

Project update: 1

17 November 2017

Planning for the future

The future of the Port of Fremantle and the likely rate of growth of container volumes at the Inner Harbour has been the subject of discussion and debate for the past 20 years. Successive Governments have been supportive of exploring options to expand to the Outer Harbour, and now this critically important issue is being taken forward.

On 12 September the Hon. Rita Saffioti, Minister for Transport; Planning and Lands announced the formation of the Westport Taskforce, and the appointment of Nicole Lockwood as the independent chairperson.

The milestone step to establish the Taskforce has laid the foundations for the delivery of an integrated strategy to meet the future freight and trade logistics needs for Perth and surrounding regions.

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.

The strategy will aim to answer many of the key policy questions driving discussion on the need for future port infrastructure and will also look at the opportunities for the State's tourism and defence industries. It will consider issues that extend beyond the port such as landside logistics, land use synergies, the environment, jobs and economic development.

Following the Minister's announcement, work has been underway behind the scenes to develop the project approach and establish the Westport Project Office bringing together officers from many government agencies to share their expertise and experience. Initial meetings have been held with representatives of industry, community and academia, with others to follow as part of proposed wide-ranging consultation.

Today, applications opened for the Westport Project Director. The advert for the position can be viewed by clicking [here](#). Applications close on Friday 1 December at 5pm.

First committee meeting steers Westport vision

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, held its inaugural meeting on 24 October.

All committee members were present at the meeting to discuss their roles and responsibilities for the project, which culminated in the development and approval of the groups' Terms of Reference.

Recognising the importance of understanding and considering community views in the planning, the Steering Committee undertook to establish the Westport Taskforce Reference Group as one of its first tasks.

The Westport Taskforce Reference Group will be drawn from representatives of local government, industry and the community. While the group is still being finalised, it is intended that members will be selected to bring a broad range of relevant experience and perspectives to help achieve the best possible outcomes for the Westport project. The Steering Committee's Terms of Reference will be presented at the first Reference Group meeting which will be held in early December.

State Government officers will work closely with Reference Group members to develop documents that will be released for public comment over the next two years.

The next Westport Taskforce Steering Committee meeting is also planned for early December.

Together we can create a real plan

The project philosophy will have the community in mind from the very beginning.

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

Once the Westport Project Office has been fully established, more information about how-to get involved in the process will be available.