

## Westport Noongar Opportunities Strategy

Actions Report: October 2023 – March 2024















### About this Report

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

This is Westport's second Noongar opportunities actions review, with the next review expected in late 2024.

## 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

#### **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.

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.



#### 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.

We are currently in Stage 3 of Westport, which covers design, planning, environmental review, and business case, to be delivered to the State Government for consideration in mid-2024.

Pillar	Boodja	Воуа	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	<ul> <li>Mapping of storylines, songlines and heritage places</li> <li>Building country and cultural features into engineering consultancies</li> <li>Ensuring cultural values influence priorities for mitigation and offset programs</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Including Noongar people in Stage 3 projects (where possible)</li> <li>Building capacity for participating in the construction project</li> <li>Identifying jobs for the future operations and start training for the Noongar community</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Wide-ranging engagement with the Noongar communities</li> <li>Sharing cultural mapping and science on totems with communities</li> <li>Understanding what local people want protected and enhanced</li> </ul>

### **October 2023 – March 2024 Highlights**



Westport Managing Director, Patrick Seares, presenting to key stakeholders

#### It was a busy 6 months for the Westport Program between October 2023 and the end of March 2024. We reached a massive milestone, with the release of a preferred design for WA's future container supply chain.

The preferred design was a result of an extensive assessment process, which included significant engagement and data gathering. Westport's Noongar Advisory Group was engaged throughout this process. Their input and actions from the Noongar Opportunities Strategy helped inform the preferred design.

For example:

- Data from cultural and spiritual mapping, a project requested by the Noongar Advisory Group, helped ensure that the preferred design avoids significant sites identified by cultural knowledge holders.
- Westport staff underwent a cultural awareness training program developed with input from the Noongar Advisory Group, which provided knowledge specific to the Traditional Owners of the project area.

The Noongar Advisory Group was briefed on the preferred design concept and had an opportunity to provide feedback.

The role of the Noongar Advisory Group in Westport's design process was recognised at an event for key stakeholders in November 2023

At the event, the Deputy Premier and Westport Managing Director unpacked the preferred design to a room of key people representing diverse expertise and knowledge, who had contributed to the design process and helped us get the best outcome for WA.



Patrick Seares, **Managing Director** Westport

### **Boodja - cultural and environmental** connections actions

### **Boya - economic and capacity building actions**

Work continues to ensure Westport achieves regulatory approval under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972. Westport is preparing a submission of notice for the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC), which will then commence the Aboriginal cultural heritage survey process. The Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation and the Whadjuk Aboriginal Corporation will be engaged as part of heritage surveys. Westport staff, our Noongar Advisory Group, stakeholders, and contractors will have the opportunity to participate in a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony delivered by a Noongar Elder on Country if the State Government decides to proceed with Westport after consideration of the business case. Underwa S 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 to ensure cultural competency, procedures, protocols and opportunities are recognised. In developing the Environmental and Social Resilience Strategy, work was undertaken to cross reference the cultural and spiritual values mapping with the resilience building measures. Westport outlined the preliminary dredge management strategy to the Noongar Advisory Group in October 2023. Westport will continue to update members as the strategy and environmental approvals process is progressed. Westport delivered a Cultural and Spiritual Values Mapping project in < ♥ ♥ partnership with Winyama, who engaged with nominated knowledge Completed holders. This project identified culturally significant sites, stories and X X songlines within the Westport footprint. The project commenced in April 2023 and was completed in July 2023. In consultation with the Noongar Advisory Group, we are investigating how Westport can help improve awareness and recognition of cultural and spiritual values in the Cockburn Sound region.





To guide future activities, Westport are developing a register of lessons learned about Aboriginal employment and business procurement from

In alignment with the Transport Portfolio Aboriginal Procurement, Contracts and Employment Policy 2021-2026, Westport are seeking to maximise opportunities for employment for Noongar and Aboriginal peoples. Westport continues to work with the Transport Portfolio's Aboriginal Engagement Office to deliver initiatives aimed at the promotion of Aboriginal training, Aboriginal business, and Aboriginal

Westport are working on identifying Noongar and Aboriginal employment opportunities via the development of a Westport job forecast, along with school- and tertiary-based education programs, to

Westport staff attended the Transport Portfolio Meet the Buyer and Supplier Forum in November 2023. At the event Aboriginal businesses met with Transport Portfolio agencies and major contractors. The forum provided an opportunity for our team to share information about

Westport's procurement register is accessible on our website. The registration form asks businesses if they are a 50% or more Aboriginal owned. Aboriginal businesses identified through Westport's processes

members in procurement evaluations for services related to the Noongar Opportunities Strategy, to ensure that contractors have the appropriate cultural knowledge and authority to deliver projects.



### Kartajin – community collaboration and social unity actions

Aboriginal economic opportunities will form a key aspect of the Westport workforce strategy. The contract to progress this Strategy has been awarded, with work expected to continue into Stage 4.

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- Westport workstream leads and consultants continue to meet with representative from the Noongar Advisory Group on Country.
- Westport partnered with Optimal Personnel Services for the delivery of Cultural Awareness Training (completed in August 2023). The training module was tailored to Westport, with content informed by the Westport's Noongar Advisory Group. Following the training the team was invited to provide feedback on the experience.
- Westport have committed to cultural awareness and safety training for construction sub-contracts and contractors in Stage 4.
- The Westport Noongar Advisory Group continue to meet regularly to provide Westport with advice on Noongar Opportunities Strategy initiatives.
- The Marine Mitigation Working Group, Terrestrial Mitigation Working Group and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Reference Group were established in 2023. These groups include a representative from the Noongar Advisory Group so that related initiatives can be informed by cultural knowledge.



" The patience and openness to talk about difficult subjects was deeply appreciated, as was their ability to make the learning experience fun and engaging. I haven't stopped talking about how impactful this session was, can't wait for more opportunities to learn from Marilee and Dennis."



Westport staff at cultural awareness training deliver by Optimal Services

**"** A wonderfully interesting and engaging experience. The facilitators did an amazing job in presenting vital information dealing with heavy, intense issues. They provided a safe and welcoming space that allowed and encouraged Westport staff opportunities to actively engage and ask important questions relevant to our work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities."



Westport team participating in cultural awareness training





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