



Westport Noongar Opportunities Strategy

Actions Report:
March 2023 – September 2023

About this review

Westport's Noongar Opportunities Strategy was published in March 2023, to guide the program in achieving our vision, enabling opportunities to ensure benefits are maximised for Noongar communities with the development of the port and supply chain infrastructure.

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Westport has committed to biannual reporting on the progress of Noongar opportunities initiatives to build trust and accountability with stakeholders and the community. This is Westport's first Noongar Opportunities Actions Review, with the next review expected in Early 2023.

About Westport

Westport is the WA State Government’s long-term program to investigate, plan and build a future port in Kwinana with integrated road and rail transport networks.

We have a once-in-a-century opportunity to design a new port that will achieve positive outcomes for the economy, environment, Aboriginal people and the broader community.

Westport is currently in Stage 3, focused on developing a business case that the WA Government will use to make an investment decision on the next stage of Westport. The business case will provide recommendations on when the new infrastructure should be developed, how container trade should transition from Fremantle to Kwinana, and an early design for the new container terminal plus servicing road and rail networks. The business case is expected to be submitted to the WA Government in mid-2024.

Westport’s Noongar Opportunities Strategy

Published in March 2023, the Noongar Opportunities Strategy will guide the Westport program in achieving our vision, enabling opportunities to ensure benefits are maximised for Noongar communities with the development of the port and supply chain infrastructure.

This strategy is not Westport’s strategy for Noongar people. It is Westport’s and the Noongar Advisory Group’s shared strategy for how Westport and local Noongar people should develop together.

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

The Westport Program footprint extends into Whadjuk and Gnaala Karla Booja Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs). Beyond the physical footprint, the port and network of road and rail will reach across our State and provide a gateway to domestic and international trade.

Whadjuk People Native Title Claim

Whadjuk is the name of the dialect group from the greater Perth Area. Under the South West Native Title Settlement, made in compliance with the *Native Title Act 1993* (NTA), the Whadjuk People’s native title covers the Perth metropolitan area and surrounds. The Whadjuk People have the procedural rights to be consulted over activities that occur within their *Indigenous Land use Agreement* (ILUA) region.

Gnaala Karla Booja Region

The Gnaala Karla Booja region refers to the Noongar language or dialectical groups of the Binjareb/ Pinjarup, Wilman and Ganeang. The Westport footprint includes some areas of the Gnaala Karla Booja ILUA region. Due consideration must be given to the range of significant sites that are present to this day.

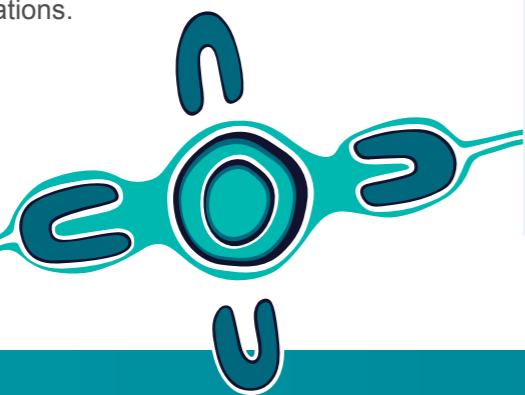
Boodja, Boya and Kartajin – our strategic pillars

The strategy pillars

Our initiatives will be guided by our three strategic pillars: Boodja, Boya and Kartajin. These pillars are connected as are Noongar people’s culture, country and economy.



Pillar	Kartajin	Boodja	Boya
Outcomes we want to see	Local Noongar peoples are helped to re-connect with culture and country	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
Key directions for implementation	<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 	<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



March – September 2023 Boodja (Cultural and environmental connect) initiatives



Starting



- Work is starting to ensure regulatory approval under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2021.



Underway



- Westport has commenced engagement with the Noongar Advisory Group on Westport's Dredging Plan due later in the year.
- Westport have commenced planning for a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony delivered by a Noongar Elder on country (Kwinana footprint) with Noongar Advisory Group members to be included in attendance.
- Work is underway to cross reference initial Cultural Mapping undertaken with ecological values and offset opportunities. This will then help inform the Mitigation Strategy.



Completed



- All new staff members are required to attend the Department of Transport's mandatory cultural awareness training upon commencement at Westport.
- Westport commissioned local Aboriginal artist Peter Farmer to create a piece of work capturing the journey of Westport and the Noongar Community. The multi-panel artwork tells a story of the Whadjuk and Gnaala Karla Booja Noongar lands and waters on which Westport is planning the port and freight network, and is used across Westport branding.
- Westport have delivered Phase One of the Cultural and Spiritual Values Mapping project in partnership with Winyama and nominated knowledge holders. This project identified cultural significant sites, stories, and song lines within the Westport footprint. The project commenced in April 2023 and was completed in July 2023.

Highlights

New artwork reflecting shared journey

Peter Farmer created an artwork capturing the Noongar Community's journey with Westport. Peter Farmer said, "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."



Mapping of cultural and spiritual values

Cockburn Sound and Surrounds is an area rich with cultural knowledge, stories and songlines. In April 2023, Westport partnered with Winyama to capture and map these cultural and spiritual values. As part of the mapping process, Winyama interviewed knowledge holders to produce a final report and map. Findings were then handed-back to the Noongar Advisory Group.

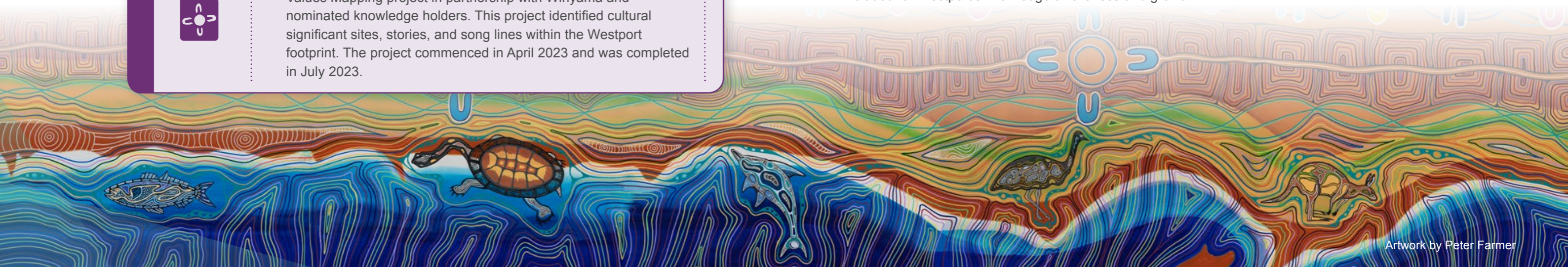
Participating at events at Medina Cultural Centre

Westport are directed under the Noongar Opportunities Strategy Action Plan to utilise Medina Cultural Centre as a training centre in the future. Previously, Westport has participated at Medina Cultural Centre's NAIDOC week event. Going forward, we will investigate opportunities to conduct face-to-face cultural awareness training at the site.



Cultural Awareness Training

Westport partnered with Optimal Services for the delivery of Cultural Awareness Training. The training module was informed by the Westport Noongar Advisory Group who input training components that they wanted included for Westport's knowledge awareness and growth.



Artwork by Peter Farmer

March – September 2023 Kartajin (Community collaboration and social unity) initiatives



Underway



- Noongar Advisory Group members are being introduced to Westport consultants on country, including Westport workstream leads and Supply Chain Integrated Design consultants.



Completed



- We delivered face-to-face cultural awareness training to the Westport team. This training will be guided by a manual specifically designed for Westport with input from Noongar Advisory Group members.
- The Westport Noongar Advisory Group and Aboriginal Economic reference group was established in April 2022. Members in each group have the expertise and experience to provide Westport with cultural, spiritual, community, wellbeing, economic, social and environmental advice, while promoting culture and Country. They have the cultural knowledge to develop business, employment, procurement and training opportunities for the Noongar community.
- A Westport Noongar Opportunities Strategy was released in March 2023, to help achieve the goals outlined in the Westport Noongar Opportunities Action Plan. This Strategy will guide the program in achieving our vision, enabling opportunities to ensure benefits are maximised for Noongar communities with the development of the port and supply chain infrastructure. The Noongar Opportunities Strategy was co-designed in partnership with the Noongar Advisory Group.
- The Marine and Terrestrial Mitigation Working Groups were established in January 2023. The purpose of the mitigation working groups are to evaluate, prioritise and provide cost estimates for recommended mitigation measures for inclusion in each iterative stage of the Westport Mitigation Strategy. The working groups comprise of members with technical and subject area expertise, key community and industry stakeholder bodies and includes a representative on behalf of the Noongar Advisory Group.

Highlights

Westport's Noongar Advisory Group

Westport continues to work closely with our Noongar Advisory Group. The Advisory Group, consisting of Community Elected Members and representatives from each Regional Corporation, guided Westport in the development of our Noongar Opportunities Strategy and Action Plan.

Working with Traditional Owners to protect, benefit and regenerate the environment

To guide the development of Westport's environmental Mitigation Strategy, Westport has established a Marine Mitigation Working Group and a Terrestrial Mitigation Working Group. The working groups are developing mitigation measures that will help protect, benefit and regenerate Cockburn Sound and the surrounding area.

Members from the Noongar Advisory Group elected for Westport's Aboriginal Engagement Officer and Cultural and Spiritual Values Noongar Science Facilitator to participate in the Working Groups. Representation ensures the Working Groups are considering the ongoing connections the Whadjuk and Gnaala Karla Boodja Noongar peoples have with the land and waters on which Westport are planning for new infrastructure.

In alignment with Westport's Noongar Advisory Action Plan and Strategies, Noongar representation on these working groups will also help identify opportunities for offset activities to include Noongar culture, relaying that information back to the wider Noongar Advisory Group.



Members of Westport's Terrestrial Mitigation Working Group

- The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
- Main Roads Western Australia
- The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
- Beeliar Regional Park Community Advisory Committee
- Perth NRM
- Local Government Authorities
- Independent Environmental Advisors
- Greening Australia
- Urban Bushland Council
- Representative of the Noongar Advisory Group



Members of Westport's Marine Mitigation Working Group

- The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
- The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
- The Western Australian Marine Science Institution
- Recfishwest
- Cockburn Sound Management Council
- Fremantle Port Authority
- The Nature Conservancy
- Independent Environmental Advisors
- Representative of the Noongar Advisory Group



Members of Westport's Noongar Advisory Group and Westport staff in Kwinana



March – September 2023 Boya (Economic and capacity building) initiatives



Starting



- To guide further activities, Westport are commencing work to develop a register of lessons learned from other sub-contractor and employment efforts to then implement learnings.



- For consideration in Westport Stage 4 and beyond, we are commencing work on the creation of a business register of Noongar and Aboriginal businesses.



Underway



- Where possible, Westport is involving Noongar Advisory Group members in procurement evaluations for services delivered under Noongar Opportunities.



- In alignment with the Transport Portfolio Aboriginal Procurement, Contracts and Employment Policy 2021-2026, Westport are seeking to maximise opportunities for employment in the Westport project for Noongar and Aboriginal peoples.



- Westport are working on identifying Noongar and Aboriginal employment opportunities via the development of a Westport job forecast, and identifying required school based and tertiary programs to ensure the successful delivery and operation of the Westport program.

Highlights

Opportunities from Westport

The next stages of Westport will offer further opportunities in consultancy, design and construction. In the longer-term, following construction, the terminal will need a skilled workforce to operate the modern port. This will include engineers, health and safety services, traffic controllers, data management and IT. Related industries near the port such as boarder force and customers, trucking and logistics operators, empty container park management, will also lead to new employment opportunities in the Kwinana area.

Given that the port itself will likely take 10 years to construct, we have the opportunity to involve the next generation of the workforce now. 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, and support them in pursuing tertiary education to be ready to meet the future skills demand created by this project.



Procurement register

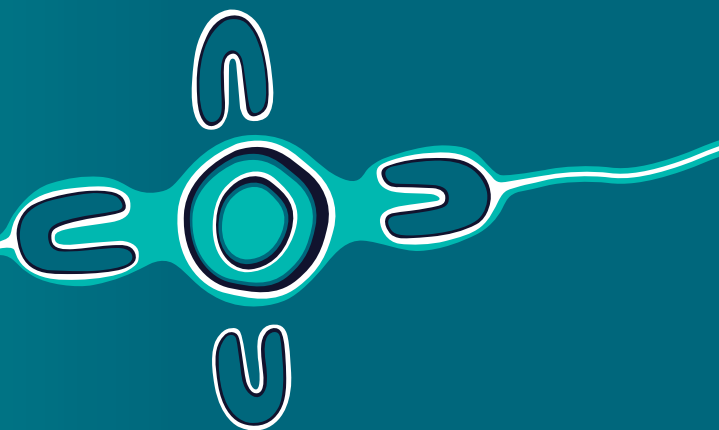
As part of our commitment to maximise procurement and employment opportunities for the future stages of Westport, the team are commencing work on the development of a business register of Noongar and Aboriginal businesses.

Currently, Westport has an online procurement 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.

As part of developing a business register of Noongar and Aboriginal businesses for the future stages of Westport., we will seek to extend our current list of Aboriginal potential suppliers, contractors and consultants.

In addition to this work, Westport have ensured that a Noongar Advisory Group member is present on any large panels relating to Noongar Opportunities. The project is actively working with the Portfolios Aboriginal Engagement Office to deliver initiatives aimed at the promotion of Aboriginal training, Aboriginal business and Aboriginal employment.





Further Information

To find out more about the Westport Program and our Noongar Opportunities Strategy, visit www.westport.wa.gov.au