

Westport Cultural and Spiritual Values Mapping



August 2024

Cockburn Sound, also known as Derbal Nara, and its surrounds is an area rich with cultural knowledge, stories and songlines of the Whadjuk and Gnaala Karla Booja Noongar peoples.

Westport is working closely with Noongar people to ensure that their values are recognised and drive planning decisions, and that their traditional ownership of the lands and seas is respected.

Cultural and Spiritual Values Mapping Project

In collaboration with the [Westport Noongar Advisory Group](#), we commenced the Cultural and Spiritual Values Mapping project in April 2023.

Westport partnered with Winyama, an Aboriginal-owned and operated business specialising in location intelligence, to capture and map cultural and spiritual values. A local Noongar Science Facilitator also assisted with process.

Winyama interviewed 9 knowledge holders identified by Westport's Noongar Advisory Group to document marine and terrestrial sites of significance and the stories connected to them.

We now have comprehensive 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 mapping bounds.

About Westport

Westport is the State Government's planning program to move container trade from Fremantle to Kwinana. This includes planning new port facilities, a connected road and rail freight system, and logistics operations.

About our Noongar Advisory Group

The Noongar Advisory Group is made up of Traditional Owners, Elders and Leaders of local Noongar people, including members of Gnaala Karla Booja and Whadjuk Regional Corporations, elected by Noongar communities. The Group was formed to ensure Westport was guided appropriately by Noongar people with the authority to provide cultural advice.

Guided by the Advisory Group, Westport has developed the [Westport Noongar Opportunities Strategy](#).

How cultural and spiritual values mapping data will be used

The information collected through the Cultural and Spiritual Values Mapping process is the intellectual cultural property of the knowledge holders who provided the data. This information will not be made publicly available and will remain the intellectual property of the knowledge owners until it can be passed to the Whadjuk and Gnaala Karla Booja Corporations.

Strong assurances were provided by Westport regarding the treatment and use of the data. Knowledge holders reserve the right to revoke use of the data at any time.

Westport received permission to use the data, so that locations of cultural significance could be considered during the design process. The data has been used by Westport 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.

Should any third parties external to Westport wish to access this data, they need to seek permission from the relevant Regional Aboriginal Corporation (Whadjuk or Gnaala Karla Booja). The Regional Corporations will advise Westport when permission is granted to release the information.