

FAQs

Where did the idea to develop the Westport Strategy come from?

The State Government's pre-election commitment was to give priority to planning for the Outer Harbour and the associated road and rail links as part of a long term integrated freight strategy for the State.

Successive Governments have been supportive of exploring options to expand to the Outer Harbour, with significant study and analysis undertaken at various times.

The *Westport: Port and Environs Strategy* will provide guidance to the Government on the planning, development and growth of the Port of Fremantle at the Inner and Outer harbours, the required rail and road networks, and the potential for the Port of Bunbury to contribute to the handling of the growing trade task.

What does the Westport Strategy hope to achieve?

The *Westport: Port and Environs Strategy* will outline a long range vision to guide the planning, development and growth of both the Inner Harbour at Fremantle and the Outer Harbour at Kwinana.

It will aim to answer key policy questions on the location, size, operating model and timing for future port facilities in Cockburn Sound. Planning for the associated road and rail links to support the new port facilities will also form part of the overarching strategy.

The Strategy will aim to provide increased certainty on the future of the Inner Harbour and Outer Harbour port facilities for the community, port investors and port users. In particular, port transition strategies for current and future trades will be critical once the project reaches a position of defining the preferred Outer Harbour port facility and its location.

What about the planning that has already been undertaken?

The Westport Taskforce will take a fresh approach to planning for the Outer Harbour. It will consider previous work in the context of today but will also be open to new ideas.

Extensive studies have been undertaken in the last two decades including many that will be valuable to inform the Westport process. However, some studies are out-dated and new studies are required in the context of today's environmental conditions, available technology and preferred port location.

Many people are interested in the planning and development of the Port of Fremantle and wider freight network, and we are interested in hearing their views. Consultation and continuous communication will be integral to the development of the Westport Strategy and will occur across each of the key stages.

Why do we need the Westport Strategy?

For more than a hundred years, the Port of Fremantle has played a leading role in shaping the physical, commercial and social environment of Western Australia.

As WA's largest general cargo port, operating from the Inner Harbour in Fremantle, and Outer Harbour in Kwinana, it is the gateway for most of the imported goods used in our homes and businesses.

Almost everything we use comes through the port, our food, electronics and motor vehicles, to name a few. Therefore, if it is not located and operated efficiently, these things will increase in price and become limited in availability. The Port of Fremantle is also a vital link to world markets for our exporters.

Just as the port has developed over time, so too have the surrounding areas of the Inner Harbour, filling with residential and commercial land-uses. The growth in port related freight traffic is increasingly impacting community amenity in the area and growing urbanisation is making it more difficult for trains and trucks to efficiently access the port.

As WA's population and economy grows, container volumes will continue to increase and there is rising pressure at the interface between freight corridors and communities.

As pressure grows to continue to develop and evolve Fremantle as a civic and tourism hub for the State, the ability to expand the Inner Harbour's trade capability to serve the population will need to be reviewed and additional solutions identified.

In order to ensure the future freight, trade and logistics requirements of Perth and the surrounding regions are met for the next 50 years and beyond, the long term integrated Westport Strategy is required.

Who is involved in developing the Westport Strategy?

Given the significance and scale of planning required as well as the critical need to ensure integrated outcomes, the Westport Taskforce Steering Committee, which includes Directors General from six government departments, the Chair of the Western Australian Planning Commission and the Chairman of the Fremantle Ports Board, will oversee the project.

Nicole Lockwood was appointed as the independent chair responsible for leading the Taskforce in September 2017.

The Taskforce will be supported by a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary project office.

Isn't the Inner Harbour already at capacity?

The point at which capacity at the Inner Harbour is reached will depend on trade trends, freight transport efficiency (road and rail), technological advances and other factors. The State Government will be seeking advice from the Westport Taskforce on the effective capacity of the Inner Harbour, the investments needed to achieve this and the choices and trade-offs involved.

Will the Westport Strategy plan for the future of the Inner Harbour?

Initiatives to improve efficiencies at the Inner Harbour are being developed so that it may accommodate trade until additional port facilities are viable.

The proximity of the Inner Harbour and the waterfront continues to be an important element of the distinctive character of Fremantle, helping it to continue to grow into a complex and fascinating city that is a source of pride to its residents and a key part of the trading economy.

The Westport Strategy will shape the future planning for the Inner Harbour by considering the relevance and timing of urban revitalisation, commercial precincts and cruise shipping facilities in the context of trade growth and transition strategies to new port facilities.

How long will the Westport Strategy take to complete?

Planning for new port facilities requires extensive lead time to ensure the adequate consideration of key economic drivers, environmental implications, social conditions, supply chain and hinterland issues as well as options for financing and relevant commercial and pricing considerations.

Approximately two years will be needed to identify a preferred location, configuration and operating model for new container and port facilities.

How long until additional facilities at the Outer Harbour will be built?

Commercial ports are large and long-lived pieces of infrastructure, often being used for over 100 years. They play a key role in anchoring supply chains as a gateway for the movement of goods in and out of WA.

Planning and constructing new port facilities requires a long lead time. A decision on timing must be based on the best available evidence and this will be obtained through the Westport process.

What will happen to the Inner Harbour while the Westport Strategy is being developed and facilities are being built?

Initiatives to improve efficiencies at the Inner Harbour are currently being developed so that it may accommodate trade until additional port facilities are viable, these include:

- Initiatives to increase the rail share for container haulage;
- Enabling development of the broader rail supply chain, including intermodal facilities to enhance rail system efficiencies and minimise truck movements on Perth roads; and
- Upgrading road infrastructure linkages to ease congestion to the Port of Fremantle.

What won't be included in the strategy?

After the completion of the Westport Strategy further studies will be necessary to inform the planning and environmental approval processes, to assess the detailed commercial and economic implications of the new port facilities and to develop port transition strategies for current and future trades.

How can we have our say?

Many people are interested in the planning and development of the Port of Fremantle, and wider freight network and we are interested in hearing your views.

Consultation and continuous communication will be integral to the development of the Westport Strategy and will occur across each of the key stages.

Keep up-to-date with the latest project news and opportunities to have your say by subscribing to the mailing list on the Department of Transport [website](#).