIA process.

Fishing in Cockburn Sound

Westport recognises the importance of Cockburn Sound to the community, particularly for recreational fishing. Cockburn Sound is home to many key recreational fishing species including pink snapper, blue swimmer crabs and whiting.



Westport will be planning for a substantial environmental restoration program with the aim of maintaining and improving the health of the marine ecosystem, to ensure recreation in Cockburn Sound continues.

Key to this is understanding Westport's potential impacts through our continuing EIA process, receiving the latest marine science from the WAMSI studies, and hearing directly from the fishing community.

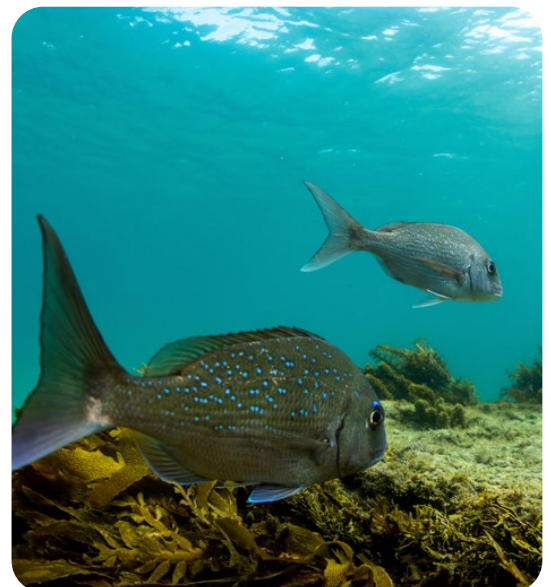
In our design we considered sites of importance to the community in Cockburn Sound, that were mapped as part of the WAMSI Westport Marine Science Program and a separate Noongar Cultural values project.

We also continue to engage with recreational fishing bodies, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and the commercial fishers who operate in Cockburn Sound.

In the coming months, we will be holding pop-up community information sessions for people who go fishing in Cockburn Sound to provide more information and hear local perspectives.

To find out more about these events please visit:

<https://westport.wa.gov.au/engagement/community/>



Community Survey Update

Thank you to everyone who has submitted a response to the Westport Community Survey. Your submissions are helping us better understand what matters to you.

The survey is open until 31 May, so make sure you have your say!

We will release a report on the findings in mid-2024 and will hold an online webinar to answer the most frequently asked questions. Visit our website for more information.



Have your say



Horse beach survey

We're calling for anyone who uses the Naval Base horse beach in Kwinana to complete a short survey. Your feedback will help us better understand how you use the area and other horse beaches across Perth.

Complete the survey before 31 May.



Complete survey

Westport Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Action Plan

We have published an ESG Action Plan to underpin the Westport ESG Strategy and guide us in meeting ESG commitments and objectives. The Action Plan was developed in partnership with subject matter experts in environmental, social and governance fields.

The Action Plan outlines Westport's activities from the current stage through to future operations.



You can view the Westport ESG Action Plan and Strategy here: <https://westport.wa.gov.au/environment/environmental-social-and-governance/>



Westport's ESG Vision is to plan, build and operate Australia's most sustainable, and first regenerative, port. Our ESG commitments are to:



Deliver positive long-term benefits for the natural and physical environment.



Create opportunities for social advancement.



Make decisions which benefit Western Australians with strong, transparent governance and reporting.